



COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES FOR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH

Voice for Adoption (VFA) receives many requests from students and adoptive parents who are looking for resources for college scholarships and other financial aid resources. This list provides information about potential financial aid opportunities. Please note that the eligibility criterion varies. Some of the resources below pertain to adopted youth while others are targeted toward youth who emancipated from foster care.

- 1. Fostering Adoption to Further Student Achievement Act (Public Law 110-84):** This law made it possible for teens in foster care to be adopted without losing access to college financial aid. Under this law, youth who are adopted from foster care at any point after their 13th birthday will not have to include their parents' income in the calculation for determining their need for federal financial aid. The law revised the definition of "independent student" and the definition now extends to youth who were in foster care on or after their 13th birthday, even if they have subsequently been adopted (refer to question #52 on the FAFSA form. See the resource below on how to access FAFSA.). To learn more, visit: http://voice-for-adoption.org/sites/default/files/FAFSA%20factsheet_updated2010.pdf
- 2. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** Federal Student Aid, a part of the U.S. Department of Education, is the largest provider of student financial aid in the nation. At the office of Federal Student Aid, employees help make college education possible for every dedicated mind by providing more than \$150 billion in federal grants, loans, and work-study funds each year to more than 15 million students paying for college or career school. Federal Student Aid is responsible for managing the student financial assistance programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. These programs provide grants, loans, and work-study funds to students attending college or career school. To complete a FAFSA application visit: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
- 3. Chafee Education Training Vouchers (ETV) - Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (Public Law 110-351):** This law extended eligibility for Education Training Vouchers (ETV) to youth who exit foster care to kinship guardianship at age 16 or older (these funds are also available to youth who are adopted at age 16 or older). ETV is an annual federal grant provided to states to provide funds to former foster youth who are enrolled in college, university and vocational training programs. Students may receive up to \$5,000 each year based on cost of attendance and available funds. To learn more about ETV requirements and state information, visit: <https://www.statevoucher.org/index.shtml>

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4. Fostering a Future Scholarship (specific to adopted youth from foster care):

Children's Action Network in partnership with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption sponsors a national scholarship program designed to provide youth who were adopted from foster care at or after age 13 with financial assistance for post-secondary education and vocational programs. To review eligibility and application details visit:

<http://www.childrensactionnetwork.org/scholarship.htm>

5. UMPS CARE Charities All-Star Scholarship for Adopted Youth:

UMPS CARE Charities partnered with The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption (DTFA) and Slate XP to offer the UMPS CARE Charities All-Star Scholarship. The UMPS CARE Charities All-Star Scholarship is for children adopted from foster care, in order to help provide a college education to students who otherwise might not be able to afford one. UMPS CARE Charities is a 501(c)(3) non-profit established by Major League Baseball (MLB). All-Star Scholarships are open to children adopted from U.S. foster care at the age of 12 years or older to provide increased opportunities for advanced education. Scholarship funding will provide for \$5,000 scholarships for a two-year institution –OR– \$10,000 scholarships for a four-year institution. To access the application visit: <http://umpscare.com/AllStarScholarship.html>

6. Foster Care to Success:

The Foster Care to Success administers a variety of scholarships and grants to help former foster youth and adopted youth achieve a meaningful post-secondary education. Foster Care to Success also operates internship and mentoring programs; in addition to providing student care packages for young people who are eligible. Visit:

<http://www.fc2success.org/> or email: scholarships@fc2success.org

7. States with College Tuition Waivers for Former Foster Youth:

The National Resource Center for Youth Development lists specific in-state college tuition waivers that pertain to former foster youth. Click the following link and search on the right hand side of the web page for “states with tuition waivers” for varying state eligibility and requirements. Visit:

<http://www.nrcyd.ou.edu/state-pages/search>

8. General Scholarship Search Engines:

Search for scholarships through a variety of websites, just make sure they are free to use. Create a free account with search engines such as Fastweb or Scholarships.com to find grants based on individual criteria and characteristics. The “scholarship matches” will point you to opportunities that you may qualify for through a database of millions of scholarships. Visit: <http://www.fastweb.com/> or <http://www.scholarships.com/>

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Special Note - Understanding Loans: Loans are not free money and are required to be paid back in full, sometimes with interest. There are typically two types of loans offered to students, subsidized and unsubsidized. Subsidized loans do not accrue interest while you are in school or during future deferment periods. While unsubsidized loans begin accruing interest from the time the loan is disbursed to the school. Students should never accept loans just because they are offered. Before agreeing to accept a loan students should discuss the need to take out loans with a representative at a school's financial aid office or some other knowledgeable parent or supportive adult.

NATIONAL INTERNSHIPS TARGETED SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUTH WHO HAVE BEEN IN FOSTER CARE

- 1. FosterClub All-Star Internship Program:** FosterClub, the national network for youth in foster care. The All-Star Internship program was launched in 2004 and successfully incorporated current and former foster youth as facilitators and leaders of teen conference activities. The All-Stars get training on how to turn their experiences in foster care into expertise, in order to positively influence peers in foster care, professionals and policy makers, on a variety of topics pertaining to child welfare. Selected individuals will spend a portion of their summer living in Oregon and traveling to various locations across the country to train and inspire others. This is a competitive internship program. Interns receive a weekly stipend and housing during their assignment. To learn more about eligibility criteria and the annual application deadline visit: <http://www.fosterclub.com/allstars/article/all-star-application-details>
- 2. CCAI's Foster Youth Internship (FYI) Program:** The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's (CCAI) Foster Youth Internship (FYI) is a unique internship program that gives those who have spent time in the foster care system a chance for their voice to be heard on Capitol Hill. Selected interns spend two months in Washington, D.C. interning for a Member of Congress. Interns also spend time researching a topic of their choice to develop improved policy in a given child welfare related area. The recommendations are combined into a joint internship-class report that is presented to policymakers at the conclusion of the internship program. Past participants have gotten their recommendations incorporated into federal bills. This is a competitive internship program. Interns receive a weekly stipend and housing during their assignment. To learn more about eligibility criteria and the annual application deadline visit: <http://www.ccaiinstitute.org/fyiapply.html>

VFA does not specifically endorse any of the resources on this list. These resources were current at the time of publication on March 29, 2013. To access the resources above copy the links and paste them into an internet browser.

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