

STEP THREE: Explore Scholarships (continued)

Lansing Community College: The Theresa and Frederick Junger scholarship is offered for students who were in foster care: For information, call 517-483-1987.

Love Our Children USA offers the Darko Rapolez Memorial College Scholarship which is awarded to youth who have aged out of the foster care system and have demonstrated academic excellence. For more information, visit: http://www.loveourchildrenusa.org/aboutus_programs.php

Macomb Community College: United Way's Youth in Transition scholarship covers tuition, fees, and books for youth ages 17-21 who are or were under the care and supervision of the Michigan Department of Human Services on or after their 14th birthday. <https://mietv.lssm.org/forms/Youth%20in%20Transition%20FINALpdf.pdf>

Michigan State University: The Foster Care Youth Endowed Scholarship Program provides a limited number of tuition and living expense scholarships to incoming freshmen who have spent part of their childhood or adolescence in a court-ordered foster care placement in Michigan. Please contact Gary Anderson at 517-355-0333 or by email at gary.anderson@ssc.msu.edu

National Foster Parent Association (NFPA) offers scholarships designed to help foster families pay for education beyond high school. To find out more, visit: <http://nfpaonline.org/nfpascholarship>

STEP FOUR: Explore Michigan Schools With Programs that Support Youth and Alumni of Foster Care

A number of colleges and universities offer campus support programs. For more information on the schools listed, see the **Fostering Success Michigan Guide to Getting to know.... Higher Education Resources for Youth and Alumni of Foster Care.**

- Aquinas College: *Fostering Success Scholarship Initiative*
- Baker College of Flint: *Living Independently Networking Knowledge (LINK)*
- Eastern Michigan University: *Mentorship Access Guidance in College (MAGIC)*
- Ferris State University: *Ferris Youth Initiative*
- Michigan State University: *Fostering Academics Mentoring Excellence (FAME)*
- Saginaw Valley State University: *Fostering an Academic Successful Transition (FAST)*
- University of Michigan, Ann Arbor: *Blavin Scholars Program*
- University of Michigan, Flint: *Mpowering My Success*
- Wayne State University: *Transition to Independence (TIP) program*
- Western Michigan University: *Seita Scholars program*

About Fostering Success Michigan

Through generous support from the Kresge Foundation, Western Michigan University, and others, Fostering Success Michigan is implementing a statewide collective-impact strategy that strives to prepare young people in foster care between the ages of 12 and 25 across the state of Michigan for success in higher education and beyond. Fostering Success Michigan will increase awareness, access, and success in higher education and post-college careers for youth and alumni of foster care.



We offer networking opportunities and valuable resources. Find out more at www.fosteringmichigan.com



Getting to know.... Financial Aid in Higher Education For Youth and Alumni of Foster Care



Who should use this guide:

This guide can be used by anyone who is interested in learning more about higher education financial aid for youth and alumni of foster care, age 17-25. This includes students, educators, social workers, community members, and educational administrators and staff.

How to use this guide:

Students may find this helpful as a starting point for planning for financial aid. Use this guide for your own education or pass it on to someone who may interact with students.



Graduate and Alumni of Foster Care, Natalie Kyles, 2012, Michigan State University

Among the most common cited reasons for youth and alumni of foster care dropping out of college is the **inability to pay tuition and fees.**
(Courtney et al. 2011)

Getting to know.... Financial Aid in Higher Education for Youth and Alumni of Foster Care



A Step-By-Step Approach to Financial Aid in Higher Education

Most youth and alumni of foster care use a number of different ways to pay for higher education. In the Midwest Study of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth, researchers found that of the 56% of students enrolled in a 2-year program, **68%** of this group are paying for school through scholarships or grants, **46%** are paying through loans, and only **5%** receive assistance from a parent, relative, or foster family. Use this guide to explore all the options and then make a choice for the best fit!

STEP ONE: Complete the FAFSA

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is an application used by a school to determine how much a student can receive in financial aid, and from what programs. A few things to know about the FAFSA:

- Completing the FAFSA is the first step in establishing your eligibility for a Pell Grant (a requirement for many campus-support programs) and many other financial aid programs.
- When completing the FAFSA, there is a Student Dependency Status section. To be considered **Independent**, the student must check the box that says "I was in foster care since turning age 13" or "I was a dependent or ward of the court since turning age 13". Students also need to obtain form **DHS 945** (from Department of Human Services) which verifies court wardship for financial aid purposes.
- When a youth is **Independent**, only the youth's income (not income from a parent or guardian) is used in calculating eligibility.



The easiest way to complete the application is to do so online at www.fafsa.gov. Students will also need a pin number as part of the application process. Students can create their own pins at www.pin.ed.gov/PINWebApp/pinindex.jsp

STEP TWO: Explore Finance Options to Support Your Education

Educational and Training Voucher Program (ETV): The Chafee Education and Training Voucher Program provides resources specifically to meet the education and training needs of youth aging out of foster care. This program awards vouchers of up to \$4,000 per fiscal year available to eligible youth (including refugees) attending post secondary educational and vocational programs. For more information contact Lutheran Social Services of Michigan at 877-660-METV or <https://mietv.lssm.org/>

Tuition Incentive Program (TIP): TIP is an incentive program that encourages eligible students to complete high school by providing tuition assistance for the first 2 years of college and beyond. To meet the financial eligibility requirement, a student must have (or have had) Medicaid coverage for 24 months within a 36-consecutive-month period as identified by the Michigan Department of Human Services. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/osg or call 1-888-4-GRANTS.

Foster Youth in Transition Funds (FYIT): FYIT can be used to help with a variety of non-educational related expenses that are not covered by any other funding source. For information, contact: Jessica Kincaid at 517-373-9219 or via email kincaidj@michigan.gov, <http://www.michigan.gov/fyit>

Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative (MYOI): MYOI teaches young people independent living skills and fiscally responsible behaviors, while providing the resources needed to live successfully. MYOI offers a 1:1 match when a youth or alumni of foster care saves money toward education and or living expenses. For more information, visit <http://www.michigan.gov/fyit> or call 517-241-8904.

Education Success Program (ESP): ESP is a program within MYOI specific to Wayne and Kent counties that provides youth ages 21-24 a 3:1 match on educational expenses, as well as mentorship. Youth ages 18-24 can receive preparatory trainings prior to beginning the ESP program. For Kent County, please contact Erin Sweeney at 616-254-7767. For Wayne County, please contact Suzanne Reid at 734-652-3100.

STEP THREE: Explore Scholarships

Arisa Scholarship: The Michigan Adoptive, Foster Care, and Kinship Care Parent Association offers one \$500.00 scholarship annually. For information on the scholarship and how to apply, contact Ruth Kenaga by phone at 989-984-7372, or via email at rukenaga@yahoo.com

Aquinas College: Fostering Success Scholarship: Two scholarships available per year to cover tuition, room, board, and book costs. http://www.aquinas.edu/undergraduate/foster_scholarship.html

Big Family Scholarship: Two \$1,000 scholarships are available to eligible students. Contact <http://www.bigfamilyofmichigan.org/scholarships.php> or 586-445-7735 for more information.

Casey Family Scholars Program: Scholarships ranging from \$1,500 - \$6,000 based on need and merit. Please visit <http://www.fc2success.org/programs/casey-family-scholars/> or email scholarships@fc2success.org

Foster Care 2 Success: FC2S administers a variety of scholarships and grants to help deserving foster youth achieve a meaningful postsecondary education and a bright future. Visit <http://www.fc2success.org/our-programs/information-for-students/> or email scholarships@fc2success.org