



# **Financial Aid Resources for Foster Youth**

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# Key Topics



**Scholarships for  
Foster Youth**



**Chafee  
Education and  
Training Grant**



**Tuition and Fee  
Waiver**



**Questions and  
Discussion**



# Scholarships for Foster Youth

# The OSAC Student Portal



## Create a Student Account

- Applications and Awards:
  - Oregon Promise Grant
  - Chafee Grant
  - Child Care Grant
  - Oregon Tribal Student Grant
  - OR National Guard State Tuition Assistance
  - Oregon Teacher Scholars Program Grant
  - OSAC Scholarships

**OregonStudentAid.Gov**

Mark Your Calendars

# OSAC Scholarship Timeline



**Nov 1**

## *OSAC Scholarship Opens*

Students can start the OSAC scholarship application



**Feb 18**

## *Early Bird Deadline*

Applications submitted by the deadline will be eligible to win a \$1,000 scholarship



**Dec**

## *FAFSA/ORSAA Opens*

Students and families can start the FAFSA or ORSAA



**March 3**

## *Final Deadline*

Application and all required documents Submitted by March 3<sup>rd</sup>

Quick Tips For

# Getting Started

## Stay Organized



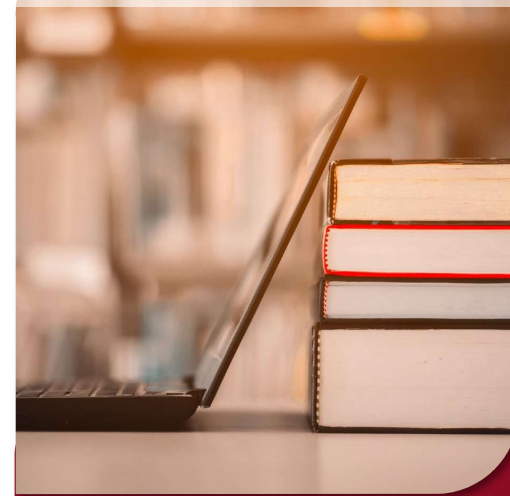
Store usernames,  
passwords, deadlines

## Legal Name



Use legal name on all  
applications

## Email



Use professional  
email and check it

## What Are The Parts Of The **OSAC** Scholarships

### **Student Profile:**

Basic contact information and background questions

### **Personal Statements:**

Three required essays and one optional essay that helps tell the student's story



### **Other Documentation:**

Additional information required by some scholarships

### **Activities Chart**

A breakdown of school and volunteer activities and paid work

### **Transcripts:**

List of classes and grades, can be uploaded to the portal

*One application... up to 600 scholarships*



# Scholarships for Foster Youth

## 442: DREAM - Former Foster Youth Scholarship

### Requirements

- Applicant must meet one of the following criteria:
  - Priority: applies for and qualifies for the Chafee Education and Training Grant, **or**
  - was adopted from foster care between the ages of 14 and 16, **or**
  - former Chafee awardee now over age 23 and currently enrolled in a degree-seeking program, **or**
  - Chafee-eligible youth who did not receive Chafee funds before age 21
- Enrollment: Must enroll at least half time
- FAFSA: Required - based on financial need
- Apply-compete annually, may be received for a maximum of 4 years.



# Scholarships for Foster Youth

## 940: Mason Van Buren Scholarship

### Requirements

- Requirement: Must have experienced foster care or been a ward of the court
- Enrollment: Minimum half-time (6 credits), undergraduate study
- Colleges: Any public or private, nonprofit or for-profit, Title IV, postsecondary school in the United States
- FAFSA/ORSAA: Required - based on financial need
- Automatically renewable for up to six years if renewal criteria met.

# Scholarships for Foster Youth

## 748: Gregory M. Ahlijian

- Requirement: Applicants (including GED recipients) who have received treatment at Jasper Mountain in Jasper, Oregon, or other residential treatment at an institution in Oregon designed to address the effects of childhood abuse or neglect, or who have been in foster care in Oregon.
- Restriction: First-time applicants must have graduated high school or obtained GED certificate no more than five years prior to submitting initial application and must be no more than 25 years of age as of the application deadline.
- Enrollment: Must enroll at least half-time
- FAFSA: Not required - not based on financial need
- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Apply-compete annually

## Documents & Additional Requirements

- List dates of Participation in Care
- Essay: Please write a short essay in response to this theme: "There is honor in meeting and overcoming life's challenges."

# Scholarships for Foster Youth

## 632: Weller Family Scholarship

- Requirement: Applicant must be or must have been in foster care
- Graduates of high schools in Lincoln County (first preference) or in the coastal communities of Clatsop, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Lane, or Tillamook County (second preference) who have not yet attended college.
- Residence (county): Lincoln County (first preference) or in the coastal communities of Clatsop, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Lane, or Tillamook County (second preference)
- GPA (preference): 3.00+
- Colleges: Oregon two-year public only
- Enrollment: Must enroll at least half time
- FAFSA: Required - based on financial need
- Apply-competes for one additional year

## Documents & Additional Requirements

- Additional document:  
Submit copy of Ward of Court document

# Finding Scholarships

**Use the online OSAC Scholarship Catalog to search for scholarships**

## Keyword Search

- Use the search field in the online catalog to complete a keyword search.
  - *Example: Use “Sports” to find scholarships related to athletics*
  - *Example: Use “Marion” to find scholarships open to residents of Marion County*

**Download OSAC Scholarship Catalog as a PDF document**

## Full Catalog

- Download the OSAC Catalog and read through the scholarship listings. Highlight qualified scholarships.
- Save the document to computer and use the “find text” search box to complete keyword searches.

Scholarship Search

# Finding Scholarships

Use the online OSAC Scholarship Catalog to search for scholarships

## Search By High School



- Search by High School Type, High School Name, and FAFSA/ORSAA status
  - *Example: Search for GED Programs*
  - *Example: Search for Aloha High School*

## Search By Membership or Employer



- Search for memberships and employers affiliated with parents/caregivers/family members or self
  - *Example: Search for a union parents/caregivers were a part of*
  - *Example: Search for Bob's Red Mill if grandparents worked there.*



# Chafee Education and Training Grant

# Chafee



## Overview and Background

The John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood provides funding to support youth/ young adults in or formerly in foster care in their transition to adulthood. The program is funded through formula grants awarded to state and tribal child welfare agencies. The ETV program provides financial resources to help young people pay for post-secondary educational and training at Title IV eligible institutions.



Chafee

# Eligibility Requirements

Who is eligible for Chafee?



- Currently be in child welfare foster care, **or**
- Had been in child welfare foster care for at least 180 days (six months) after 13th birthday and exited substitute care at age 14 or older, **or**
- Be a former foster youth who was adopted or entered into a guardianship on or after 13th birthday, and adoption/guardianship finalized after 9/1/2015
- Must be 25 or younger to apply. Final Chafee Grant disbursement must be received the term before the youth turns age 26

Chafee

# Eligibility Requirements

Who is eligible for  
Chafee?



Oregon does not have access to foster care records from other states. The website for Chafee Education and Training contacts in each state is <http://www.fc2sprograms.org/about-etv/>.

**We will need a letter from the other state with the following information:**

- Student's full name
- Date of birth
- Date entered foster care
- Date exited foster care

**This foster care information should be submitted to:**

ILP Program Coordinator  
Human Services Building  
500 Summer Street NE, E76  
Salem, OR 97301-1064

Chafee

# Application Process

How does a student  
apply for Chafee?



1. Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#)\*
2. Complete the online [Chafee ETV Grant](#)

\*If student's state of legal residency is not Oregon, OSAC might **not** receive their FAFSA information.

Email [PublicPrograms@hecc.oregon.gov](mailto:PublicPrograms@hecc.oregon.gov) for support.

Chafee

# Application Process - School Certification

How does a student  
apply for Chafee?



- Once DHS has reviewed and authorized a Chafee ETV Grant award, the eligible student will show up in the school of choice's Partner Portal list of Chafee students
- Students are reviewed by school for Title IV eligibility and if eligible, awarded up to authorized amount, not to exceed remaining need
- Chafee lists need to be reviewed regularly for new students who have been added. We recommend reviewing by or at census each term.

Chafee

## Awarding Basics

How much will they  
receive in Chafee?



- Available for 5 years for certificate, undergraduate, or graduate study.
- The maximum award amount for the 2024-25 academic year is \$5,000.
- Disbursements made fall, winter, spring, and summer (must apply for summer term on application).
- Must be 25 or younger to apply and receive funds. Last disbursement can be received the term before 26<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## Chafee **School Reporting**

How does the  
school award  
Chafee?



- Once certified, OSAC will set up Chafee Grant payments to be sent to the school with each terms financial aid disbursements to be disbursed to the student with the rest of their financial aid.
- If a school does not disburse the Chafee Grant, Chafee funds need to be returned to OSAC promptly.
- If a student has a change in eligibility status, such as not meeting SAP, update the Partner Portal.

A scenic landscape photograph of a lake at sunset. The sky is filled with dramatic, colorful clouds in shades of orange, pink, and purple. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. In the foreground, there are dark, silhouetted mountains and hills. A green semi-transparent banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text "Tuition & Fee Waiver" in white.

# Tuition & Fee Waiver



# Tuition & Fee Waiver

The Tuition and Fee Waiver was established to waive the remaining tuition and fees after a student's financial aid have been applied at public 2- and 4-year colleges and universities in Oregon for:

- Former and current foster youth
- Former adopted foster youth
- Youth experiencing homelessness



Tuition & Fee Waiver

# Eligibility Requirements

Who is eligible for  
the Tuition & Fee  
Waiver?



- Current or former foster youth in care 6+ months between ages 14-21 and exited care after 16, **or**
- Adopted after 6+ months in care and adoption finalized after 1/1/2012, **or**
- Experienced homelessness 6+ months between the ages of 14-24 and received services for homeless youth after 16.

Tuition & Fee Waiver

# Eligibility Requirements Expanded

Who is eligible for the Tuition & Fee Waiver?



2022-23 aid year: (HB4013) Youth Experiencing Homelessness eligibility added to the Tuition and Fee Waiver. Eligible students usually need to complete an application for the Tuition and Fee Waiver and submit it to:

[yehp.studentwaivers@odhsosha.oregon.gov](mailto:yehp.studentwaivers@odhsosha.oregon.gov)

## Requirements:

- Experienced homelessness for 6 or more months between ages 14 and 24,
- Received services from an organization contracted by ODHS to provide services to homeless persons or from a host home,
- At least 16 when last receiving services from contracted organization

2023-24 aid year: (SB449) Adopted former foster youth who experienced care for at least 6 months included in eligibility. (HB3564) Added ORSAA as an accepted aid application for the Tuition and Fee Waiver.

Tuition & Fee Waiver

# Eligibility Requirements

Who is eligible for  
the Tuition & Fee  
Waiver?



- Must enroll at a public 2- or 4-year college or university in Oregon before 25th birthday.
- After age 25, must maintain continuous enrollment (no stopping out after turning 25).
- Available up to 4 full time years of undergraduate study.

Tuition & Fee Waiver

# Student Application

Does a student apply  
for the Tuition & Fee  
Waiver?



The student must complete the FAFSA or ORSAA and list a public Oregon community college or university.

- DHS provides OSAC with a list of students who meet eligibility requirements.
- OSAC's software matches eligible students with their FAFSA/ORSAA.
- Eligible students will populate on school's list for every school listed on their FAFSA/ORSAA.

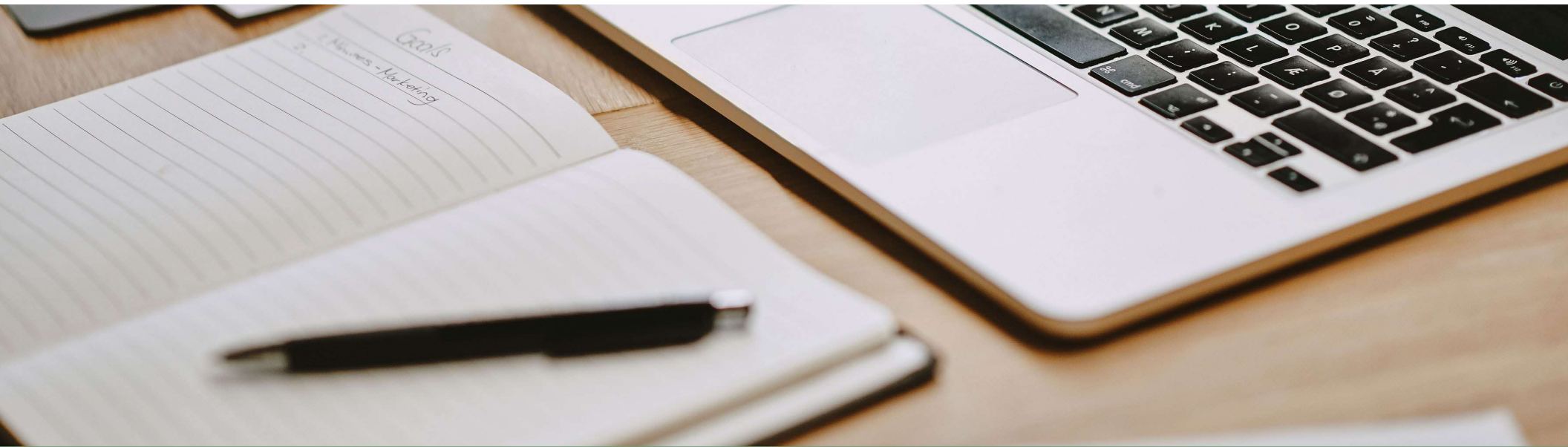
Tuition & Fee Waiver

# Awarding and Reporting

What does the college do?



- Waiver is applied to student's remaining tuition and fees after all federal grants\*/scholarships, Oregon Opportunity Grant, and institutional aid.
- \*Federal grants and scholarships **excludes the Chafee ETV Grant.**
- School Reports through OSAC Partner Portal.



# Conclusion



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**OSAC Oregon**



**OSACOregon**



**OregonStudentAid**



**@OSAC**

# Contact Information

Email: [PublicPrograms@HECC.oregon.gov](mailto:PublicPrograms@HECC.oregon.gov)

*More information at: [OregonStudentAid.Gov](http://OregonStudentAid.Gov)*

