

# Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the Education and Training Voucher (ETV)?

The Education and Training Voucher is a nationwide federal program administered by the Washington Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). Through this program, youth or young adults who are currently or formerly in foster care and enrolled as students in supported higher education (college, university, vocational, or technical) programs may be eligible to receive financial assistance. The ETV program is not a loan and does not need to be paid back.

## Do I qualify for ETV?

Am I any one of the following, if yes, then I am eligible for ETV:

- You 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 DCYF or Tribal Child Welfare agency, and in foster care.
- You are 18 to 20 and exited state or tribal foster care because you reached the age of majority.
- You were adopted or entered a relative guardianship on or after the age of 16 to 20.
- If you participated and received ETV funds prior to 21, you are eligible to the age of 26.

## Is \_\_\_\_ a qualifying program for ETV?

Visit the program website the student plans to enroll in; if they give out financial aid, they likely qualify. If unsure, please contact ETV staff.

## This student is going to school out of state, do they qualify for ETV?

Yes; as long as the student also receives the Pell grant.

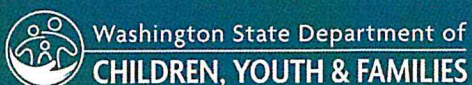
## This student is going to school in Washington and is dependent in another state – can they apply for the Washington ETV program?

Yes; as long as the student doesn't apply for ETV in another state.

## Can ETV funds be used to buy a computer?

Yes. Funds go directly to students so they can buy what they need for school.

\*Dual credit running start students need to submit a purchase request or contact us to purchase through Amazon.



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## Can ETV funds go to savings?

No. However, we encourage students to free up funds to pay for their basic needs.

## Is there a cap on ETV funding?

The amount of ETV funding a qualified student may access per school year is \$5,000.00. ETV only covers the remaining portion of your COA, if any, after all other educational funding sources accepted by the student (Tuition and Fee Waiver, grants, scholarships, and loans) are applied to your COA. If your other educational sources entirely cover your COA, you will not receive ETV funds.

## What costs will ETV cover?

ETV covers what is called Cost of Attendance or COA. COA is determined by the individual college the student attends and is a listing of the items and their costs for students that attend the college. Each college posts the institution's COA on the college's website.

For full-time students and students who are considered at least half-time students by the college they attend, COA includes:

- Tuition
- Room and Board (shelter, food, clothing)
- Books
- Classroom supplies and materials
- Miscellaneous personal expenses

## What are ineligible ETV uses?

Some ineligible uses are car loans, car payments, student loan payments, and savings.

## Can I use ETV funds for a Master's degree?

No. You may enroll in an accredited or pre-accredited public, private, or non-profit institution of higher education that provides an educational program that awards a bachelor's degree (Example: Bachelor of Science, Arts, or Fine Arts); OR provides a 2-year program, e.g. associate degree, graduate degree (Example: Associate of Culinary Arts, Criminal Justice or Science Studies); OR provides at least a one-year training program to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation (Example: Line Worker, Mechanic, or Machinist).

## How do I apply for ETV?

Eligible students must apply (or re-apply) for the ETV funds through the [ETV program website](#). Students must submit the application and supporting documents, such as the Student Aid report from their completed FAFSA application, when applying.

## Do students have to re-apply for ETV every year?

Students must re-apply online for every new school year.





## 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. 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 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.

## How to Apply

All ETV applications are available online at [www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-youth/etv](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-youth/etv).

- **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 include (naming a few):

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



## When is the application due?

Priority Deadline: January 1 to April 30

## 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
  - e. Any school changes

## Accessing my ETV Funds (for Post-Secondary Students)

- 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.
- 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.

**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](mailto:Kathy.Ramsay@dcyf.wa.gov) | 360-870-9827

Aubry Schlottmann, Program Specialist | [Aubry.Schlottmann@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:Aubry.Schlottmann@dcyf.wa.gov) | 360-464-0179