

<p>Mockingbird Society Regional Network</p> <p>A statewide network of local chapters led by youth and alumni of care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing youth and training leaders • Strengthening communities and encouraging civic engagement • Addressing local and statewide issues affecting children and youth in foster care 	<p>Current and former foster youth ages 14 to 26.</p> <p>The Network consists of six chapters of foster youth and alumni who advocate for improving the quality of child welfare services in Washington State.</p> <p>Network Chapters are located at Host Agencies across the state.</p>	<p>For more information contact infor@mockingbirdsociety.org</p>
<p>Tribal Independent Living (IL) Program</p> <p>Tribal IL may provide any or all of the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA) and Learning Plan • Daily Living Skills • Educational Support • Career Exploration • Vocational Training • Job Placement/Retention • Funding available for IL enrichment activities 	<p>Tribal youth must be 15 years old or older (up to their 21st birthday), is/was in foster care in an established dependency action through DSHS or a tribal child welfare agency for at least 30 days after their 15th birthday.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once initial eligibility is determined the youth will continue to be eligible until their 21st birthday. • Tribal youth may also access regional IL programs if not receiving services directly from their tribe. • Must be a federally recognized tribe within the state of Washington in order to receive a tribal IL contract 	<p>Dependent youth should be referred at age 15 and 30 days</p> <p>Youth may self-refer anytime beginning at age 15 (30 days) up to 21.</p> <p>For more info contact: Peggy Lewis, IL Program Manager at: peggy.lewis@dcvf.wa.gov</p>

For detailed information on any of these programs, please visit our website: www.independence.wa.gov

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move in costs (such as first and last month's rent, security deposits) • Cost for credit checks • Cost for parking (if not included in rent and one is needed) • Case management services 	<p>area median income</p> <p>Priority given to youth who were dependents of the state for at least one year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth participating in the Extended Foster Care program are not eligible for this housing program. • Youth may be eligible once they exit the Extended Foster Care Program. • Tribal youth are eligible if in the care and custody of the department when reaching age of majority. 	<p>Community Youth Services</p> <p>YMCA of Greater Seattle</p> <p>Volunteers of America in Spokane</p>	
<p>Medicaid to 26</p> <p>Provides Medicaid benefits to youth age 18-26 exiting foster care or other eligible out-of-home placements</p> <p>Coordinated Care</p> <p>Core Connections</p>	<p>Youth must be eligible if you answer "yes" to one of the statements below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am currently in foster care or other eligible out-of-home placement and under age 21. • I am not 26 years old and when I was in out-of-home placement, I was in foster care or other eligible out-of-home placement under the responsibility of DSHS or a federally recognized tribe within Washington State. <p>"Other eligible out-of-home placements" include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed foster and relative care • Tribal foster care • ICPC foster care in Washington State • Dependency Guardianships established prior to June 2010 • Other foster care (unlicensed, court ordered placements). 	<p>Continued enrollment is automatic.</p>	<p>For more information call The Health Care Authority (HCA) Foster Care Meds Team at: 1-800-562-3022 Ext. 15480 or Children's Administration Foster Care Health Program Manager, Michelle Bogart Michelle.bogart@dcyf.wa.gov</p>
<p>Passion to Action</p> <p>A foster youth and alumni advisory board that provides Children's Administration (CA) with input and recommendations regarding their policy and practices. Our feedback helps CA improve their ability to effectively meet the needs of our brothers and sisters in care.</p>	<p>Youth and young adults ages 14 to 24 who have experience in Child Welfare and the WA State foster care system.</p> <p>P2A consists of approximately 25 foster youth and alumni from across the state.</p> <p>Meeting are every six weeks</p>	<p>Foster youth and alumni are nominated and selected for participation</p>	<p>For more information, contact Peggy Lewis at peggy.lewis@dcyf.wa.gov</p>

<p>their 21st birthday through a VPA.</p> <p>The youth should contact Intake at 1-866-end-harm to request EFC services.</p> <p>Eligible youth can receive foster care services and supports until their 21st birthday. Youth will be able to stay in their current placement or have the option of an approved, supervised independent living setting (SIL).</p> <p>Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case planning support • Chemical dependency treatment • Mental health treatment • Placement 	<p>Continued participation in Extended Foster Care is subject to continuing eligibility in one of the <i>five</i> categories listed above. Participants can transition between categories.</p>	<p>R4: Lee Selah lee.selah@dcyf.wa.gov</p> <p>R5: Sandy Duron sandy.duron@dcyf.wa.gov</p> <p>R6: Paula McJohnson paula.mcjohnson@dcyf.wa.gov</p> <p>HQ Program & Policy Manager: Sherrie Flores sherrie.flores@dcyf.wa.gov</p>
<p>Driver's Assistance Program</p> <p>Treehouse provides funding and assistance for youth in foster care, extended foster care, or under jurisdiction of tribal court to obtain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington State ID Cards • Driver's Education Courses • Washington State Learner's Permits • Washington State Driver's Licenses • Washington State Enhanced Driver's Licenses • Automobile Liability Insurance 	<p>Washington State DCYF dependent youth who are residing in Washington State in foster care (can include trial return home and in-home dependencies), extended foster care, or under jurisdiction of tribal court ages 15-20.99</p>	<p>https://www.treehouseforkids.org/our-services/drivers-assistance/</p>
<p>Independent Youth Housing Program (IYHP)</p> <p>Provides housing voucher assistance to former foster youth. Youth may receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly rent • Utility payments (gas and electricity) 	<p>Youth who on or after September 1, 2006 meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 years of age or older • A dependent of the state of Washington in the month before his/her 18th birthday • Have not yet reached the age of 23. • Total income does not exceed 50% of the 	<p>For more information contact:</p> <p>HQ Program & Policy Manager Peggy Lewis Peggy.lewis@dcyf.wa.gov</p>

<p>Independent Living (IL) & Transitional Living (TL) Program</p> <p>IL provides the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA) and Learning Plan • Daily Living Skills • Educational Support • Career Exploration • Vocational Training • Job Placement and Retention <p>Funding available up to \$500 for IL enrichment activities.</p> <p>TL provides the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA) and Learning Plan • Educational Support • Housing Assistance (funds may be available to help with room and board) • Employment Assistance • Helps youth establish stable and healthy connections. • Funding may be used to assist with self-sufficiency and/or obtaining TL goals. <p>Extended Foster Care (EFC)</p> <p>EFC is a voluntary program that provides an opportunity for young adults in foster care at age 18 to voluntarily agree to continue receiving foster care services until the age 21 to support a successful transition to independence.</p> <p>Youth who do not elect to participate in the EFC program on their 18th birthday will have until the day before their 21st birthday to make a request to participate. Youth can enter and exit the program as needed until</p>	<p>IL/TL Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth must be 15 years old or older (up to their 21st birthday), is/was in foster care in an established dependency action through DSHS or a tribal child welfare agency for at least 30 days after their 15th birthday. • Once initial eligibility is determined, the youth will continue to be eligible until their 21st birthday. <p>Youth are Not Eligible if the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth returned home, was adopted or in a guardianship before the age of 15 (and 30 days) • Youth is under the age of 18 and in a Voluntary Placement Agreement (VPA) • Youth is under a CHINS petition • Youth is placed in JJRA locked 24hr facility • Youth is not a US Citizen 	<p>IL/TL</p> <p>Dates</p> <p>Youth may be referred by caseworker anytime between the ages 15 and 30 days up to 21.</p> <p>Youth may self-refer after age 18.</p>	<p>For more info contact your Regional IL Coordinators:</p> <p>R1: Josh Koutecky joshua.koutesky@dcyf.wa.gov</p> <p>R2: Monica Jenkins monica.jenkins@dcyf.wa.gov</p> <p>R3: Wryan Young wryan.young@dcyf.wa.gov</p> <p>R4: Donna LaFrance donna.lafrance@dcyf.wa.gov</p> <p>R5: Sandy Duron sandy.duron@dcyf.wa.gov</p> <p>R6: Matt Burrows Matthew.burrows@dcyf.wa.gov</p> <p>HQ Program & Policy Manager: Peggy Lewis Peggy.lewis@dcyf.wa.gov</p> <p>For more information, contact your Regional EFC Lead:</p> <p>R1: Josh Koutecky joshua.koutecky@dcyf.wa.gov</p> <p>R2: Christopher McLaughlin christopher.mclaughlin@dcyf.wa.gov</p> <p>R3: Wryan Young wryan.young@dcyf.wa.gov</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect to resources like tutoring credit retrieval, and college/career prep • Recognize and develop support systems • Resolve education barriers 	<p>Educational Advocacy Program The program provides educational advocacy, consultation, information and referral services to foster youth</p> <p>This program also provides training to caseworkers, caregivers and community providers</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All youth in out of home care with unmet educational needs are eligible • Tribal youth are eligible if in the care and custody of the department. 		<p>Youth may be referred at any time.</p>		<p>The caseworker or CHIET screener must make the referral, and the referral form is available in Famlink.</p> <p>For more information, please contact your regional lead.</p> <p>R1: Angela Pelfrey Angela.pelfrey@dcyf.wa.gov</p> <p>R2: Monica Jenkins monica.jenkins@dcyf.wa.gov</p> <p>R3: Debbie Gomi (starting 4/16) Debbie.gomi@dcyf.wa.gov</p> <p>R4: Donna LaFrance donna.lafrance@dcyf.wa.gov</p> <p>R5: Sandy Duran sandy.duron@dcyf.wa.gov</p> <p>R6: Peggy Devoy peggy.devoy@dcyf.wa.gov</p> <p>HQ Program & Policy Manager Shanna McBride shanna.mcbride@dcyf.wa.gov</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus Pass or Gas Reimbursement 	<p>youth must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year on or shortly after October 1. • Complete and return the ETV Renewal Application each year. • Continue enrollment at an accredited college, university, technical or vocational institute • Continue to meet the college or university Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) and Pace of Progression requirements. • Submit the required documents: <p>FAFSA Confirmation Email or Student Aid Report (SAR) Class Schedule at the beginning of each term Unofficial Transcripts at the end of each term ETV Participation Agreement</p>	<p>ETV participant youth must complete the renewal application</p>	
<p>Supplemental Educational Transition Planning (SETuP) Program</p> <p>This program provides foster youth ages 13-21 with educational planning, information, and connections to other services/programs.</p> <p>It provides coordination between high school counselors and foster youth to ensure they have an educational transition plan.</p>	<p>To be eligible youth must meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth must be ages 13-21 (if they have not graduated from high school) years old and in foster care in the State of Washington • Youth in a dependency guardianship established after June 10, 2010 are not eligible • Tribal youth are eligible if in the care and custody of the department. 		<p>For more information, contact Dawn Cypriano-McAferly at WASC 360-753-7846 or dawnc@wsac.wa.gov.</p>
<p>Graduation Success</p> <p>The program helps youth in foster care engage and invest in their education and future.</p> <p>Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create their own plan for high school graduation and beyond • Build problem-solving and self-advocacy skills 	<p>Serves students in foster care.</p> <p>Availability is limited to certain areas of the state. Please refer to Treehouse For Kids</p>	<p>Youth are auto-enrolled</p>	<p>For more information visit treehouseforkids.org</p>

<p>Passport to Careers: The Passport to Careers program helps students from foster care prepare for and succeed in college, apprenticeships, or pre-apprenticeship programs. Under the Passport to Careers program, there are two sub-programs:</p> <p>Passport to College where students receive a scholarship that assist with the cost of attending college, support services from college staff, and priority consideration for the State Need Grant and State Work Study programs.</p> <p>Passport to Apprenticeship Opportunities assists students participating in registered apprenticeships or pre-apprenticeship programs covering occupational-specific costs such as tuition for classes, fees, work clothes, and occupation related tools.</p>	<p>To be eligible youth must meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been in WA State, federal, or tribal foster care after age 15 • Is a resident of Washington State • Are or will be enrolled at least half-time in an eligible college, apprenticeship, or pre-apprenticeship by the age of twenty-two. • Not pursue a degree in theology • Be working toward earning their first bachelor's degree, associate's degree, or certification, or pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship. • Have a financial need 	<p>Sign and submit a consent form to the WASC for verification with DCYF.</p>	<p>For more information, contact Dawn Cypriano-McAferly at 360-753-7846 or dawnc@wsac.wa.gov.</p> <p>Passport for Foster Youth Promise Scholarship to College website: http://www.readvsetgrad.org/college/pasport-foster-youth-promise-program</p>
<p>Educational Training Voucher (ETV) The ETV Program is a national program for youth who qualify and are likely to age out of the foster care system.</p> <p>The maximum ETV award is \$5,000 per academic year. ETV funds may be used for tuition, fees, books and supplies, housing, transportation and other education related costs.</p> <p>Running Start/Dual Credit Program Youth enrolled in the Running Start Program or an eligible Dual Credit Program are eligible to receive up to \$1500 per academic year to help pay for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Books and Supplies, • Fees 	<p>Youth may be eligible for ETV if youth meet any one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are 16 to 20, are currently in a dependency action in a Washington State or Tribal Court, are in the care and custody of the Department of Social and Health Services or Tribal Child Welfare agency, and in foster care. • Youth are 18 to 20 and exited state or tribal foster care because youth reached the age of majority. • Youth were adopted or entered a relative guardianship on or after the age of 16 to 20. <p>If youth participated and received ETV funds prior to 21, youth are eligible to the age of 23.</p> <p>To continue being eligible for the ETV program</p>	<p>Complete the On-Line Application located at www.independence.wa.gov</p> <p>The ETV priority application cycle is January 1st to April 30th each year.</p> <p>Applications received after April 30th will be placed on a waiting list and will be awarded on a funds available basis.</p> <p>The application cycle will close on July 31st of each year.</p> <p>If youth are a returning</p>	<p>For more information, contact Kathy Ramsay at: Kathy.ramsay@dcyf.wa.gov</p> <p>ETV Program P.O. Box 45710 Olympia, WA. 98504-5710 Email: ETVWASH@dcyf.wa.gov Toll Free Number: 1-877-433-8388</p>

Programs Available for Foster Youth and Alumni of Care

Program/Scholarship Description	Eligibility	How to Apply & Important Dates	Contact Information
<p>College Bound Scholarship</p> <p>The College Bound Scholarship covers the amount of tuition (at public college rates) not covered by other state financial aid, plus \$500 for books</p> <p>Scholarship can be renewed up to 4 additional years, allowing students to complete a BA</p>	<p>Youth in Care Must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate from a WA State High School (or home school) Maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better. Be a good citizen and stay crime free. Apply for admission to an eligible college in Washington. Be a resident of Washington Complete the FAFSA in October of their senior year in high school. Meet the family income requirements at the time of graduation. Tribal youth are eligible if in the care and custody of the department. 	<p>Foster youth are automatically enrolled in the 7th and 8th grade.</p>	<p>For more information go to: www.wsac.wa.gov/PreparingForCollege/CollegeBound.</p> <p>Email: collegebound@wsac.wa.gov</p> <p>Phone: 1-888-535-0747</p>
<p>Governor's Scholarship</p> <p>The Washington State Governors' Scholarship for Foster Youth is a scholarship program that helps young men and women from foster care continue their education and earn a college degree.</p> <p>Scholarship award amounts range from \$2,000 to \$4,000 depending on the college of attendance. The scholarship can be accessed for up to five years to complete an undergraduate study. Students must be enrolled full time and maintain satisfactory academic progress in order to renew the scholarship each year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be recognized as dependent in the State of Washington or in federal or tribal out of home care or have emancipated from care, group or kinship care. Youth apply in their senior year of high school, applications typically due the beginning of November. Have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or greater. Have resided in Washington State for at least three academic years prior to high school graduation. Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. 		<p>For information contact:</p> <p>COLLEGE SUCCESS FOUNDATION</p> <p>1605 NW Sammamish Road, Suite 200 Issaquah, WA 98027</p> <p>425.679.5579 tel 877.655.4097 toll free jhardin@collegesuccessfoundation.org</p> <p>http://www.collegesuccessfoundation.org</p>

Treehouse Graduation Success Program: 2019-2020 Districts Served

*At the time of initial referral, youth must be in an open dependency **and** enrolled in an eligible school district. Note: Youth are eligible between 6th – 12th grades in King County, 9th – 12th grades in any other listed school district.*

County	Partner School Districts	Treehouse Education Program Manager Contact
Benton	Richland	Laycee Weier laycee@treehouseforkids.org (509) 505-3305
Franklin	Pasco	Laycee Weier laycee@treehouseforkids.org (509) 505-3305
King	Auburn, Bellevue, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Highline, Issaquah, Kent, Lake Washington, Mercer Island, Northshore, Renton, Riverview, Seattle, Shoreline, Snoqualmie Valley, Tahoma, Tukwila	Judy Yasutake Judy@treehouseforkids.org (206) 267-5150 Alexis Jonson alexis@treehouseforkids.org (206) 267-5141 Stephanie Neil stephanien@treehouseforkids.org (206) 713-5598
Pierce	Bethel, Clover Park, Franklin Pierce, Puyallup, Tacoma	Tajiana Ellis taji@treehouseforkids.org (206) 641-6187
Skagit	Burlington-Edison, Mount Vernon, Sedro Woolley	Abby Trimble abbyt@treehouseforkids.org (206) 496-4367
Snohomish	Edmonds, Everett, Marysville, Northshore	Jamie Burns jamie@treehouseforkids.org (206) 715-9334
Spokane	Central Valley, Cheney, Deer Park, East Valley, Mead, Spokane, West Valley	Jeremy VanDusen Jeremy.vandusen@treehouseforkids.org (509) 818-6891
Thurston	North Thurston, Tumwater	Rodney Robinson rodney.robinson@treehouseforkids.org (253) 244-1902
Whatcom	Bellingham	Abby Trimble abbyt@treehouseforkids.org (206) 496-4367
Yakima	Toppenish, Yakima	Laycee Weier laycee@treehouseforkids.org (509) 505-3305



Do you have teens **residing in Region 3?**
Are they between the **ages of 15 and 21?**

Do they need assistance with **life skills,**
employment, and/or education planning?

If you answered **YES** to any of the questions above,
this teen may qualify for the

INDEPENDENT & TRANSITIONAL LIVING SKILLS PROGRAM

TO REFER YOUR TEEN TO ILS, GENERATE A REFERRAL THROUGH
FAMLINK AND EMAIL TO SRYLAARSDAM@YOUTHNETNW.NET

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?
CONTACT SARA RYLAARSDAM AT SRYLAARSDAM@YOUTHNETNW.NET

You may be eligible!

What is Extended Foster Care?

Extended Foster Care (EFC) is a voluntary program that offers dependent youth the option of remaining in care until age 21 to support a successful transition to independence.



You are eligible if you were:

- Dependent or in care on your 18th birthday, and
- Meet at least one of the five participation requirements.

What will Extended Foster Care do for me?

EFC provides continued support with placement options and services while you continue to develop the skills needed to be independent. You will be able to finish high school, go to college, learn a trade, find a job, and work on your transition goals. Services may include:

- Case planning support
- Chemical dependency treatment
- Mental health treatment
- Placement Assistance

What are the participation requirements?

You must be actively working on at least one of these categories:

- Enrolled in high school or GED program;
- Applied for or enrolled in college or a vocational program;
- Participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment;
- Working 80 hours or more a month; or
- Unable to engage in any of the above activities due to a documented medical condition

What are my responsibilities?

- Engage in one of the participation requirements
- Meet with your case worker at least monthly
- Work together with your case worker toward achieving the plans developed in your transition plan
- Work toward independence and self-sufficiency

What are my placement options?

Placement options are case by case, based on your transition plan, must be approved by your assigned worker or the court and may include:

- licensed foster home;
- group home;
- behavioral rehabilitative setting; or
- Supervised Independent Living (SIL) setting that includes but is not limited to:
 - Apartments
 - Room-and-board arrangements
 - College or university residence hall/dormitories
 - AmeriCorps or Job Corps
 - Shared roommate settings
 - Renting a room
 - Parents/Guardians
 - Relative/Other Adults
 - A licensed foster home with a room-and-board arrangement

Continue to work on your goals with the support of those around you.

Will I receive money directly to pay my rent and personal expenses?

If you reside in a foster placement, the caregiver will receive the money to pay for your care. If you are approved to reside in a SIL setting, you will receive the money directly to help pay for your living expenses.

If I choose not to remain in care can I change my mind later?

YES! You are able to enter and exit the program as needed until you are 21 years old.

How do I re-enter?

Call 1-800-562-5624 and let us know that you want to be part of the program.

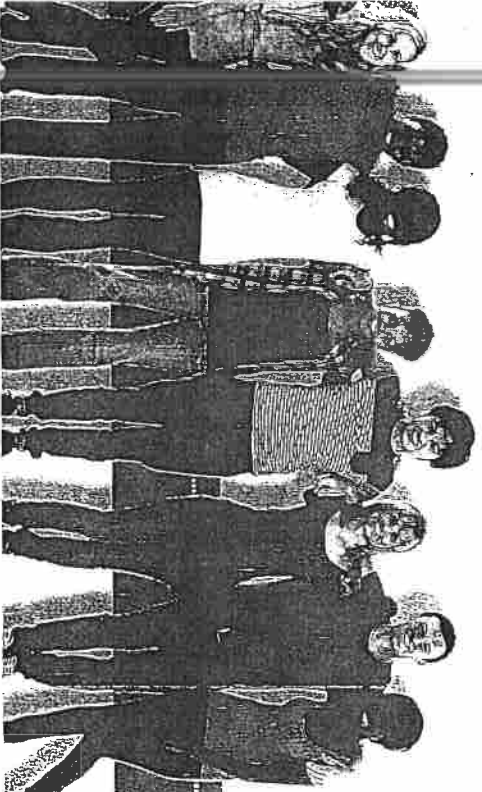
resources

www.independence.wa.gov
www.washingtonconnection.org

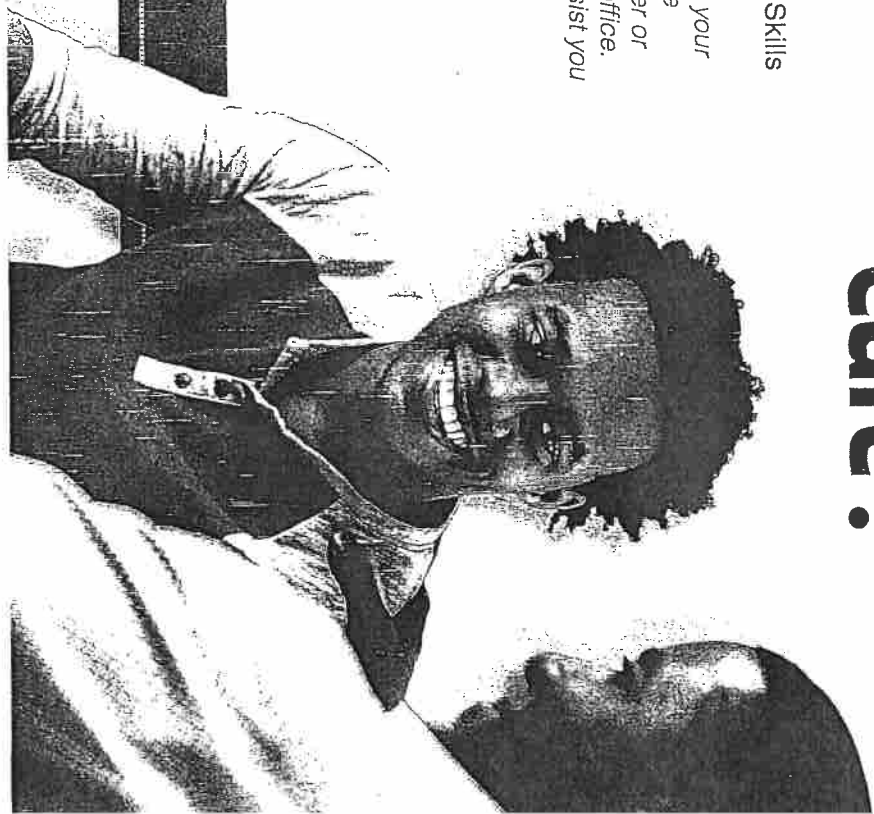
frequently asked questions

- 1 Can I live with my birth parents and receive extended foster care services?
On a case-by-case basis it may be possible to live with your birth parents. Your caseworker or the court must approve this SIL setting prior to placement.
- 2 Can I live in a different county or state and still get these services?
Yes. You may be able to move out of the state or county and still receive services. Talk with your assigned worker to create a plan.
- 3 Can I receive EFC services if I am pregnant or have a child?
Yes. If you are eligible for EFC you may participate. Your child may also receive additional supports.
- 4 Do I need to stay in EFC to continue working with my Independent Living Skills (ILS) case manager?
No. Your ILS eligibility is not affected by your participation in the EFC program. Please continue to work with your case manager or seek out the services of your local ILS office. They are a GREAT resource and will assist you in planning for your future.

interested in Extended Foster Care?



**To be a part of this program,
talk to your worker or call
1-800-562-5624**



FAQs

Program Expansion and Paths



Passport Eligibility Expansion Timeline

Eligibility Changes	Eligibility prior to June 2018	Eligibility starting July 2018	Eligibility starting July 2019	Eligibility starting July 2020
Program Name	Passport to College	Passport to Careers Includes <i>Passport to College Promise Scholarship</i> and <i>Passport to Apprenticeship Opportunities</i>		
Education/ Training	Postsecondary enrollment at an eligible college	Attending an eligible college, or pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program.		
Foster Care	Dependent of Washington State	In state, tribal, or federal foster care systems in Washington State		
Time in Care	In foster care for one year after age 16 and in care at age 17.5	In foster care after age 15	In foster care after age 14	In foster care after age 13
Unaccompanied Homeless	Not eligible		Verification of unaccompanied homeless event during prior academic year, before age 21	
Residency	In general, the student resided in Washington for other-than-educational purposes for one year prior to attending college, graduated from a Washington high school, or earned a GED in Washington		Also includes homelessness or out-of-state foster care under the interstate compact as verified by WSAC.	

If you have questions about your specific situation, contact Passport staff at passport@wsac.wa.gov or call 1-888-535-0747 and select option 3.





FAQs

Applying for Financial Assistance

14. What scholarship and grant programs are available to me if I decide to attend college outside of Washington State?

If you choose to attend college outside of Washington State, you could potentially access assistance from the following programs:

- Federal **Pell Grant**
- **Education and Training Voucher (ETV)**
- WICHE's **Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) program**. It reduces the cost of out-of-state tuition at participating colleges and universities in 16 western states.

Program Expansion and Paths (College vs. Apprenticeship)

15. What has changed from the original Passport to College Promise Scholarship Program?

The 2018 Legislature expanded eligibility to include more types of foster care. In addition to youth in Washington state foster care, youth in the federal refugee program, interstate compact program, and tribal foster care are now included. Unaccompanied homeless youth will also be eligible beginning July 2019.

Passport to Careers financial aid and support were also expanded to include more types of career preparation. In addition to certificate and degree programs at **eligible colleges** and universities in Washington State, the program now includes pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs. See the chart on the next page for a timeline of eligibility changes.

16. Can I change my mind and switch between the Passport to College Promise Scholarship and the Apprenticeship Opportunities?

Yes, but you can only be enrolled in one of the pathways at a time. You cannot be working on a certificate or degree and also be enrolled in a pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program. The total financial aid you receive from the Passport to Careers program cannot be more than you would have received to attend a public university with the highest annual tuition and state-mandated fees in the state for five years (usually the University of Washington).

FAQs

Applying for Financial Assistance



11. How do I apply for financial assistance if I'm going into an apprenticeship program that is not associated with a college?

If you are participating in an apprenticeship program affiliated with an organization such as a trade union or job center, you will not need to file a FAFSA or WASFA but will apply directly to an organization that is contracted by WSAC to review your application. If you are approved, this organization will distribute your financial assistance. As of January 2019, this contract is not yet awarded. When the contract is awarded, it will be announced on the [Passport website](#).

12. Where can I find help with the application process?

- a. **Passport to College Promise Scholarship:** If you are in high school, or have not graduated from high school, and are age 13 to 21, a **regional SETuP provider** can help. There are six non-governmental organizations that provide services to help you succeed in school.
- b. **Apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship opportunities:**
 - i. Contact a Labor & Industries Apprenticeship Consultant or main office staff to find information about specific pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs.
 - ii. WSAC will contract with one or more organizations to provide you with help and financial assistance. When the contract is awarded it will be announced on the [Passport website](#).
- c. **FAFSA or WASFA:** Attend a **College Goal Washington event** in your area, talk with your high school counselor, or contact the college financial aid office.
- d. If your college has its own separate applications for admission or financial aid, make sure you complete that application and, if needed, ask for help from the college admissions or financial aid staff. You can find a list of **designated support staff** members on the Passport website.

13. How will I receive my Passport to Careers program funds?

- a. Financial need is the difference between the costs associated with attending college and the amount you are asked to contribute. Your financial need will be determined by the college or program you attend based on your answers on the FAFSA or WASFA. If you have financial need your Passport funds will be included in your financial aid package.
 - i. Funding for the Passport to College Promise Scholarship may include but is not limited to tuition, fees, room, board, books, personal expenses, and transportation.
 - ii. Funding for apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs may include but is not limited to occupational specific costs, tuition for classes, fees, work clothes, and tools. If you are working as an apprentice, you will earn wages to help pay for your living expenses.
- b. If eligible, you will be notified by Passport to Careers program staff.
- c. If approved for the program, notify the college financial aid office or your approved apprenticeship program.



FAQs

Applying for Financial Assistance

9. As an unaccompanied homeless youth, whose income do I report on my FAFSA or WASFA?

If you were determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or was self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, you can claim yourself as an **independent student** on the FAFSA or WASFA. This means only your income will be counted and you will not need a parental signature on the FAFSA or WASFA.

FAFSA/WASFA Tip

If you were determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or was self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, look for this question and answer YES:

At any time on or after July 1, 2018, were you determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was **homeless** or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, as determined by (a) your high school or district homeless liaison, (b) the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or (c) the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program?

Wording from the 2019-20 FAFSA. The WASFA will have a similar question.

If you do not have a determination that you are homeless from any of the above-listed entities, but you believe you are an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, answer "No" to the FAFSA questions concerning being homeless. Then contact your college's financial aid office to explain your situation.

Homeless means lacking fixed or regular housing. You may be homeless if you are living in shelters, parks, motels, hotels, cars, or temporarily living with someone else because you have nowhere else to go. **Unaccompanied** means a youth or young adult experiencing homelessness while not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. See #5 for more information.

10. I am no longer in foster care because my foster parents took legal guardianship of me a few years ago. However, my foster parents do not support me with their own financial resources. They still get a foster care check each month for me. How do I answer the question about foster care on the FAFSA?

If you were in foster care at any time after turning 13, answer "yes" to being in foster care on the FAFSA. If you are in a legal guardianship, answer "yes" to being in a legal guardianship, as well. Note: neither legal guardians nor foster parents are considered parents when completing the FAFSA. This means you do not list their income or household size on the FAFSA.

FAQs

Applying for Financial Assistance



7. How do I apply for financial aid if I'm going to attend a college to earn a certificate or degree, or enroll in a college-based pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program?

You must complete either the **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)** or the **WASFA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid)**.

- If you are a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, you must complete the FAFSA at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. (Be sure to use this .gov website, which is free.) This application will be used to determine your eligibility for many federal and state government types of financial aid that will help you with college and apprenticeship costs and living expenses.
- If you are not eligible to file the FAFSA due to immigration status, you could qualify for financial aid from Washington State. The **WASFA** is a free application for state financial aid for students who are not eligible for federal aid because of immigration status, including undocumented students. To see if the WASFA is the correct application for you, answer the **questions on the WASFA application site**. After you complete the WASFA, the college(s) you choose will review your information and determine your state financial aid eligibility.
- Visit the **Passport website** to find people and events that will help you fill out the FAFSA or WASFA. High schools and colleges also have staff that will help.

8. As a former foster youth, whose income do I report on my FAFSA or WASFA?

Former foster youth will most likely be able to file for financial aid as an **independent student**. This means only your income will be counted and you will not need a parental signature on the FAFSA or WASFA. A dependent student has to include their family income and have a parental signature.

- If you were in foster care or were a ward of the court for any length of time after turning 13, you can claim yourself as an **independent student**. Be sure to answer yes to the question on the FAFSA that asks you about your foster care status (see gold box below). The **FAFSA has specific questions** for you to answer as an independent student in these circumstances.
- If you are unsure if you were in foster care, contact your **Regional Education Liaison**. Ask them to fill out a **Dependent/Ward of the Court Verification Letter**. Be sure to print and keep several copies, and keep an electronic copy if possible. Your college may ask for it.

FAFSA/WASFA Tip

If you were in foster care or were a ward of the court, look for this question and answer YES:

At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?

Wording from the 2019-20 FAFSA. The WASFA will have a similar question.

FAQs

Eligibility



5. What does “unaccompanied homeless” mean?

- a. You must have been a youth or young adult experiencing homelessness (see #5b below) while not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) uses the housing questionnaire to help determine the services a student may be eligible to receive under the McKinney-Vento Act.
- b. **Homeless** or **homelessness** means without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as set forth in the federal McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act. This includes children and youth who meet any of the following criteria:
 - i. Are sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals.
 - ii. Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
 - iii. Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
 - iv. Are a migratory child living in one of the above circumstances.

Residency

6. Do I have to be a Washington state resident and a citizen of the United States?

- a. Generally, you are required to meet state residency requirements to receive financial aid from the state of Washington; however, if you are unable to establish state residency because you were an unaccompanied homeless youth in another state, or placed in state foster care under the interstate compact, your residency may be determined by the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC).
- b. If you are not a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, or do not have DACA status, you may be eligible if you meet the following three criteria:
 - i. Earned a diploma from a Washington State high school or obtained a GED or equivalent.
 - ii. Lived in Washington for at least three calendar years before earning the high school diploma or equivalent, and continuously since.
 - iii. Sign an affidavit (written promise) affirming eligibility and promising to become a permanent resident/citizen of the United States when eligible to apply.

Financial aid application process (see #7).

FAQs

Eligibility



2. What are the overall Passport program qualifications for both former foster youth and unaccompanied homeless youth?

- a. Meet the criteria for former foster youth (see #3) or unaccompanied homeless youth (see #4) outlined below.
- b. Be enrolled (or will enroll) at least half-time in an **eligible college** or registered pre-apprenticeship or **apprenticeship program** by your 21st birthday.
- c. Maintain Washington residency (see #6).
- d. Meet the following additional criteria if in the Passport to College track:
 - i. Be working toward a certificate, associate degree, or first bachelor's degree. You may not pursue a degree in theology and receive the scholarship.
 - ii. Continue to make satisfactory academic progress as defined by the college you attend.

3. How do I qualify for Passport to Careers as a former foster youth?

- a. If you apply in 2019, you must have been in care after age 14; in 2020, after age 13.
- b. You must have been placed in one of these **three types of qualifying foster care**:

- i. **State foster care** system that is out-of-home care. Includes dependents from other states who are placed in Washington, and dependents from Washington placed in other states under the **interstate compact program**.
- ii. **Federal foster care** program under the federal **unaccompanied refugee minors program** (see **Title 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1522** of the immigration and nationality act).
- iii. **Tribal foster care** system that is an out-of-home placement under a dependency order from a tribal court.

Find out more about your legal foster care status by contacting your **Regional Education Liaison**. They can provide you with a letter documenting your foster care status.

4. How do I qualify for Passport to Careers as an unaccompanied homeless youth?

- a. You must have been an unaccompanied homeless youth (see #5) during the 2018-19 academic year and must apply for Passport after July 1, 2019.
- b. You will be asked to provide your college financial aid office with verification from your high school or **school district McKinney-Vento liaison**; the director or designated staff member of an emergency shelter, transitional housing program, or homeless youth drop-in center; or other similar professional case manager or school employee.
- c. If you have no formal connection with such a professional, you may contact the Passport to Careers program at **passport@wsac.wa.gov** or 1-888-535-0747, option 3.

Washington State Passport to Careers



Frequently Asked Questions

Have you been in foster care? Or were you homeless without a parent or guardian?

Are you wondering what the future holds? The **Passport to Careers** program will help:

- Figure out what job would be a good fit for you.
- Provide money to pay for college or training to help you get that job.
- Provide money for living expenses while you are in college or job training.

This document includes information about:

Passport Program Overview

Eligibility

Residency

Applying for Financial Assistance

**Program Expansion and Path Details
(College vs. Apprenticeship)**

Additional information is available on the [Passport website](#).

1. What do the two Passport to Careers paths provide?

Passport to College

Students who have been accepted into or participating college and who are working toward a first bachelor's degree, associate degree, or certificate may receive:

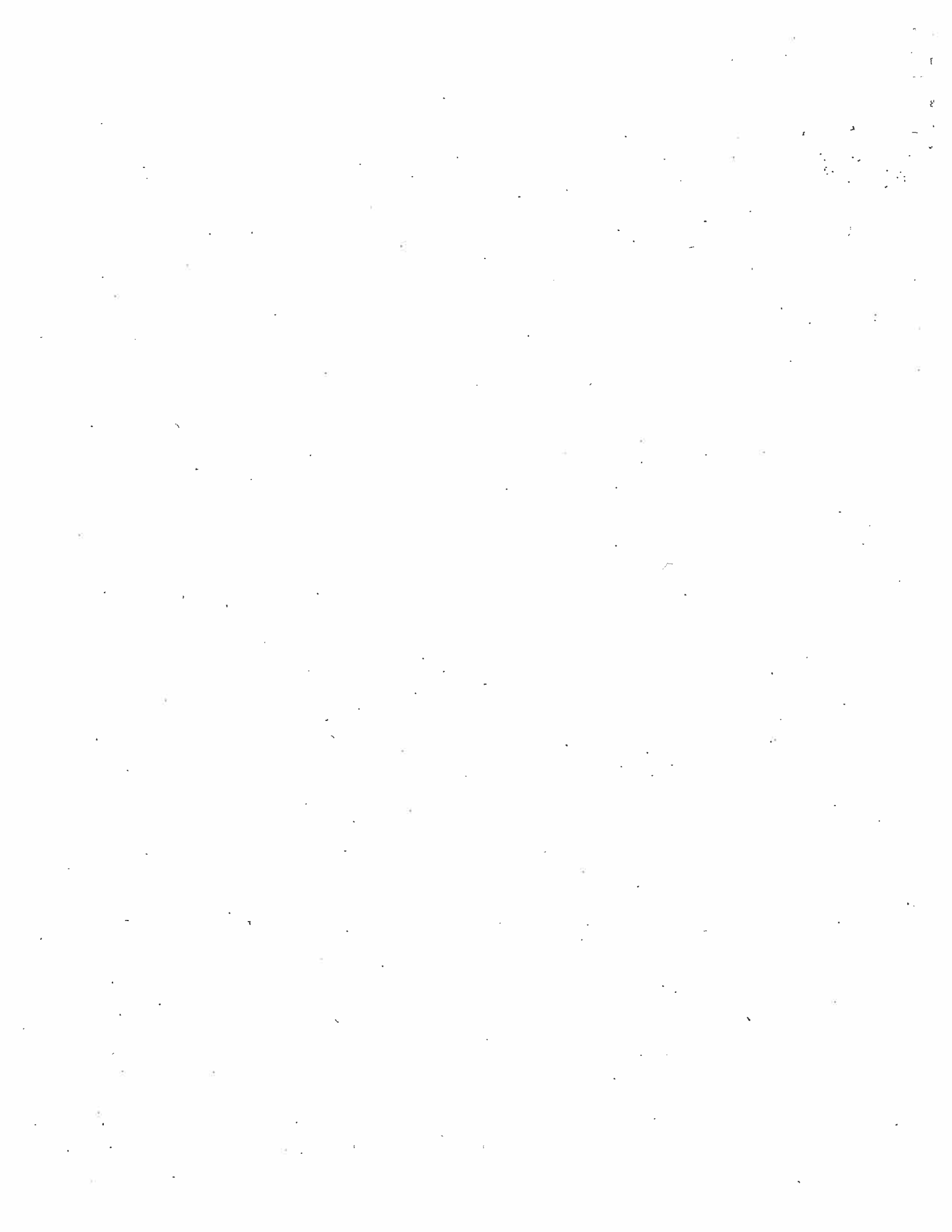
- A scholarship, currently, \$1,500 per year, to assist with college costs, including tuition, fees, room, board, books, personal expenses, and transportation.
- First-in-line consideration for State Need Grant and State Work Study.
- Potential additional support services provided by their college through a Passport Designated Support Staff (DSS).

Passport to Apprenticeships

Students who want a job in a skilled trade, which can include many types of jobs from aerospace manufacturing to health care, have two options:

- A pre-apprenticeship is a preparation program recognized by the state Apprenticeship and Training Council (ATC). Pre-apprenticeships provide practical experience, education, preparation, and skill development for entry into state-approved apprenticeship programs.

• An apprenticeship is a training program approved by the ATC or a similar federal entity. Apprentices are paid to work while master craftsmen teach them the skills needed.



Washington State Passport to Careers



Help for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Have you been homeless? Do you want to continue your education or start a career in a trade?

The *Passport to Careers* program can assist you on your journey toward a postsecondary education or apprenticeship. It provides financial assistance and support services, if you meet the following criteria:

- **Homeless or in Foster Care:** You experienced unaccompanied homelessness (without a parent or guardian) during the prior school year, or were in the care of the Washington State, tribal, or federal foster care system. (See chart at right for eligibility dates.)
- **State Resident:** You are a resident of Washington, or your case is based in Washington State.
- **Eligible Student:**
 - You are or will be enrolled at least half-time in an eligible institution of higher education or a recognized pre-apprenticeship or registered apprenticeship program in Washington before turning 22.
 - You are not planning to pursue a degree in theology.
 - You have not yet earned a bachelor's degree.

Passport to Careers Eligibility Expansion:

- July 2018: In foster care after age 15.
- July 2019: In foster care after age 14 or experienced unaccompanied homelessness in the prior school year.
- July 2020: In foster care after age 13.

Passport to Careers

For more information, contact:

1 800 525 0747 (ext. 3)



Washington State Passport to Careers

Help for Former Foster Youth



Have you ever been in foster care? Do you want to continue your education or start a career in a trade?

The *Passport to Careers* program can assist you on your journey toward a postsecondary education or apprenticeship. It provides financial assistance and support services, if you meet the following criteria:

- *Foster Care:* You were in the care of the Washington State, tribal, or federal foster care system, or experienced unaccompanied homelessness. (See chart at right for eligibility dates.)
- *State Resident:* You are a resident of Washington, or your case is based in Washington State.
- *Eligible Student:*
 - You are or will be enrolled at least half-time in an eligible institution of higher education or a recognized pre-apprenticeship or registered apprenticeship program in Washington before turning 22.
 - You are not planning to pursue a degree in theology.
 - You have not yet earned a bachelor's degree.

Passport to Careers Eligibility Expansion:

- July 2018: In foster care after age 15.
- July 2019: In foster care after age 14 or experienced unaccompanied homelessness in the prior school year.
- July 2020: In foster care after age 13.

Passport to Careers

For more information, contact:

1-800-525-0747 (ext. 3)

FIRST TIME applicant, complete the New Application.

RETURNING applicant, complete the Renewal Application.

RUNNING START STUDENT or student enrolled in a **DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM**, complete the Dual Credit Program Application.

Educational costs covered by Running Start/Dual Credit Program are:

- ✓ Books
- ✓ Transportation costs
- ✓ Fees
- ✓ School supplies/equipment

When are the application due?

Priority Deadline: January 1 to April 30

Wait List: May 1 to July 31

Application Closes: July 31

Student Responsibilities:

- 1) Read, sign and return the Participation Agreement and Consent Form.
- 2) Maintain at least monthly contact with ETV staff.
- 3) Meet your school Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy and Pace of Progression requirements by receiving a **2.0 GPA or higher**.
- 4) Enroll at least half-time or more (**six or more credits**)
- 5) Contact the ETV program with any changes in:
 - a. Address
 - b. Phone Number
 - c. Email
 - d. Banking information

Accessing my ETV Funds:

- 1) Complete the Statewide Payee Registration form and return to ETV staff.
- 2) Once a student is awarded ETV funds, the student must confirm the notification.
- 3) Complete, sign and submit the ETV Spending Plan before the beginning of each quarter or semester and receive approval by ETV staff. **(NEW)**
- 4) Submit the class schedule at the beginning of each term and unofficial transcripts at the end of each term.
- 5) When all paperwork is received and approved, funds will be sent directly to the student. Sending in receipts will no longer be necessary. **(NEW)**

There are no changes to the Running Start/Dual Credit ETV Program. Students will still need to submit payment requests with receipts to receive reimbursements.

ETV Program Staff:

Kathy Ramsay, Program Manager / Kathy.Ramsay@dcyf.wa.gov / 360-902-7990

Victoria Ackerman, Program Coordinator / Victoria.Ackerman@dcyf.wa.gov / 360-902-7990



What is the ETV Program?

The ETV program provides financial assistance for eligible youth to attend an accredited college, university, vocational or technical college.

ETV awards are unique to each student and are based on the college or university's Cost of Attendance (COA) formula, financial aid award and the student's unmet need.

The maximum ETV award, per academic year is \$5,000. However, not every student is eligible to receive the maximum amount. Awards are based on the student's unmet need which is determined by their college or university.

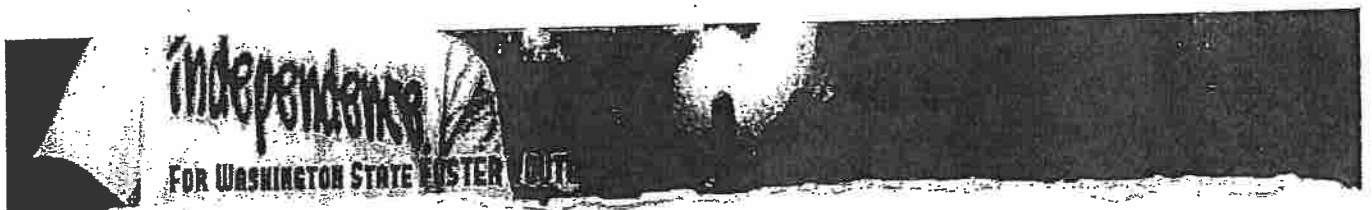
ETV Eligibility:

A student may be eligible to apply to the ETV program if they meet any one of the following:

- 1) They are 16 to 20 years old, currently involved in a dependency action in a Washington State or Tribal Court, in the care and custody of DCYF or an ICW agency, and in foster care.
- 2) They are 18-20 years old and have aged out of state or tribal care. Youth who have aged out of foster care in a state other than Washington may also be eligible to apply.
- 3) They were adopted or entered guardianship with a relative on or after the age of 16.
- 4) If they participated and received ETV funds prior to age 21, they may be eligible to age 26. ETV cannot fund more than 20 quarters or 15 semesters. (NEW)

How To Apply:

All ETV applications are available online at www.Independence.wa.gov



Independent Living (IL)

The Independent Living program is available if you are age 15 to age 18 and you are in the legal custody and care of DSHS or tribal out-of-home care. Your caseworker will make a referral on your behalf to a local IL provider beginning at age 15.

The IL program helps you get ready to live on your own by providing information and assistance on:

- How to manage your money
- How to get and keep a job
- Daily living skills
- How to get along with others and build valuable relationships and a network of support
- How to find and maintain a safe place to live
- How to do well in high school or get into a high school equivalency program
- How to prepare for education or training post high school
- How to speak up for yourself and get your needs met

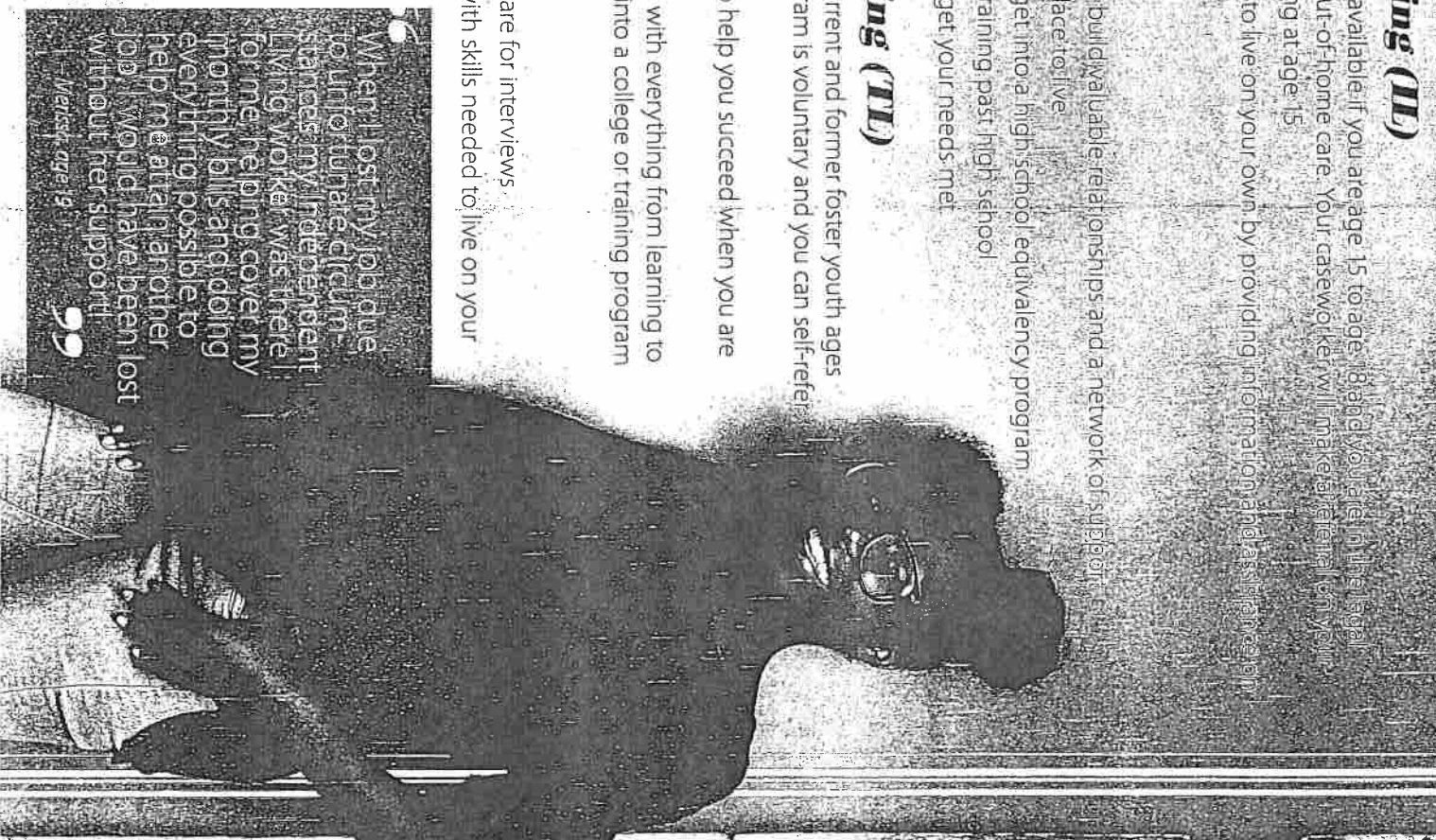
Transitional Living (TL)

Transitional Living services are for current and former foster youth ages 18-21 entering adulthood. The program is voluntary and you can self-refer to a local provider.

The TL program provides services to help you succeed when you are becoming self-sufficient:

- Educational services that can help with everything from learning to read to preparing for and getting into a college or training program
- Financial assistance
- Locating housing resources
- How to find a job, apply, and prepare for interviews
- One-on-one coaching and help with skills needed to live on your own such as:

- How to manage your money
- How to find and keep safe housing
- How to make smart spending decisions and what to do if you get into money trouble
- Parenting skills
- How to find a doctor or dentist
- Where to go in your community to socialize and find support



When I lost my job due to unfortunate circumstances, my Independent Living worker was there for me helping cover my monthly bills and doing everything possible to help me attain another job. I would have been lost without her support!

Merist, age 19

Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program

The ETV program can help pay for school and living costs to current and former foster youth up to age 21 who are seeking education and training beyond high school. Students who receive funds before turning 21 and are continuing to meet ETV requirements may be eligible up to age 23. The maximum ETV award is \$5,000 per academic year. ETV awards are unique to each student and are based on the college or university's Cost of Attendance (COA), financial aid award and student's unmet need.

ETV can be used for:

- School tuition and fees, on-campus or off-campus housing allowance
- Books, supplies and fees
- Day care if you have a child
- Costs relating to a disability such as tutoring or adaptive software
- Miscellaneous expenses, including rental or purchase of a personal computer, internet service and phone service

ETV was a blessing, helping me get through college with little to no stress.

Leanna, age 19



Useful Information

Washington State Foster Youth Website
www.independence.wa.gov

ETV Information

ETV Program
PO BOX 45710
Olympia, WA 98504-5710
Email: ETVWASH@dshs.wa.gov
Toll-Free Number: 1-877-433-8388

Federal Financial Aid Assistance

www.fafsa.ed.gov

Make it Happen!

A three-day, two-night college campus experience for youth in and alumni of the Washington state foster care system. The event is full of information on what getting into and going to college is all about.

For more information, contact College Success Foundation at mih@collegesuccessfoundation.org or call 425-213-5888.



“With the help of ETV I have been able to worry less about buying text books and instead spend the time reading them.”

— William M., age 22

Foster Care to College
www.readysetgrad.org/fostercare

Supports

TRIO
www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html

FosterClub

www.fosterclub.com

Orphan Foundation of America

www.orphan.org

Foster Care Alumni of America

www.fostercarealumni.org

Casey Family Programs

www.Casey.org

www.Caseylifeskills.org

College Success Foundation

www.collegesuccessfoundation.org

Other Education/Vocation Opportunities

Americorps

www.americorps.org

JobCorps

www.jobcorps.org

Year Up

www.yearup.org

You can get Independent Living and Transitional Living Services through workshops, classes, individual sessions and/or community experiences all tailored to meet your needs.



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

Transforming lives

DSHS 22-1161 (Rev. 4/16)

Washington State's Programs for Foster Youth:

Independent Living,
Transitional Living and
Education and
Training Voucher

Helpful Information
for Youth and Young Adults

Washington State's Adolescent Services
Building a Brighter Future



School Selection: A Checklist for Decision Making

School of Origin Considerations		Local Attendance Area School Considerations	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Continuity of instruction <i>Student is best served due to circumstances that look to his or her past.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Continuity of instruction <i>Student is best served due to circumstances that look to his or her future.</i></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Age and grade placement of the student <i>Maintaining friends and contacts with peers is critical to the student's meaningful school experience and participation.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Age and grade placement of the student <i>Maintaining friends and contacts with peers in the school of origin is not particularly critical to the student's meaningful school experience and participation.</i></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Academic strength <i>The child's academic performance is weak, and the child would fall further behind if he/she transferred to another school.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Academic strength <i>The child's academic performance is strong and at grade level, and the child would likely recover academically from a school transfer.</i></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Social and emotional state <i>The child is suffering from the effects of mobility, has developed strong ties to the current school, and does not want to leave.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Social and emotional state <i>The child seems to be coping adequately with mobility, does not feel strong ties to the current school, and does not mind transferring.</i></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Distance of the commute and its impact on the student's education and/or special needs <i>The advantages of remaining in the school of origin outweigh any potential disadvantages presented by the length of the commute.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Distance of the commute and its impact on the student's education and/or special needs <i>A shorter commute may help the student's concentration, attitude, or readiness for school.</i></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Personal safety of the student <i>The school of origin has advantages for the safety of the student.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Personal safety of the student <i>The local attendance area school has advantages for the safety of the student.</i></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Student's need for special instruction <i>The student's need for special instruction, such as Section 504 or special education and related services, can be met better at the school of origin.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Student's need for special instruction <i>The student's need for special instruction, such as Section 504 or special education and related services, can be met better at the local attendance area school.</i></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Length of anticipated stay in a temporary shelter or other temporary location <i>The student's current living situation is outside of the school-of-origin attendance zone, but his/her living situation or location continues to be uncertain. The student will benefit from the continuity offered by remaining in the school of origin.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Length of anticipated stay in a temporary shelter or other temporary location <i>The student's current living situation appears stable and unlikely to change suddenly; the student will benefit from developing relationships with school peers who live in his local community.</i></p>

-
- How would the length of the commute to the school of origin impact the child?
 - How anxious is the child about having been removed from the home and/or any upcoming moves?
 - What school do the child's siblings attend?
 - Are there any safety issues to consider?

Conclusion

Decisions regarding school selection should be made on a case-by-case basis, giving attention to the circumstances of each individual student. The following checklist may help local foster care liaisons, or other designated education and child welfare agency staff, guide a discussion on school- selection options available to the student and the advantages and disadvantages of each option. It may be beneficial to train several staff members at both the child welfare agency and the school district to assist in this decision-making process.

steps may be helpful when determining whether or not it is in a child or youth's best interest to remain in their school of origin:

- Input on the academic, social, and emotional impact that transferring to a new school may have on children.
- If the child has special education needs, input on the impact that changing schools may have on the child's progress and services. If a school change is indicated, ensure that evaluations and/or services are not interrupted.
- Input on which programs at the two schools are comparable and appropriate for the child and make arrangements for the parents or educational decision maker and the
- Information about the commute to the schools under consideration in terms of the distance, mode of transportation, and travel time, and work with caseworkers to develop transportation plans.
- Information about the immediate and long-term educational plans for the student, and information about the child's permanency plan as it relates to school stability.

Questions to Consider when Making a School Selection

School districts and child welfare agencies should use student centered factors to determine whether or not it is in the best interest of a student in foster care to remain in their school of origin. Though the specific factors may vary depending on context, in order to make a well-informed determination, a variety of factors should be considered. These factors may include:

- How long is the child's current placement expected to last?
- What is the child's permanency plan?
- How many schools has the child attended over the past few years? How many schools has the child attended this year? How have the school transfers affected the child emotionally, academically and physically?
- How strong is the child academically?
- To what extent are the programs and activities at the potential new school comparable to or better than those at the current school?
- Does one school have programs and activities that address the unique needs or interests of the student that the other school does not have?
- Which school does the student prefer?
- How deep are the child's ties to his or her current school?
- Would the timing of the school transfer coincide with a logical juncture such as after testing, after an event that is significant to the child, or at the end of the school year?
- How would changing schools affect the student's ability to earn full academic credit, participate in sports or other extra-curricular activities, proceed to the next grade, or graduate on time?

Best Practices: School Selection for Children and Youth in Foster Care

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction: Foster Care Education Program

Introduction

In December 2015, Congress passed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), and created new protections for children in foster care. These provisions, which take effect on December 10, 2016, complement those in the Fostering Connections Act of 2008 and require SEAs and LEAs to work with child welfare agencies to ensure the educational stability of children in foster care.

Making Best-Interest Decisions

Children in out-of-home care tend to have many adults involved in their lives, and it may be unclear who has the authority to make general education decisions for them.

Usually, birth parents or caregivers are the decision makers, even if a child has been removed from the home, but courts in Washington State may appoint an educational decision maker who is neither the parent or the caregiver. General educational decision-making rights may be given to foster parents, caseworkers, relatives, or other advocates. In these cases, for children in out-of-home care, the educational decision maker will assume the rights of the parents under the Title I, Part A provisions of the Every Student Succeeds Act, including the right to select the school in the child's best interest and pursue any disputes with the school district.

The school must be informed of who has decision-making authority for each student; the responsibility of informing the school typically lies with the student's child welfare caseworker.

In order for parents or other educational decision-makers to make informed decisions about selecting the school that is in a child's best interest, they need to have as much practical information as possible.

Every LEA has a local foster care liaison, who must ensure each eligible child receives his or her rights under ESSA, including the right to attend the school of origin. The local liaison and school or district staff can play an instrumental role in assisting with choosing the school that is in a student's best interest. For children in foster care, schools should identify Children's Administration staff to assist with the school selection provisions of the Fostering Connections Act.

Steps to Best-Interest Decision-Making

LEAs should work with local child welfare agencies to develop a clear protocol on how to make best interest determinations. This process should include making every effort to gather meaningful input from relevant parties, in addition to required child welfare and school representatives, in deciding what school placement is in a child's best interest. The following

School Notification

CA Children's Administration

This is to notify the school district that the below named child has been:
 Newly placed Returned home Changed placement

Date:

To:

From:

CA WORKER'S NAME

EMAIL

PHONE

FAX

CA ADDRESS

RE:

STUDENT'S NAME

DATE OF BIRTH

GRADE LEVEL

Statement of Confidentiality

The information disclosed in this form is confidential and disclosed under the limitations of RCW 13.50.100. This disclosure does not constitute a waiver of any confidentiality or privilege attached to the information by operation of any state or federal law or regulation. The recipient of this information must comply with the laws governing confidentiality and must protect the records from unauthorized disclosure. RCW 13.50.100(5).

The above named student is in the legal custody of CA and is temporarily placed at the following location:

CAREGIVER'S NAME	PHONE	TYPE OF PLACEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> Foster care <input type="checkbox"/> Relative <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
ADDRESS		

The above named student is in the legal custody of CA and the child has moved (or will be moving) to a new placement at the following location:

CAREGIVER'S NAME	PHONE
TYPE OF PLACEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> Foster care <input type="checkbox"/> Relative <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	ANTICIPATED DATE OF MOVE
ADDRESS	

The above named student has been returned to parent / guardian care:

<input type="checkbox"/> Legal custody regained by parent / guardian or <input type="checkbox"/> Legal custody retained by DCFS	PARENT / GUARDIAN(S) NAME(S)
ADDRESS	PHONE

Per court order, the people named below cannot have contact with the student:

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	RELATIONSHIP (PARENT / UNCLE / AUNT / SIBLING, NO RELATIONSHIP, ETC.)

Please notify the CA worker named above immediately if contact attempts are made.

The above named student is in the legal custody of CA and continues to reside in the parental home:

PARENT / GUARDIAN(S) NAME(S)	PHONE
ADDRESS	

School transportation to be arranged at new address to maintain education stability

NAME

PHONE

ADDRESS

Child / youth to be un-enrolled from school as of _____ (date).

Copy of the court order is attached.

Department of Children, Youth, and Families
Office Contact Information

REGION 3 CONTACT

Debbie Gomi, MSW
Heather Lofgren

Education and Disproportionality Program Consultant
Safety Administrator

(425) 308-9718
(425) 903-5025

HQ CONTACT

Shanna McBride

Education / ETV Program Manager

(360) 902-8474

Offices	Address	Receptionist Phone	Area Administrator	Phone Number
Bellingham	1720 Ellis St. Suite 100 Bellingham, WA 98225	(360) 594-6700 1(808) 398-4079	Silvia Johnson	(360) 391-4760
Everett	840 North Broadway, Building A, Suite 340 Everett, WA 98201	(425) 339-4768 1(808)927-4665	Patty Turner	(425) 229-5069
Everett Regional	8625 Evergreen Way, Suite 250 Everett, WA 98208	(425) 595-3600 1(808)320-4370		
Friday Harbor	535 Market St, Suite D Friday Harbor, WA 98250	(360) 429-2993 1(808)785-5582	Linda Karu (temp)	(360) 899-6781
Lynnwood	20311 52 nd Ave. W Suite 201 Lynnwood, WA 98036	(425) 977-6700 1 (808) 877-3229	Sandra Jewell	(425) 418-5834
Mount Vernon	900 East College Way, Suite 200 Mount Vernon, WA 98273	(360) 429-02993 1(808) 785-5582	Bob McClintock (temp)	(360) 630-8026
Oak Harbor	275 SE Pioneer Way, Suite 301 Oak Harbor, WA 98277	(360) 679-7150 1(808)743-0117	Linda Karu (temp)	(360) 899-6781
Sky Valley (Monroe)	953 Village Way, Suite 100 Monroe, WA 98272	(360) 805-8444 1(808)366-0747	Sandra Jewell	(425) 418-5834
Smokey Point (Arlington)	3906 172 nd Street NE, Suite 200 Arlington, WA 98233	(360) 651-6900 1(808) 398-4811	Yen Lawlor (temp)	(425) 595-3459