Minnesota Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program

Post-secondary Educational Benefits for Foster Care and Adopted Youth

Independent status

- Students saying yes to one of the question in Step Three on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), can be considered independent students.
- Post-secondary programs determined independent status based on the FAFSA and may request documentation confirming foster care placement/state guardianship from the student’s social worker.
- Students do not have to include their parents/adoptive parent’s information/income on the FAFSA.
- Students receive the maximum amount of federal Pell Grant.

Step Three (Student): Answer the questions in this step to determine if you will need to provide parental information. Once you answer “Yes” to any of the questions in this step, skip Step Four and go to Step Five on page 8.

MN Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program: Awards up to $5,000 per school year to all eligible students submitting a complete application in the due date period, as long as funds are available.

Eligibility criteria: Youth under age 26, graduated from high school or received a GED diploma, accepted into an accredited institution of higher education that awards financial aid, are eligible to receive financial aid, such as the federal Pell Grant or Minnesota State Grant, and one of the following:

- In foster care 30 consecutive days or more between their 17th and 18th birthdays
- Adopted, including customary adoptions, from foster care after their 16th birthday
- In foster care on/after age 16 when the court transferred permanent legal/physical custody to a relative
- Under state guardianship or tribal guardianship at age 18.

Students must submit an application each year they need funds for undergraduate or graduate education, if they have not reached their 26th birthday or participated in the ETV program for five years and continue to attend an accredited federal Pell Grant eligible institution of higher education and are making progress in completing their degree.

Application: Students submit a complete online application.

Application due dates: Applications are accepted July 1 to April 1 each year. Students must be attending post-secondary education on April 1 to submit an application for ETV awards for the school year. See application schedule below.

- 2021-2022 school year: Complete applications are accepted July 1, 2021-April 1, 2022. Students must be in school on April 1, 2022 to submit a complete application for ETV awards for this school year.
- 2022-2023 school year: Complete applications are accepted July 1, 2022-April 1, 2023. Students must be in school on April 1, 2023 to submit a complete application for ETV awards for this school year.
Resources:

- [Program Guidelines](#) for application checklist and instructions
- [Expense Guidelines](#) for what ETV funds cover
- [Brochure](#): Email Lutheran Social Services ETV staff to request copies at Kelsey.Gubrud@lssmn.org, Marilyn.Wagoner@lssmn.org or Jessica.Estrada@lssmn.org.
- [Fostering Success video](#): An Overview of Minnesota’s Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program.

Email questions to [DHS.ETVcoordinator@state.mn.us](mailto:DHS.ETVcoordinator@state.mn.us).

Tuition waiver for students under state guardianship or tribal suspension of parental rights: Students under age of 21 who are under the guardianship of the commissioner of human services or for an American Indian child under suspension of parental rights or termination of parental rights under the guardianship of a tribe or tribal social service agency. These persons must be qualified for admission to a Minnesota state college or university.

- Students request a tuition waiver from their post-secondary programs.
- Post-secondary programs may request documentation from the student’s social worker confirming state guardianship, such as a letter or court order.

SAT fee waiver and ACT fee waiver: See websites for criteria.

Extended foster care for youth ages 18-21: Youth in foster care immediately prior to their 18th birthday may continue in foster care past age 18 if they desire to continue in foster care and are not able to return home, or otherwise achieve permanency prior to age 18. They must meet at least one of the following conditions on an ongoing basis.

- Completing secondary education/program leading to an equivalent credential such as a GED diploma or certificate
- Enrolled in an institution that provides post-secondary or vocational education
- Participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment
- Employed for at least 80 hours per month
- Incapable of doing any of the above activities due to a medical condition.

MN Office of Higher Education website preparing, choosing and paying for college resources:

- **Preparing for college**
  - What [classes to take](#) in high school
  - How to [earn college credit in high school](#)
  - Mapping out a plan with the [college prep timeline](#)
- **Choosing a college**
  - [How to choose a college](#) that’s just right for you
  - [Exploring your college options](#) locally and nationally
  - [How to apply](#) to college
  - [Booklet with college programs and profiles](#)
- **Paying for college resources**
  - [Scholarships offered by MN institutions](#)
  - [Paying for college resources](#)
  - [MN Indian Scholarship](#): Award amount is based on need up to $4,000 per year for undergraduate students and up to $6,000 for graduate students.
  - [American Indian Tuition Waiver: Morris](#)
- Order free publications: [Financial Aid Basics](#), [Grants and Scholarships](#) and [all publications](#)
**Power of You:** Meet family income and graduate from a Minneapolis, St. Paul, and surrounding suburban school.

- **Minneapolis Community and Technical College**, contact: 612-659-6171 or powerofyout@minneapolis.edu.
- **Century College**, contact 651-779-3204 or trumanue.lindsey@century.edu
- **St. Paul College**
- **Metropolitan State University**: This scholarship is for students that participated in the Power of YOU and graduated from either Century College, Minneapolis College or Saint Paul College, and who are seeking a bachelor’s degree at Metropolitan State University. Students must be registered for 12 credits in their first term.

**Foster Care to Success scholarship:**

Application due dates: **January 1-March 31 annually**

- **Awards**: $2,500-$5,000 based on a combination of need and merit
- **Renewable**: Up to five years if the student remains compliant with program requirements
- **Eligibility**: *Applicants must:*
  o Have been in public or private foster care for the 12 consecutive months leading up to and including their 18th birthday; OR have been adopted or placed into legal guardianship after their 16th birthday; OR have been orphaned for at least one year at the time of their 18th birthday and not subsequently adopted
  o Be under the age of 25 on March 31 of the year in which they apply if they have not previously received scholarship funding from Foster Care to Success
  o Have been in foster care or orphaned while living in the United States. U.S. citizenship is not required.
  o Have been accepted into or expect to be accepted into an accredited, Pell-eligible college or other postsecondary school
  o **NOTE**: This is an undergraduate scholarship only.

**Family Fellowship**: A scholarship program dedicated to propelling youth in foster care into higher education through financial support and mentorship opportunities. See website for more information.

**Scholarships for Adoptees**: Go to the website for a list of scholarships available to adopted youth.

**Scholarship search websites:**

- Scholar Snapp at [https://www.scholarsnapp.org/](https://www.scholarsnapp.org/)
- Scholly at [https://myscholly.com](https://myscholly.com)
- Fastweb at [https://fastweb.com](https://fastweb.com)

**More preparing and paying for college resources** [MN ETV Program Guidelines](https://www.etv.org/programs/mtv/mtv-learning-center/guides), pages 24-25.