

DCF Educational and Vocational Support Services

The Massachusetts Department of Children and Families offers a variety of supports to help foster youth finance their post-secondary education. Listed below are scholarship and grant programs managed by the Department that are available to foster youth. For more information on each of these programs students, social workers and college administrators can contact:

- Michelle Banks, DCF Program Supervisor, Boston - (617) 748-2430
- Tim O'Brien, DCF Education and Training, Boston - (617) 748-2309
- Kristen Quinlan, DCF Education and Training, Boston - (617) 748-2204

Each year youth must complete the FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov) in order to be eligible for the following programs. All current applications for the following DCF Educational and Vocational Support Programs can be found at www.mass.gov/dcf under the "Adolescent Services" link.

State College Tuition and Fee Waiver Program

The Waiver waives the cost of tuition of state-supported classes only at **Massachusetts public universities and community colleges**. The waiver does not cover books or room and board. Fees waivers are applied after all state and federal aid has been distributed.

Eligibility

- Youth who were in DCF custody, for at least 6 months, through age 18 and unable to return home
- Youth who were adopted through DCF
- Youth who were placed in a DCF sponsored Guardianship through age 18

Foster Child Grant Program

Eligibility

A young adult who has not earned a baccalaureate degree and meets the following conditions:

- Is a permanent legal resident of MA
- Is a US citizen or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations
- Was placed in the custody of the Department of Children and Families through a Care and Protection Petition
- Remained in the care and custody of the Department of Children and Families until the age of 18 and has been unable to return home
- Is not over the age of 24
- Voluntarily agrees to participate in educational support services offered by the Department of Social Services
- Is enrolled full time (12 credits or its equivalent)
- Has applied for financial aid, using the standard Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Is in compliance with applicable law regarding Selective Service
- Is not in default of any federal or state student loans for attendance at any institution or owed a refund for any previous financial aid received and
- Is in good standing and meets the institution's requirements for satisfactory academic progress

Educational and Training Voucher Program

Youth must have achieved a high school diploma or GED certificate to be eligible for ETV funds. The ETV Grant provides support for post secondary educational or vocational training programs, including colleges and trade schools and related costs of attendance (tuition, fees, room and board, books, transportation, and daycare) as defined in the Higher Education Act of 1965.

Eligibility

- Youth who were adopted through DCF after attaining age 16; or
- Youth who were placed in a DCF sponsored Guardianship w/ kin after the age of 16 through age 18
- Youth who were in DCF custody until age 18, unable to return home and have not yet reached age 21
- (*Youth who receive ETV funds prior to their 21st birthday will remain eligible until age 23.*)

William Warren Scholarship

This Scholarship provides financial assistance for any post secondary certificate or degree-granting program. The Scholarship is competitive and students are evaluated on academic merit and financial need. Scholarships are granted once a year, applications are submitted in the summer and awarded in the fall. All youth who were in DCF placement for a minimum of one year and have not reached the age of 25 are eligible to apply.