

# THE FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE THROUGH EDUCATION WAIVER

Juvenile Law Center  
Fighting for the rights and well-being of youth

## TIPS FOR APPLYING:

1. Complete the Pennsylvania Chafee ETG Grant Form as soon as possible! The application was released in early April. Youth must complete the ETG form to have their waiver eligibility confirmed. The Chafee ETG Grant Form is available here: <https://www.pheaa.org/funding-opportunities/other-educational-aid/pdf/chafee/chafee-application.pdf>
2. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)! Complete the FAFSA here: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. On the FAFSA form, select “Yes” on Question 53 asking whether you have foster care experience—this will result in you receiving more financial aid.
3. Confirm that you can use the waiver at the schools in which you are interested. These are schools that are:
  - a. In Pennsylvania, and are
  - b. Title IV schools or schools approved by the Department of Education.

You can find this out by looking at a school's website or asking their financial aid office. Schools that ask you to fill out the FAFSA are Title IV schools. There is also a list of schools available here: <https://ifap.ed.gov/ilibrary/document-types/federal-school-code-list>
4. Contact the Points of Contact at the schools in which you are interested:
  - a. These people are there to help students with experience in foster care.
  - b. They can help you complete your financial aid and admissions applications and ensure you have access to tuition waiver.
  - c. They can tell you about any other assistance or support programs that are available to you.
  - d. You can find Points of Contact information on the school's webpage. Some schools also list their Points of Contact here: <https://directory.center-school.org/fostercare/highereducation/search>.
5. Get help in planning for how you will cover the cost of where you will be living while you attend higher education. The tuition waiver will not cover room and board and other costs like books and transportation. Work with your team to determine the best way to cover these costs.
6. Ask for assistance on your college and financial aid applications! In addition to POCs, get help from case workers, Independent Living workers, foster parents, family members, guidance counselors and teachers at school and to fill out your financial aid forms including the FAFSA and Chafee application. You can also get help from regional representatives from PHEAA. Find your representative here: <https://www.pheaa.org/about/contact-us/pa-school-services.shtml>
7. Apply for scholarships. A lot of different organizations, companies, people offer scholarship money based on a variety of different student characteristics.
8. For more detailed information about these tips and additional resources, see Juvenile Law Center's Supporting Higher Education Access and Success for Youth with Experience in Foster Care in Pennsylvania: A Guide for Child Welfare and Education Professionals and Advocates: <https://jlc.org/resources/higher-education-guide-introduction> and PHEAA's Program Guidelines: <https://www.pheaa.org/documents/sgsp/ph/2020-21-fostered-program-guidelines.pdf>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT NADIA MOZAFFAR, STAFF ATTORNEY, AT [NMOZAFFAR@JLC.ORG](mailto:NMOZAFFAR@JLC.ORG)