Financial Aid for Student Groups

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Student Groups

- Foster youths
- Veterans
- Homeless students – non-youths
- Unaccompanied homeless youths
FOSTER YOUTH
Foster Youth Definition

Federal financial aid definition

Students at the age of 13 was in foster care even if no longer in foster care today due to:

• Adoption
• Reunification
• Reached the age of majority (18 yrs.)
Where do Foster Youth Come From?

- Factors associated with increased likelihood to enter foster care
  - Poverty
  - Adolescent parenthood
  - Drug and Alcohol abuse

- Common experiences prior to entering foster care
  - Inadequate health care
  - Exposure to violence
Myths and Facts

Myth: All youth in foster care are juvenile delinquents

Reality: Contrary to this common misconception, the vast majority of children and youth in foster care were placed in foster care because they experienced abuse or neglect, not because of their own behavior.
Community College Support

• Serves greatest number of foster youth of all three systems (est. 14,000)
• 114 Colleges throughout state
• Wide range of programs:
  – High school diploma
  – 2-year Associate (AA) degree
  – Career & Technical Education – occupational certificates
  – Transfer to 4-year university
Foster Youth Success Initiative Liaison

• Established in 2006 through CCCCO
• An FYSI Liaison is an identified campus staff who can provide a bridge for foster youth entering community college for the first time or those who may be returning
• 114 community colleges have an identified FYSI, some have multiple liaisons
  – Financial Aid Office
Critical Role of an FYSI Liaison

- Provides a safe and warm welcome to foster youth when they arrive on campus
- Understands and is trained about the unique challenges foster youth sometimes have
- Advocates and serves as an ally
- Connects students to campus and community based resources
- Ensure FAFSA completion and early processing of financial aid package
Foster Youth and College

About 75% of foster youth say they want to go to college

Currently 25% enroll in college and approx. 5% attain a degree

Approx. 12,000 enrolled in community colleges and 2-3,000 more in CSUs and UCs.
Challenges in Higher Education

- Inadequate housing options
- Lack of financial resources
- Frequent changes in home and school leave youth unprepared
- Lack of adult role models
- Lack of information on access to higher education
- Untreated trauma or undiagnosed mental health
Academic Barriers

- Lack financial and emotional support from a caring adult.
- Uncertain how to ask for help.
- Study skills and other basic know-how not well developed
- Difficulty navigating college system
- Most are first-generation, low-income students
- Lack of academic preparation due to frequent changes in schools

Foster youth are three times more likely to persist in college if they participate in a campus support program for foster youth
Overview of Campus Support Options

- Comprehensive Foster Youth Campus Support Program
- Light-touch support
- Community College FYSI Liaisons
- EOP/EOPS Programs
- Disability Support Programs
How You Can Help
How Faculty Can Support Foster Youth

• Connect students with the foster youth campus support program or FYSI liaison
  • Include information on syllabus (Sample from LA Pierce College)
    • We are making a special effort to support current and former foster youths at Pierce College. If you are a current or former foster youth you may qualify for other support services to help you achieve your educational goals. Please contact our Guardian Scholars Program at (818) 710-3323 or send us an email at guardianscholars@piercecollege.edu so you can get the support you are eligible for.

• Post flyers and brochures in classroom about the Foster Youth Programs in campus

• Refer foster youths to the Financial Aid Office
How Faculty Can Support Foster Youth (cont.)

• Provide regular feedback on these students’ performance and progress
• Offer direct and tangible academic support – ensure foster youth understand course material
• Communicate and demonstrate to foster youth that you care about their success
• Respect foster youths’ privacy
Other Benefits & Resources:

- **John Burton Foundation**
  - Book Fund
    - Eligibility: Foster care after the age of 13
  - Gift cards
    - Eligibility: Foster care after the age of 13 and Chafee eligible
  - Laptop to Success Competition
    - Eligibility: Foster care after the age of 13 and Chafee eligible

- **ILP Services**
  - Eligibility: Foster Care between 16-18

- **NextUp**
  - Eligibility: In foster care between 16-18 and have not reached your 25th birthday by the beginning of the semester

- **Backpack and school supplies**
- **Graduation cap and gown**
- **Field trips**
VETERANS
• Veterans may be eligible to receive financial aid funds in additional to their Veterans Benefits.

• Veterans Benefits:
  • Chapter 33 – Post 9/11
  • Chapter 30
  • Chapter 1606
  • Chapter 1607
  • Chapter 35 (Dependents & Survivors)
  • Chapter 31 (Voc Rehab & Employment)

• Other Benefits
  • CAL Vet (Fee Waiver) for dependents of injured or deceased vets
  • Veterans Work-Study
Chapter 33 (Post 9/11)

• Served on active duty for 90+ days after 9/11/2001 or were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days following 9/10/2001

• Benefits
  • 36 months of entitlement
  • Forever GI Bill – no more time limit to use benefits from separation date
  • Up to 100% tuition and fee plus monthly housing allowance
  • Book stipend = $1,000
    • Veteran must request through VA
Chapter 30 (Montgomery GI Bill)

- Veterans entering service after 6/30/1985
- Vietnam-Era veterans with remaining entitlement
- Received an honorable discharge
- Benefits
  - 36 months of education benefits within 10 years from last day of service
  - Up to 100% tuition and fees
  - Books and supplies
Chapter 1606 (Selected Reserves)

- Must be currently training and under a 6-year contract
- Only eligible for benefits while in the reserves
- Benefits
  - Monthly benefit is based on enrollment
  - Up to 100% tuition and fees
Chapter 1607 (REAP)  
Reserve Educational Assistance Program

• Member of a reserve component who serves on active duty on or after 9/11/2001 and who serves at least 90 consecutive days or more

• Department of Defense (DoD) or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) determines eligibility

• Benefits
  • Monthly benefit is based on enrollment
  • Up to 100% tuition and fees
Chapter 35 (Dependents & Survivors)

- Must be a spouse, son/daughter of a veteran who died or is permanently disabled as a result of a service-connected disability
- Benefits
  - Monthly benefit is based on type of training and enrollment
  - Up to 100% tuition and fees plus monthly housing allowance
  - Entitlement: 45 months (maximum of 48 months if eligible for more than one benefit chapter)
  - Children may use the benefit while they are between ages of 18 and 26
Chapter 31 (Voc Rehab & Employment)

• Employment-based program with the goal of getting veterans to work
• Received an honorable or other than dishonorable discharge
• Have a VA service-connected disability rating of 10% with a serious employment handicap or 20% or more with an employment handicap
• Eligibility is determined by VR&E to be in need of rehabilitation services because of an employment handicap
• Benefits
  • Tuition, parking, supplies – paid by the VA Rehabilitation Program
  • May pay for computers, tools, or equipment for training
State funded program that can assist veterans with disabilities in returning to competitive employment.
• Can cover the cost of education to gain employment.
• **Criteria:** Must have a documented disability that is resulting in a substantial impediment to employment.

**Benefits:**
• Can provide tuition, books/supplies, parking, and employment assistance
• May pay for tools, equipment, interview clothing, etc
Veterans Resource Centers

• Wrap around services
  • Counseling, tutoring, workshops, financial aid
  • “Safe” space, builds comradery
  • Equipment: computers, printers, etc
• “Military Friendly” campus
  • LA Harbor and LA Pierce are official chapters of the Student Veterans of America (SVA)
• Student Veterans Club on campus
UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH
Homeless, Unaccompanied Youth

“Homeless” or “at risk of being homeless”
- Lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing. Includes living in shelters, parks, motels or cars, couch surfing, or temporarily living with other people because the student has nowhere else to go, AND

“Unaccompanied”
- Not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, AND

“Youth”
- Under 24 years of age
TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS
# Types of Financial Aid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>Funds based on financial aid. Usually does not need to be repaid.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work-Study</td>
<td>Part-time work (on or off campus)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loans</td>
<td>Funds that you borrow <em>(principal plus interest)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>Funds based on merit (i.e. gpa, major, essay)</td>
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# Financial Aid Programs - Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Type</th>
<th>Details/Eligibility</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Federal Pell Grant</strong></td>
<td>Up to $6,095 (2018-2019)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CA College Promise Grant (formerly known as BOG Fee Waiver)</strong> – AB540 students also eligible</td>
<td>Waives enrollment fees only!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cal Grant Programs – CA residents – AB540</strong></td>
<td>B = $1,672 C = $1,094</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)</strong> – limited in funding</td>
<td>Award amount varies by college</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Student Success Completion Grant</strong></td>
<td>$649/semester – 12 to 14 units/semester $2,000/semester – 15 units/semester</td>
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## Financial Aid Programs (Self-Help)

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<th>Program</th>
<th>Award Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Work-Study – limited in funding</td>
<td>Award amount varies by college</td>
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<tr>
<td>Direct Loans</td>
<td>$3,500 - $10,500/year</td>
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**NOTE:** Most college Financial Aid Offices set aside Federal Work-Study dollars for student groups (Foster Youth, Veterans, Homeless students)
## Additional Funding

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<th>Chafee Grant – for former and current foster youths</th>
<th>Up to $5,000/year</th>
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<td>* AB540 students are eligible by completing the CA Dream Application</td>
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| Veterans Benefits | Various Chapters Veterans Work-Study |