



Accessing Resources for Foster Youth in Higher Education

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Barriers to College

- Disruption in education due to multiple placements
- Little encouragement and lack of expectation in attending college by caretakers
- Lack of knowledge of college admission requirements and academic preparedness
- Lack of role models, college advocates, mentors
- Unaware of campus support programs for foster youth
- Perception that cost of education makes it more out of reach than it is
- Separation from siblings, parents, extended family members and friends
- Homelessness

WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

Money distributed from schools to assist students in paying for their education - Self- ID as foster youth!

GIFT AID (scholarships + grants)

SELF HELP AID (loans + work)

Student Need = Cost of attendance – Expected Family/Student Contribution

A financial aid package is put together according to student need and may consist of grants, scholarships, loans and work-study.

1ST STEP TO FINANCING COLLEGE: FAFSA

- FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- THE MOST IMPORTANT DOCUMENT FOR STUDENTS TO FILE FOR MONEY TO ATTEND COLLEGE
- Federal deadline for academic year June 30 of the award year covered by the FAFSA
- State deadlines for initial awards vary from state to state
- IMPORTANT for students to self-identify as foster youth in order to obtain independent status

CHAFEE/ EDUCATIONAL TRAINING VOUCHER(ETV) PROGRAM

- Federally funded and state-administered program provides grants up to **\$5,000** annually to students in foster care
- Available in all 50 states
- Grants can be used for career and technical training or college courses at 2 or 4 year colleges
- Who is eligible?
- Children in foster care between the ages of 16-18 or children who exited foster care for kinship guardianship or were adopted after age 16
- To qualify, students must be a current or former foster youth and not have reached their 22nd birthday as of July 1 of the award year.

CHAFEE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Student must be enrolled at least half-time at eligible school
- Program of study must be at least one academic year long
- Complete FAFSA
- Make sure campus Financial Aid Office completes the Need Analysis Review (NAR)
- Student must make satisfactory academic progress as defined by the school attending

FEDERAL PELL GRANTS

- What is a Pell Grant?

It is a federal grant that is provided to students who demonstrate a significant financial need for funding to attend college. It is a grant, and therefore does not have to be paid back

- Awards up to \$5,550 per year
- Students limited to receiving award to 18 semesters or equivalent
- Amount awarded depends on need, cost to attend school, status as full or part-time student, and plans to attend school for a full academic year or less
- Application process done through FAFSA

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION OPTIONS

- Trade/Vocational School
- 2 year Community College
- 4 year College

Transition Issues in Transferring to 4 year college:

- Navigating new campus
- Adjusting to new academic pace
- Learning New Course Enrollment, College Policies and Procedures
- Finding resources/people student will trust in supporting transition to new campus

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION OPTIONS

- Four Year College

Transition Issues to 4 year college from high school:

- Navigating new campus
- Adjusting to new academic pace
- Feelings of loneliness, isolation and shame
- Learning to manage finances & time
- Learning to trust campus foster youth support program personnel and campus liaisons
- Learning it is okay to ask for help

COLLEGE SUPPORT FOR FOSTER YOUTH

- Summer Bridge Programs
Orientation to college designed to to improve the preparation and ease the transition into college in the fall.

IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF FOSTER YOUTH SUCCESS IN COLLEGE

- Campus Support Programs For Foster Youth:
Comprehensive programs with dedicated staff that supports foster youth seeking higher education at a university, community college or vocational school.

CA Cal Independent Scholars Network + 7 other UC campuses

State Universities – 16 campuses

Community Colleges - 20+ campuses

Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI)

Board of Governor Fee Waiver Grant

COLLEGE SUPPORT SERVICES FOR FOSTER YOUTH

- Programs vary at each college and each may offer different support services
- **SERVICES OFFERED**
 - Academic Advising, Planning & Monitoring
 - Academic & Enrichment Workshops
 - Housing – year round, housing options
 - Financial Aid – full packages, advising
 - Supplemental financial aid - books and supplies, dorm room & off campus housing furnishings, food, emergency funds, computers and repair services
 - Mentorship & Career Counseling, Internship Opportunities
 - Community Building Social Events
 - Referral for confidential personal matters

IMPORTANT CAMPUS CONTACTS

- Determine if campus client is attending has a foster youth support program
- If so, contact Program Director
- If not, contact campus Educational Opportunity Program and/or Financial Aid Office to find out what services, if any, exist for foster youth
- Connect client with campus support personnel

CONCLUSION

- Encourage, encourage, encourage students to self identify and seek higher education!!!!
- Collaborate and share resources with students, foster parents, guardians, CASAs, social workers, ILSP workers & mentors
- Connect students with resources to help them reach their goal of graduating from college
- You can make a difference!

CAL INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS NETWORK

Class of 2013

