

## The Fostering Independence Through Education Waiver

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On June 28th, Pennsylvania passed a law, which will create the Fostering Independence Through Education Waiver. This will create a tuition and fee waiver for youth who were in foster care.

### KEY PROVISIONS

- **Creates a tuition and fee waiver** for undergraduate degrees at colleges and universities in Pennsylvania for youth in foster care to reduce financial barriers.
- **Creates points-of-contact** at covered institutions to help eligible student identify and apply for financial aid and scholarships, gather verification documents, and access campus and community resources and support services.
- **Provides outreach** to students to ensure that eligible students know about the waiver and all students supports, and apply for all available financial aid.
- **Data collection and reporting** by institutions and government agencies to improve retention and the success of students.
- **The program will begin in the Fall semester of 2020.**
- **The waiver can be used for up to five years until a young adult reaches age 26.**

### ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

- Graduated from high school or received equivalent degree.
- Must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress while in college.
- Pennsylvania residents eligible for the PA Chafee Education and Training Grant Program. This includes:
  - youth who are or were in the foster care system in PA at age 16 or older and "age out;"
  - youth who were adopted or enter guardianship arrangements (Permanent Legal Custodianship "PLC") from the PA foster care system at age 16 or older.

### ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS

- Colleges and Universities in PA (public and private)
- Community Colleges in PA
- Most Vocational-Technical Schools in PA

For more information, contact Nadia Mozaffar, staff attorney, at [nmozaffar@jlc.org](mailto:nmozaffar@jlc.org).