



The PA Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver (FosterEd) Program provides tuition waivers at postsecondary institutions for eligible youth who are or have been in foster care.

The PA Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver Program, created by Act 16 of 2019, seeks to remove barriers in accessing a postsecondary education for youth who are or have been in foster care. It helps eligible students complete a postsecondary degree with less debt and provides youth with a central point of contact for assistance and support.

The program is administered by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) in conjunction with the PA Departments of Education, Human Services, and Labor & Industry.



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PA Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver Program

Postsecondary Tuition Waiver for Eligible Foster Care Youth



Am I Eligible?

To be eligible for the tuition waiver, students must meet the following criteria:

- Be a Pennsylvania resident
- Have not reached age 26 by July 1 of the upcoming academic year in which the waiver will be awarded
- Have graduated from high school or received a Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma
- Be eligible for services under Pennsylvania's John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood
- Be identified as a youth experiencing foster care at age 16 or older, or exited foster care to adoption or permanent legal custodianship (PLC) after age 16
- Be enrolled as an undergraduate, at least half-time in a PA postsecondary institution that is approved by the U.S. Department of Education for Title IV student assistance programs
- Have unmet cost for the Chafee Education and Training Grant (Chafee ETG) Program, as determined by the postsecondary institution
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress, as determined by the postsecondary institution
- Not be in default on a federal student loan

How to Participate

Eligible foster youth must take the following steps:

- File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)
- File PA State Grant application items
- Submit a Chafee ETG Application by May 1
- Enroll in an eligible PA postsecondary institution

Visit [PHEAA.org](https://pheaa.org) for additional information.

FAQs

What is a Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver?

The elimination of an eligible student's remaining charges for tuition and mandatory fees after federal, state, and gift aid are applied.

Does the tuition waiver cover food and housing?

The tuition waiver is only required to cover tuition and mandatory fees.

Will the tuition waiver cover existing education debt?

The tuition waiver is only applied to tuition and mandatory fees in the current award year.

Do I need to fill out a specific application?

You must submit a FAFSA, Chafee ETG application, and PA State Grant application items for the current award year. Contact your postsecondary institution's Point of Contact (POC) to assist in identifying further scholarship and grant opportunities.

How long does the tuition waiver apply?

The tuition waiver may be applied up to 5 academic years, defined as 10 semesters or the equivalent, whether or not consecutive, until age 26.

Is there anyone at my postsecondary institution who can help?

Each school has a POC available to support eligible students throughout their college careers with the following:

- Assistance with admissions and financial aid applications
- Assistance in identifying scholarship and grant opportunities
- Referrals for on- and off-campus resources and support services

For additional information visit
pheaa.org/FosterEd

