

## Free Money for Career or Technical Training or College for Foster Youth

Are you a current or former foster youth?

Do you want to get career and technical training or go to college? Then, read on—because a Chafee Grant is free money that can help you reach your educational goals.



Got questions? We've got answers.

### What is a California Chafee Grant?

The California Chafee Grant Program gives money to **current or former foster youth** to use for career and technical training or college courses. You don't have to pay this money back as long as you are in school and you can use it for things like child care, transportation and rent. The Chafee Grant Program, also known as the Education and Training Voucher (ETV), is a federally funded program and is subject to availability of federal funds each year.

### Where can I use my Chafee Grant?

Your Chafee Grant can be used at a California school and at schools in other States. In California, you can attend:

- ◆ Career and technical schools
- ◆ California Community Colleges
- ◆ California State Universities
- ◆ University of California campuses
- ◆ Independent colleges
- ◆ Private colleges

### How do I qualify?

To qualify, you must:

- ◆ be eligible, or have been eligible, for Independent Living Program (ILP) services between your 16th and 18th birthdays,
- ◆ **not** have reached your 22nd birthday as of July 1 of the award year

### How do I apply?

File two forms:

- ◆ *Free Application for Federal Student Aid*, or FAFSA. File online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or get a paper form from your school. (Undocumented students may contact the Commission for further instructions.)
- ◆ *California Chafee Grant Program Application*, Submit a paper copy or an online application to the Commission.

### What is required to apply?

You must:

- ◆ enroll in an eligible career or technical school or college.
- ◆ maintain at least half time enrollment status.
- ◆ enroll in a program at least one year long, if you are enrolled at a career or technical school, *and you must attend class regularly and get good grades*

**No Social Security number? Students without an SSN** who are unable to complete a FAFSA must have their school contact the Commission for further instructions and assistance. If you have questions, contact the Commission at 1-888-224-7268, option 3.

### What happens after I apply?

- ◆ The Commission will review your award year FAFSA and your Chafee Grant Application.
- ◆ The California Department of Social Services will verify your ILP status.
- ◆ Your school financial aid office will determine your financial aid eligibility.
- ◆ Once all of the above is completed, the Commission will send you a letter telling you of your award status.

**Stay in school or lose your Grant !**

You must stay in school to keep your Chafee Grant! If your enrollment falls below half-time in the term(s) awarded, or if you get bad grades, you can lose your Chafee Grant money.

# The California Chafee Grant Program

The following criteria are used to make awards.

- ✓ Students who are renewal students.
- ✓ Students who are aging out of the system.
- ✓ Students who have dependents.
- ✓ Students who have an unmet need of \$5,000 or more.
- ✓ Submission date of completed application.

## How will I get the grant?

Your grant will be sent to the career and technical school or college where you are enrolled. Talk to your school's financial aid advisor about how the school will distribute the grant.

## How do I renew my Chafee Grant?

Its easy! All you need to do is complete the FAFSA for the award year. You do not need to submit another *Chafee Grant Application*.

Occasionally, the Commission will contact you for updated information. **Be sure to respond to letters or forms that are sent to you.**

## Can others help me learn about Chafee Grants for current or former foster youth?

Yes, for more information, contact your:

- ◆ high school counselor
- ◆ college counselor
- ◆ college financial aid office
- ◆ county/collegelLP Coordinator
- ◆ One-Stop Career Centers
- ◆ social worker/probation officer
- ◆ [csac.ca.gov](http://csac.ca.gov)

## How can I contact the Commission?

If you have questions regarding the California Chafee Grant Program:



**Visit** the Commission's Chafee Grant Web site at: [csac.ca.gov](http://csac.ca.gov).



**Email** your questions to the Commission at: [studentsupport@csac.ca.gov](mailto:studentsupport@csac.ca.gov).  
(In the email subject line enter: Attn: Chafee)



**Call** the Commission at:  
1-888-224-7268 Monday through Friday from  
8:00 a.m. to 4:50 p.m.



**Write** the Commission, *or mail your application to:*  
California Student Aid Commission  
Specialized Programs Operations Branch  
Attn: California Chafee Grant Program  
P.O. Box 419029  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9029

## Let's Keep in Touch-

Log on to CSAC's Web site at [csac.ca.gov](http://csac.ca.gov) and click on the link "WebGrants for Students." Set up your account and you can access your information 24 hours a day, seven days a week. **And you can use WebGrants for Students to contact us whenever there are changes in your:**

- ◆ Email address
- ◆ Enrollment status
- ◆ Name
- ◆ Mailing address
- ◆ School of attendance
- ◆ Enrollment status
- ◆ Social Security number (SSN)
- ◆ Telephone number

