

Free Money for College or Training! Goals Can Be Achieved

Did you know that there are many educational grants available for students to help meet the costs of obtaining a college education? **Money you don't have to pay back is available.** Youth planning to enroll in a technical/vocational school or college at least half-time should apply for all federal, state, and institutional financial programs by completing the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. The FAFSA can be submitted online at www.fafsa.ed.gov and must be submitted by **June 30th** of the year you plan to attend college. Students can apply for the following financial aid.

California Chafee Grant

If you are a current foster youth, or were in foster care between the ages of 16 -18 and have not reached your 22nd birthday as of July 1st of the award year, you may receive up to \$5,000 per year for post-secondary education and training. The Educational and Training Voucher (ETV) can be used for child care, transportation, and rent. Apply for the federally funded Chafee Grant Program by completing the application online at <https://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov/>, or get a paper form from your school.

- ◆ Financial aid eligibility will be determined by your school's financial aid office.
- ◆ Students must be enrolled in a course of study at least half-time and at least one year long.
- ◆ Students must maintain satisfactory academic progress.

California Grants (Cal Grants)

Entitlement and Competitive Grants are monetary grants available to students to assist with tuition and fees. Award amounts are up to \$12,240. To apply for a Cal Grant, the FAFSA and the Cal Grant GPA Verification must be submitted by **March 2nd**. The deadline to apply for the community college Cal Grant is **September 2nd**. The website address is www.calgrants.org.

Pell Grants

The Federal Pell Grant is need-based financial aid that does not have to be repaid. Depending on program funding, the current maximum amount for a full-time student is \$5,775 per school year. Pell Grants are available to any qualified student, including foster youth. Apply for the Federal Pell Grant by submitting a FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG)

Undergraduates who receive the Federal Pell Grant with exceptional financial need are given priority for this grant. Depending on when you apply, your level of need and the funding level of the school you're attending, you may be eligible to receive \$100 to \$4,000 per school year (even more if enrolled in a study-abroad program). Contact your school coordinator for more information.

*** **Don't Forget!** Visit your college financial aid office to find out what types of aid they offer. ***

Board of Governor's (BOG) Fee Waivers

The Board of Governor's (BOG) Fee Waivers grant program assists low income California students with enrollment fees, health fees, and parking permit fees and does not require repayment. To enroll, students must contact the school's financial aid office.

California Cash for College Workshops

Filling out a FAFSA is the first step to applying for thousands of dollars in financial aid. Get hands-on help completing the FAFSA and other financial aid forms at a California Cash for College Workshop, held in January and February of each year. To locate a workshop near you, visit www.californiacashforcollege.org or call 1-888-CA-GRANT.

How Can You Afford To Go To College?

Scholarships and other resources for foster youth attending a career and technical school or college can be accessed through the following online resources:

www.icanaffordcollege.com - California Community Colleges
www.mappingyourfuture.org - College Search engine (click on Resources)
www.studentaid.ed.gov - US Department of Education - Federal Student Aid
www.ecmc.org - Student financial aid information site
www.nationalservice.gov/ - AmeriCorps
www.fc2success.org/ - Foster Care to Success
www.dol.gov/dol/topic/training/youth.htm - US Department of Labor
www.csumentor.org/FinAid - California State University - Overview of Financial Aid Programs

Education Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) - Contact your school coordinator for more information on the services they provide students.

Scholarships: www.fastweb.com, www.finaid.com, www.collegeboards.com, www.fastaid.com

Federal Financial Aid Programs: Pell Grants, FSEOG Grants, Direct Loans, Stafford Student Loans, PLUS Loans

Services for Foster Youth, Former Foster Youth or Orphan

www.chafee.csac.ca.gov - California Chafee Grant Program
www.casey.org - Casey Family Programs
www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov - California Foster Care Ombudsman Program
www.fullerton.edu/guardianscholars - California State University - Guardian Scholars Program
www.orangewoodfoundation.org - Orangewood Children's Foundation
www.childsworld.ca.gov - California Department of Social Services – Children and Families Division

California Student Aid Commission (CSAC)

Are you planning to be a teacher or childcare provider? Did you have good grades in high school? Are you a foster youth? If you answered yes to any of these questions, visit www.csac.ca.gov/ and click under Commission Programs. You might be eligible for a grant or assumption on part of your educational loans.

The Biggest Dates You Could Ever Have!

September

- Second chance to apply for a Cal Grant if you missed the March 2nd deadline date and plan to attend a Community College.
- Submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), a Cal Grant GPA Verification Form, and enroll at a California Community College.

October

- Start working on college admission packets.
- Sign up for financial aid workshops at your school.
- Research private grants and scholarships.

November

- Complete your college admission packets.
- Get financial aid applications from the colleges you're trying to go to.
- Apply for your PIN at www.pin.ed.gov.

December

- Save year-end payroll stubs for you and your parents, if they show your earnings for the entire year.

January

- Submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after January 1st of the current academic school year.
- Submit your Cal Grant GPA Verification Form
- Attend a free "Cash for College" workshop in your area.

February

- If you haven't done it by now, complete and submit your FAFSA and Cal Grant GPA Verification Form for the Cal Grant! If you've already submitted your forms, sit back and watch your friends scramble around at the last minute while you say, "I told you so" and feel smug. Remember- the postmark deadline is March 2nd, March 2nd, March 2nd.

Late March/Early April

- Respond to any letters or requests you receive from the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) or your college.

April

- You should receive notification about your Cal Grant by April 30th. If you don't hear from CSAC, call them at 1-888-CA-GRANT.

May

- Many public universities have a May 1st deadline to let them know your college choice. Don't miss this important date either!