

ETV Administration By State

Education and Training Voucher Program

The Education and Training Voucher Program is a federally funded, state-administered program designed to help youth who were in foster care pursue post-secondary opportunities, including vocational training programs.

Students may receive up to \$5,000 a year based on their cost of attendance. The funds may be used for tuition, books or qualified living expenses. Funding is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible students.

Although the 2018 Family First Prevention Act allows states the option of extending eligibility for Education and Training Vouchers until age 26, not every state is currently pursuing this option. [Below is not a complete list of eligibility requirements, but rather an illustration of how widely program eligibility by age and placement varies by state.](#)

Differing Eligibility Requirements For Current/Former Foster Youth

Alabama <i>*Same as Arkansas</i>	Requires students to (a.) age out of foster care no earlier than age 18, (b.) be adopted from foster care at age 16 and older, or (c.) have their foster care case closed between the ages of 18 and 21.
Alaska	Requires students to have been in custody and in foster care (out-of-home care) on or after their 16 th birthday and have not yet reached age 21.
Arizona	Requires students to (a.) have been in foster care on or after age 16, or (b.) be adopted from U.S. foster care with the adoption finalized after age 16.
Arkansas <i>*Same as Alabama</i>	Requires students to (a.) age out of foster care no earlier than age 18, (b.) be adopted from foster care at age 16 and older, or (c.) have their foster care case closed between the ages of 18 and 21.
California <i>*has extended ETV eligibility to age 26</i> <i>**Struggles to make funding available in a timely manner</i>	Requires students to (a.) be current or former foster youth who was a dependent or ward of the court, living in foster care, between the ages of 16 and 18, (b.) be in Kin-GAP, a non-related legal guardianship or were adopted, are eligible only if the youth was a dependent or ward of the court, living in foster care, at some point between the ages of 16 and 18, (c.) be youth who was placed in out-of-home care by a tribe or tribal organization between the ages of 16-18.
Colorado	Requires students to (a.) be in foster care on or after their 18 th birthday, (b.) have a finalized adoption with adoption assistance on or after their 16 th birthday, (c.) have a guardianship assistance on or after their 16 th birthday, or (d.) be in Division of Youth Services community placement on or after their 18th birthday.

Connecticut	The Department of Children and Families pays for educational expenses—including tuition, fees, room and board, books, tutoring and health care—for foster youth up to their 23rd birthday. The amount it pays is net of other grants and scholarships. It mainly uses state funds for this purpose.
Delaware	Requires students to (a.) be between ages 18 to 21 have been in foster care until age 18, or (b.) have exited foster care to guardianship or adoption after their 16th birthday.
Florida	Requires students to (a.) turn 18 while in foster care custody or be currently living in foster care and have spent six months in licensed care before turning 18, or have been adopted at age 16 or older, or (c.) be placed with a court-dependency guardian after spending at least six months of foster care within the 12 months immediately preceding such adoption or placement.
Georgia	Requires students to have been in foster care for at least 6 months (non-consecutive is okay) and in care on their 14th birthday.
Hawaii	Requires students to be: (a.) between ages 18-25, (b.) have aged or transitioned out of foster care at 18 or older, (c.) be adopted at age 16 or older, (d.) experienced legal guardianship to kin at age 16 or older.
Idaho	Requires students to be: (a.) between ages 14-26, or (b.) adopted from foster care after turning 16 and not yet 26 years old.
Illinois	Requires students to be: (a.) youth for whom DCFS is legally responsible or who aged out of care at age 18 or older, or (b.) youth who achieved permanency at age 16 or older through either subsidized guardianship or adoption.
Indiana	Requires students to be: (a.) in foster care on or after their 18 th birthday, (b.) in foster care at age 17 and not enrolled in high school but pursuing a GED or tech certificate, (c.) have left foster care after their 16 th birthday due to being adopted or placed in a kinship guardianship placement.
Iowa	Requires students to be up to 26 years old and have: (a.) Exited foster care or juvenile court services within 30 days of their 18th birthday or later or (b.) be legally adopted or entered the Subsidized Guardianship Program from Iowa foster care at the age of 16 or older.
Kansas	Requires that all youth must have an open service case to receive ETV, and requires that students (a.) be in the custody of foster care, juvenile justice, or Tribal Authority and in a foster care placement on the date the youth attained 18 years of age, (b.) have left foster care and been placed in a permanent custodianship or guardianship at age 16 or older, or (c.) be in an eligible out of home placement for any length of time on or after the 14th birthday, unless an adoption, permanent custodianship, or guardianship is finalized prior to the

	youth's 16th birthday.
Kentucky	Requires students to be between 18-21 years old and (a.) leave out-of-home care at age 18 or older or (b.) be adopted at age 16 or older.
Louisiana	Requires students to be between ages 14-26 years old and (a.) be currently in the foster care system, (b.) age out of the foster care system at age 18, (c.) exit the foster care system through legal guardianship or adoption after the age of 16, (d.) be in the foster care system after the age of 14 and exited for reasons other than adoption, guardianship, or aging out (i.e. reunified with biological family).
Maine	Requires students to (a.) turn 18 years old while in foster care and sign a <i>Voluntary Extended Support Agreement</i> with the Department to the age of 21, or (b.) be adopted from foster care, entered permanency guardianship, or reunified with family at age 16 or older
Massachusetts	Requires students to (a.) age out of foster care no earlier than age 18, (b.) be adopted from foster care at age 16 and older, (c.) be placed in a DCF sponsored guardianship with a relative between ages 16-18.
Maryland	Requires students to (a.) age out of foster care no earlier than age 18, (b.) be adopted from foster care at age 16 and older, (c.) have their foster care case closed between the ages of 18 and 21, or (d.) entered into a guardianship placement from foster care on or after age 16.
Michigan	Requires students to (a.) be currently in foster care out-of-home placement between ages 14-23, (b.) be between ages 18-26, have experienced foster care at ages 14 or older but no longer in foster care/tribal supervision, (c.) to have an open juvenile justice case, or (d.) have been adopted at age 16 or older.
Minnesota	Requires students up to age 26 years old to (b.) have been in foster care for 30 consecutive days between their 17th and 18th birthdays, (b.) have been adopted from foster care at age 16 or older, (c.) have been in foster care on/after their 16 th birthday and had custody transferred to a relative, or (d.) under state or tribal guardianship on their 18th birthday.
Mississippi	Requires students to (a.) aged out of custody or (b.) be adopted from foster care after their 16th birthday.
Missouri	Requires students to (a.) be currently eligible for Chafee services, (b.) be adopted from U.S. foster care with the adoption finalized after age 16, (c.) experience kinship care at age 16 or older.
Montana	Requires students to be youth who are eligible for services under Montana's Foster Care Independence Program (MFCIP) including youth who were adopted or had a guardianship established after their 16th birthday. Services can continue until age 26.
Nebraska	Services are contracted out to the Central Plains Center for Services.

	<p>Their program only provides students with up to \$2400 per year. Requires students to be (a.) state or tribal wards who are age 17 or older, (b.) be in foster care custody and received guardianship or adopted status at age 16 or older, (c.) have been in foster care custody on their 17th birthday. Services are provided up to age 26,</p>
New York	<p>Requires students to (a.) be a current foster youth, including persons in need of supervision and those in custody of the juvenile justice system, (b.) a former foster youth under age 21, (c.) be adopted from U.S. foster care at age 16 or older, (d.) have left foster care at age 14 or older to be placed in a guardianship assistance agreement, (e.) be currently in the custody of the Office of Children and Family Services and placed in a non-secure or voluntary Title IV-E facility, (f.) be currently receiving aftercare or receiving services in an Evening Reporting Center (ERC) and has placed in a non-secure or voluntary Title IV-E facility.</p>
Nevada	<p>Requires students to either (a.) have aged out from anywhere in the United States and its territories or (b.) have been adopted from foster care at age 16 or older.</p>
New Hampshire	<p>Requires students to be between ages 18-26, and have a previous open foster care or juvenile justice case and exit foster, relative, shelter, group, residential or secure detention, from which they either (a.) age out on or after their 18th birthday, or (b.) are adopted or placed in legal kinship guardianship at age 16 or older. Students who exit from secure detention are required to have resided in foster, relative, shelter, group or residential care at some point when they were 14 or older.</p>
New Jersey	<p>Requires students to (a.) have been in foster care for (a.) have been in foster care for nine months following their 16th birthday, (b.) have been in foster care for 18 months following their 14th birthday, (c.) be adopted in New Jersey at age 12 or older, or (d.) be in foster care and then entered kinship legal guardianship at age 16 or older.</p>
New Mexico	<p>Provides tuition waivers for students who were in foster care (a.) the day before their 18th birthday, (b.) on or after age 14 and their parents rights were relinquished or terminated, or (c.) on the day they graduated or received their GED in New Mexico.</p>
North Carolina	<p>Requires students to (a.) have been in foster care at or after age 17, (b.) be adopted from foster care with the adoption finalized after age 16, or (c.) entered into a kinship guardianship placement from foster care on or after age 16.</p>
North Dakota	<p>Requires students to (a.) be discharged from foster care at age 18, (b.) remain in foster care after age 18, (c.) be adopted or enter kinship guardianship at age 16 or older, or (d.) have graduated from high school or obtained their GED at age 14-18, and their permanency</p>

	plan is to remain in foster care until their 18 th birthday. Services can continue up until age 26.
Ohio	Requires students to (a.) age out of foster care no earlier than age 18, (b.) experience kinship care at 16 or older, (c.) be adopted from foster care at age 16 and older, or (d.) have their foster care case closed between the ages of 18 and 21.
Oklahoma	Requires students to (a.) have been in foster care for nine months or longer between ages 16-18, (b.) have left foster care custody on or after their 18 th birthday, or (c.) have been adopted or entered into a guardianship at age 16 or older. Youth who were in custody of another state but currently reside in Oklahoma can also apply.
Oregon	Requires students to be (a.) currently in foster care, (b.) have experienced foster care for at least six months after their 14 th birthday and exited substitute care at age 16 or older, or (c.) have been adopted or entered into a guardianship at age 13 or older, and their adoption or guardianship finalized after 9/1/2015. Services can continue until age 26, and Oregon no longer requires students to have been receiving Chafee services prior to age 21.
Pennsylvania	Requires students to be a Pennsylvania resident and be identified as a youth in foster care or a youth discharged or adopted from foster care at age 16. Students must not have reached the age of 26 by July 1 of the upcoming academic year for which Chafee ETV is received.
Rhode Island	Requires students to have been in any foster care placement except for juvenile justice on or after their 16 th birthday and have spent at least the last two years in foster care prior to having their case closed. Young people who were adopted from foster care, even at age 17, are not eligible. Services can continue up until age 23 if the student is enrolled prior to age 21.
South Carolina	Requires students to have a foster care case originating in South Carolina and be (a.) in foster care until age 18, (b.) adopted at age 16 or older, (c.) placed in kinship care or court-ordered guardianship at age 16 or older, or (d.) reunified at age 14 or older.
South Dakota	Requires students to (a.) be a current or former foster youth between 16-21 or (b.) have been adopted at age 16 or older (c.) entered kinship guardianship at age 16 or older, or (d.) was in an out-of-home placement and left foster care at age 18 or older.
Tennessee	Requires students to (a.) be in foster care until age 18, (b.) be adopted from foster care at age 16 or older. Services can continue up until age 23 if the student is enrolled prior to age 21.
Texas	Requires students to (a.) be at least 16 and likely to remain in foster care until 18, (b.) have aged out of foster care (c.) have been adopted at age 16 or older, (c.) be still in care and enrolled in a dual credit

	course in which they can earn joint high school and college credit, (c.) be in a kinship placement that is approved for Permanency Care Assistance at age 16 or older, (d.) be an unaccompanied refugee minor, or (e.) be in the juvenile probation or a Title IV-E placement on the day they turn 18. Services are available until age 23.
Utah	Requires students to apply for ETV before turning 21, and to (a.) be in foster care and old enough to enroll in post-secondary education and have received 12 consecutive months of <i>Transition to Adult Living</i> services after the age of 14 while in foster care, or be adopted from foster care after age 16. Students are also required to enroll in <i>Workforce Investment Act</i> services.
Vermont	Requires students to be have experienced foster care placement after age 14 and/or be adopted at age 16 or older. Services are available until age 26.
Virginia	Requires students to be between ages 14-25, and to (a.) be currently in foster care, (b.) have aged out foster care or left extended foster care supports after turning 18, or (c.) have left foster care through adoption or kinship guardianship assistance after turning 16.
Washington (state)	Requires students to (a.) be between ages 16 to 20 and currently in foster care, (b.) be between ages 18-20 and age out of foster care (c.) be adopted or entered a relative guardianship between ages 16 to 20, or (d.) have participated and received ETV funds prior to 21 and if so they can request services until age 26.
Washington D.C.	Requires students to (a.) have been in foster care on or after age 15, or (b.) be adopted from foster care at age 16 or older.
West Virginia	Students are required to voluntarily elect to remain in foster care at after age 18 by signing the voluntary placement agreement in order to be eligible for continued foster care services, to have a referral from their IL worker, and can be disqualified for accepting student loans. Support is only available through age 22.
Wisconsin	Wisconsin called this program “Brighter Star,” and administers it by region. Student must (a.) have aged out ” or left one of the following court-ordered placements on/after their 18th birthday: foster care, residential, group home, kinship care, or (b.) be adopted or placed in subsidized guardianship after the age of 16.
Wyoming	Requires students to: (a.) be in foster care for 12 months after their age 14, (b.) be adopted or placed in guardianship from foster care at ages 16 or older, or (c.) age out of foster care at age 18 or older.

Additional Resources

For additional information, including state contacts, please visit: www.fc2sprograms.org/