

Post-Secondary Resources

For students experiencing foster care and transitioning to postsecondary education, there are state and federal opportunities to help them navigate the next step in their life. The resources below will help you to guide students in foster care to resources available to them for post-secondary opportunities.

Financial Aid

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 legislation includes significant new financial aid policies, including revisions to the Free Application for Student Financial Aid ([FAFSA](#)) for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness and former foster youth.

Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA)

[WASFA](#) is for people who don't file a federal FAFSA application. People who complete a WASFA are applying for state aid. [WASFA Eligibility Questionnaire](#)

Programs and Organizations

College & Career Knowledge Guide

[The College & Career Knowledge Guide](#) is a guide that helps students pursue education and training after high school.

Career Bridge

[Career Bridge](#) is a career exploration tool that matches career clusters based on interest, along with where education/training programs are in WA state, and average salary information. Career Bridge also has a [downloadable fillable guide](#).

ANEW

[ANEW](#) is an organization that helps people find non-traditional career pathways. ANEW has over 17 apprenticeship programs in the Puget Sound region and collaborates with public partners, other pre-apprenticeship programs, and employers.

College Success Foundation

[College Success Foundation](#) is a national nonprofit that helps underserved, low-income students achieve their dream of a college education. [The Scholarship and Financial Aid Education Booking Page](#) allows students, supporting adults and practitioners to book appointments with the CSF Financial Aid and Scholarships team to get assistance with CSF scholarships and financial aid-related topics.

Passports to Careers

[Passport to Careers](#) is a comprehensive program providing former foster youth with financial assistance beyond other state, federal, private, and institutional financial aid for which they are



eligible. If a young person has been in foster care at any time after turning 13, his or her classes will likely be paid for at most Washington State colleges.

Educational Training Vouchers

Students receive funds for qualified school-related expenses. Funding is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible students. Find out more about the [Education Training Vouchers Program](#).

Supplemental Education Transition Planning (SETuP) Program

[SETuP](#) provides information to youth, foster families, and school staff about post-high school education and training opportunities for youth in foster care.

Independent Living (IL) Program

[The IL program](#) is a voluntary program for youth ages 15 through 22 who are or were in foster care with DCYF or a tribal court. Youth can be anywhere on the spectrum of transitioning to adulthood.

Independent Youth Housing Program

The [Independent Youth Housing Program](#) provides rental assistance, related housing costs, and case management to young adults, ages 18-24, who have been a dependent of the state or federally recognized tribal foster care system prior to age 18.

The Youth Diversion Infrastructure Project (YDIP)

[The Youth Diversion Infrastructure Project](#) is intended to support young people exiting Systems of Care get access to flexible funding quickly and efficiently when they are supported in finding a housing solution that is right for them.

Extended Foster Care Program

The [Extended Foster Care Program](#) provides an opportunity for young adults who were a dependent of Washington State at age 18, to voluntarily agree to continue receiving foster care services, including placement services, while working on their goals towards independence. Eligible youth may enter and exit the program as needed between the ages of 18-21 years old.

FuturesNW

[FuturesNW](#) is a nonprofit in Whatcom and Skagit Counties on a mission to level the socio-economic playing field by supporting students from underserved communities to achieve their career and college dreams.

Treehouse

[Treehouse Launch Success](#) program provides individual and tailored services to meet the needs of young adults. Participants determine who and how they want to work with their coach and decide what areas they want to focus on.

The Mockingbird Society

[The Mockingbird Society](#) is an organization that works with current and former foster care youth 13 to 26 years old by providing opportunities through employment and community engagement.

Passion to Action

[Passion to Action](#) is a foster youth ages 14 to 24 and alumni advisory board that provides Children's Administration (CA) with input and recommendations regarding their policy and practices.

Scholarships

Washington State Governors' Scholarship for Foster Youth

[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. 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.

Passport to College Scholarship

[Passport to College Scholarship](#) encourages foster youth to prepare for and succeed in college receive helping pay tuition and living expenses for up to five years of college.

Family Fellowship Scholarship

[Family Fellowship Scholarship](#) is designed to provide foster youth with the necessary resources to pursue higher education and aims to advance the educational aspirations of foster youth by offering financial assistance and family-like emotional support.

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.

David E. Ballard Scholarship

[David E. Ballard Scholarship](#) is a \$10,000 scholarship supports youth who have experienced homelessness and/or been part of the foster care system pursuing a career in live entertainment.

Foster Care to Success

[Foster Care to Success Scholarships](#) are scholarships for college-bound youth who have spent at least 12 consecutive months in foster care.

Horatio Alger Association National Scholarship

[Horatio Alger Association National Scholarship](#) is one of the major scholarship programs nationally that specifically assists high school students who have faced and overcome great obstacles in their young lives.

Adoption STAR Academic Scholarship Program

[Adoption STAR Academic Scholarship](#) is open to college-bound, academically impressive high school seniors who were adopted or have been in foster care and awards up to \$1,000 to selected students to help pay for their college expenses.

National Foster Parent Association (NFPA) Scholarship

[The National Foster Parent Association Scholarship](#) will provide annual competitive scholarships of \$500 each based on availability of funds.

The WashingtonBoard.org

[The WashingtonBoard.org](#) is a free website for Washington students to get matched with potential scholarship opportunities.

Grants

Washington College Grant

[Washington College Grant](#) gives eligible people more money for more types of education like certificate programs, job training, apprenticeships, or college. Washington College Grant has created [these short videos](#) to give students information about the grants they could have access to.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

[The Annie E. Casey Foundation](#) is committed to building a brighter future for children who face significant obstacles on the road to adulthood.

