

Scholarship & Grant Resources for Students with Foster Care Experience 2024-2025

Introduction: Students with foster care experience in Pennsylvania should consider scholarship applications to support their higher educational pursuits (i.e., graduate, undergraduate, vocational). This document will introduce students to statewide programs and grants, national scholarship databases, and scholarships relevant specifically to students with experience in foster care.

Statewide Programs

The Chafee Education and Training Grant: The Chafee Education and Training Grant is a federally funded program designed to assist eligible students with foster care experience in accessing post-secondary education. **For more information and eligibility criteria, visit the [Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency \(PHEAA\) Chafee Program](#).**

Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver: The Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver program provides tuition assistance for eligible students who spent time in Pennsylvania foster care after the age of 16. **To learn more about this program and how to apply, visit the [PHEAA Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver](#).**

Additional Resources/National Databases:

While this document highlights specific scholarship programs for students with foster care experience in Pennsylvania, there are numerous other scholarship opportunities available. Consider exploring comprehensive scholarship databases that will include much broader listings of scholarships that you or the students you work with may be eligible for, such as:

- **[Fastweb](#):** Fastweb offers a vast database of scholarships for students of all backgrounds, including those with foster care experience.
- **[Scholarships.com](#):** Scholarships.com provides a searchable database of scholarships, grants, and financial aid opportunities tailored to individual student profiles.
- **[College Board's Scholarship Search \(BigFuture\)](#):** The College Board offers a scholarship search tool to help students find relevant funding options based on their personal information and academic interests.
- **[Appily](#):** Appily is a scholarship search tool that allows students to discover scholarships that align with their personal interests, achievements, and background (may include scholarships for students with foster care experience).
- **[Unigo](#):** Unigo is a scholarship database where students can search for scholarships by various criteria (some scholarships may be available to students based on foster care experience).
- **[Philadelphia Foundation](#):** The Philadelphia Foundation's scholarship guide provides comprehensive information and resources for students, as well as a list of scholarships primarily available in Greater Philadelphia. While each scholarship has individual criteria and requirements, **a common application is used for all scholarships.**

Scholarship Resources for Students with Foster Care Experience 2024-2025

Scholarship	Description:	Amount:	PA Specific:	Eligibility:	Deadline:
Horatio Alger National Scholarship	A prestigious scholarship program for students in the U.S. that aims to support students who have faced and overcome significant obstacles in their lives.	Up to \$25,000.	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United States citizenship • High school senior status • Demonstrate critical financial need (being eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant in the first year of college) • GPA Requirement: GPA of 2.0 • Involvement in co-curricular and community service activities • Display of integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity 	March 15, 2024 by 12:00 p.m. EDT
National Foster Parent Association (NFPA)	For youth with foster care experience who want to complete their GED or further their education beyond high school.	\$500 award.	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates must submit an application • Submit proof of parent membership in the NFPA • Two letters of recommendation • An official high school transcript • Essay on how foster care experiences shaped their future goals • Must be between 17-21 years old • Must be in senior year of high school 	April 1, 2024 by midnight
UMPS CARE Charities All-Star College Scholarship	The All-Star Scholarship is open to children adopted at or after the age of 13 (or who have exited foster care to permanent guardianship) to provide increased opportunities for advanced education.	Up to \$10,000 annually to go towards tuition, books, and other college-related expenses.	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must have been adopted or exited foster care to permanent guardianship at or after the age of thirteen (13) • Demonstrate financial need through the FAFSA Application. • Applicants must be incoming college freshmen age 21 or younger. 	May 1, 2024

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are selected as the scholarship recipient, you may be awarded a \$5,000 grant every semester (for a 4 year institution) if you meet the maintenance standards. 	
Music Forward Foundation: David E. Ballard Scholarship	<p>Established in the memory of David E. Ballard, with the support of Inherit the Music, this \$10,000 scholarship supports youth who have experienced homelessness and/or been part of the foster care system pursuing a career in live entertainment. Field of study may include but is not limited to live event operations, production, music engineering, music business management, customer service, hospitality and/or other related fields.</p>	<p>This award will be paid directly to a qualified educational institution in two equal payments of \$5000, distributed across at least two academic semesters.</p>	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be a full-time undergraduate student with a declared major and enrolled at an accredited college or university at the time of award in the fall semester Applicant must be pursuing a career in live entertainment. Applicants who have experienced homelessness within the last four years, and/or been part of the foster care system any time after the age of sixteen, are eligible to apply Applicant must be permanently residing in the U.S. Applicant must have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher 	March 31, 2024
Comfort Cases Hope Scholarships	<p>Financial assistance to graduating high school seniors or current college students enrolled in an accredited undergraduate program or trade school program in the Fall of 2024.</p>	<p>*Varies depending on the number of applicants/ available funds.</p>	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A graduating high school senior or current higher education student Currently in or aged out of the foster care system Applicants must have been in the Foster Care system for 48 months or more A resident of the United States planning to attend a full or part-time accredited undergraduate program or 	May 1, 2024

				<p>trade school program in the Fall of 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Applicants cannot be awarded a scholarship more than once 	
Foster Care to Success Scholarship	<p>The Foster Care to Success Scholarship program is available to students in foster care and students who were in foster care. This scholarship supports students who are under the age of 25 and plan to seek postsecondary education.</p>	<p>Up to \$5,000</p>	<p>N</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In foster care for the 12 consecutive months leading up to and including 18th birthday; **or** adopted or placed into legal guardianship after 16th birthday; **or** orphaned for at least one year at the time of 18th birthday and not subsequently adopted In foster care or orphaned while living in the U.S. (U.S. citizenship is not required) • Seeking an associate or bachelor's degree • Demonstrate financial need (Pell eligible) • Aged 25 or younger 	<p>Application opens May 2024</p>
The Rezvan Foundation for Excellence Scholarship	<p>The purpose of this scholarship is to support the academic pursuits of young people who have experience in foster care. This Foundation provides ongoing scholarship and mentorship funding for full tuition over the course of four years.</p>	<p>Up to \$100,000 over the course of four years for each Awardee.</p>	<p>N</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a minor now or formerly in foster care; a minor who has been orphaned; or a minor who has been adopted after time spent in foster care • Is a U.S. resident • is currently enrolled in an accredited high school • Has a GPA of 3.5 or higher** • Has submitted applications to one or more four-year accredited universities • Has no disciplinary record (academic or criminal) 	<p>March 15, 2024</p>

<p>Adoption STAR Academic Scholarship Program</p>	<p>Through its academic scholarship program, Adoption STAR recognizes college-bound individuals who were adopted or in foster care by providing academic scholarships.</p>	<p>Academic Scholarships (\$500-\$1500)</p>	<p>N</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High school transcripts and/or other applicable test scores that reflect improvement and high achievement should be furnished with the application. • The applicant must have been adopted or in foster care and be known to have overcome adversity. • The applicant should demonstrate good character and high achievement despite obstacles or special challenges. • The applicant must have advanced education plans to a 4-year college. • Awardees must be willing to share their name, photo and personal statement and an update after they begin college. These will be shared by Adoption STAR on social media and their website 	<p>Not listed</p>
<p>Foster Love Family Fellows Program</p>	<p>The Family Fellowship Scholarship Program is designed to provide foster youth with the necessary resources to pursue higher education. This program aims to advance the educational aspirations of foster youth by offering financial assistance and family-like emotional support.</p>	<p>This scholarship program offers each recipient up to \$12,000 annually for a maximum of five years to ease the financial burden associated with pursuing a college degree.</p>	<p>N</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant must be 18-23 years of age during the application year • Applicants aged 17 years old can apply with a guardian's signature. Applicants turning 24 years before June 1st of the application year can apply • The applicant has been accepted to or expects acceptance to an accredited, Pell-eligible college or other post-secondary institution, and is attempting to complete an undergraduate degree 	<p>Not listed</p>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant graduated with a high school diploma or GED, or is currently a high school senior, with a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 2.5 or higher • The applicant had either (a) lived in public or private foster care for the twelve (12) consecutive months leading up to and including the applicant's eighteenth (18th) birthday; OR (b) was adopted or placed into legal guardianship from foster care after the applicants thirteenth (13th) birthday, OR (c) was orphaned for at least one (1) year at the time of Recipient's eighteenth (18th) birthday 	
<u>International Student Foundation Scholarship</u>	For high school seniors or graduates with lived experience in foster care looking to continue their education. ISF supports its students through scholarships, mentoring programs, and leadership development.	Not Listed	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-time undergraduate students • Full-Time trade school students • Under the age of 24 at the time of application • Lived experience in foster care 	Not listed
<u>Foundation for Financial Services Professionals Paul S. Mills Scholarship</u>	This scholarship is designed to create educational opportunities for the next generation of financial service professionals, specifically for those students with financial need.	Twelve (12) students each will receive a scholarship of \$1,000.	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a United States citizen or legal resident living in the US • Be a full or part-time student enrolled in a college or university program in the U.S. who has completed the equivalent of one year of credits toward an undergraduate degree or is pursuing a masters or PhD level degree 	Due by 11:59 p.m. ET on March 31.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be pursuing a course of study in a financial service field • Demonstrate financial need by submitting the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Student Aid Report (SAR) 	
<u>RISE Financial Literacy Scholarship</u>	A need-based scholarship program that offers students \$2,500 in scholarship dollars in exchange for completing 8 FDIC MoneySmart Financial Literacy units.	\$2,500	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident • Household income must not exceed 200% of the national poverty limit. • There must be some form of non-federal income within applicant's household. • Applicant must be a graduating high school senior, or current student in a college, university, trade school, or qualifying 2- or 4-year degree program, and a full-time student 	Open applications (no deadline)
<u>Lenfest Immensitas Scholarship</u>	This scholarship supports students who have experience in the Philadelphia foster care system at 4 institutions: Harcum College, Penn State, West Chester University, and Penn College of Technology. Supports will include academic advising, a summer bridge program, housing and meals during school breaks, financial and money management guidance and a designated liaison at each school.	Full cost of attendance	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This scholarship supports students who were/are involved in the Philadelphia foster care system (any time since their 16th birthday), meet Chafee criteria, and attend one of the four partner schools. 	Not listed.

<u>The NSORO Foundation Scholarship</u>	<p>The NSORO Foundation provides direct academic scholarships, executive-level coaching, mentorship, and workforce readiness programs for youth aging out of foster care nationwide. All youth currently in foster care, aged-out, and emancipated youth are encouraged to apply.</p>	<p>NSORO Scholarships cover academic related expenses (e.g., tuition, room and board, academic fees, meal plan, books and academic supplies.</p>	<p>N</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certify that they are currently in foster care, a ward of the state, or eligible for ILP, having aged out of foster care as a young adult • Be a high school graduate or equivalent with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher • Have been accepted into an accredited, Pell-eligible college or another post-secondary school • We support youth ages 16-26 • Be a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident of the United States. 	<p>Closes March 15, 2024</p>
<u>HERB It Forward Foundation Scholarship</u>	<p>The HERB It Forward Foundation Scholarship supports the education of young leaders in the Philadelphia area through scholarships and community with a primary focus on students who demonstrate a commitment to helping others and a passion for giving back.</p>	<p>30 individuals will receive First, Second, or Third Place scholarships ranging from \$1,000 - \$5,000 annually.</p>	<p>Y</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals 17-21 years of age • Applicants must be residents of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, or the Greater Philadelphia Area, who are applying to or are students of accredited programs at colleges, vocational, or technical schools anywhere in the United States • At the time of application, eligible counties of residency include Philadelphia, Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, and Delaware counties in Pennsylvania and Camden, Gloucester, and Burlington counties in New Jersey • Must demonstrate a strong financial need 	<p>Closed.</p>
<u>UNCF Scholarships</u>	<p>UNCF manages various scholarship programs, with each program having its own</p>	<p>Award amounts vary.</p>	<p>N</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check website for eligibility requirements. 	<p>Open throughout March 2024.</p>

	eligibility criteria, open/close dates and required documentation. To apply for a UNCF scholarship, apply through the online application process.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNCF is the nation's largest private scholarship provider to minority group members. • More than \$100 million in scholarships to awarded annually to students attending more than 1,100 schools across the country, including our prestigious network of 37 HBCUs. 	
<u>SchoolHouse Connection Youth Leadership and Scholarship Program</u>	SchoolHouse Connection's scholarship program serves youth who have experienced homelessness. The goal of the program is to provide financial assistance and staff and peer support to ensure that students are successful in getting to and through higher education and into the workforce.	\$2,500 scholarship award. Read website for specific programming for scholars (i.e., award ceremonies, trips, mentorship).	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a transcript, essay, and at least one letter of recommendation • Students who have not reached their 20th birthday by June 1, 2024 and who are entering college for the first time in 2025 may apply (Students who have college credit through high school programs are eligible) • Undocumented students who meet these criteria are eligible 	Closes June 1, 2024.
<u>James R. Roebuck PLBC Scholarship</u>	This scholarship is named after Mr. James R. Roebuck- former member of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus (PLBC) and champion for education. This scholarship supports students of color in their educational pursuits.	\$1,000 scholarship.	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Person of color • Graduating high school senior or current undergraduate college student 	Due by April 5, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.