The California Chafee Grant for Foster Youth Program (Chafee Grant)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Eligibility

What are the eligibility requirements to receive the Chafee Grant?

To be eligible for the Chafee Grant, a student must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Not have reached your 26th birthday as of July 1st of the award year.

    AND

- Be a current or former foster youth who was a dependent or ward of the court, living a in out-of-home foster care placement, between the ages of 16 and 18.

    OR

- Be a youth who was placed in out-of-home care by a tribe or tribal organization between the ages of 16-18.

A student was adopted, are they eligible for the Chafee Grant?

Youth who are/were in Kin-GAP, a non-related legal guardianship or were adopted, are not eligible unless the youth was a dependent or ward of the court, living in foster care, at some point between the ages of 16 and 18.

How long can a student receive the Chafee Grant?

In accordance with California Education Code 69519, a student's receipt of a Chafee Grant award shall not exceed five years (whether or not consecutive).

What Institutions qualify for the Chafee Grant?

All institutions that are eligible to participate in the Cal Grant program may participate in the Chafee Grant program. Vocational and technical schools may also participate in the Chafee Grant if Cal Grant eligible.

Out-of- state institutions who provide at least two Title IV financial aid programs, have a three-year cohort default rate that is less than 15.5 percent and a graduation rate greater than 30 percent.

Can a student attend a school outside the State of California?

Yes, if the out-of-state institution provides at least two Title IV financial aid programs, has a three-year cohort default rate that is less than 15.5 percent and a graduation rate greater than 30 percent. Keep in mind out-of-state school participation is voluntary.

<center>**Awarding**</center>

A student was on my roster last year but is missing from this year's roster, what happened?

In all likelihood, the student has aged out of the program or has received five years of payments. Check the Student Application Status screen for the previous academic year.

What does the "Eligible – Not Awarded" status mean for a student?

"Eligible – Not Awarded" status means we have received all components for the Chafee Grant application. The Commission will review the FAFSA or CADAA and Chafee Grant Application for award consideration.

Awards for the upcoming academic year begin processing in July. Your status can change as awards are processed weekly. Your award status can also change based on how awards are prioritized.

The majority of Chafee Grant awards are initiated during the fall term and additional awards are offered year-round based on available federal and state funding each year.

How are awards prioritized?

Student's completed applications are sorted by application date, and awards are offered based on the following priority selection criteria:

1. Paid renewal students who have not reached their 26th birthday as of July 1st of the award year.
2. New and non-paid renewal students who will be 25 years old as of July 1st of the award year.
3. New and non-paid renewal students who have dependents.
4. New and non-paid renewal students who have an unmet need of $5,000 or more.
5. New and non-paid renewal students who have an unmet need of less than $5,000.

Students selected for an award will be notified via email.

When are awards offered?

Before awards are offered, all students will be listed as Eligible—Not awarded. Chafee funds for the Academic Year are awarded in the third week of July for the upcoming fall semester.

Payment Requests

How do I request payments for Chafee?

Please refer to the Chafee Payment Guide.

My student is attending a single term, but their unmet need seems low?

If you have unselected a term attending, please reevaluate the cost of attendance and other aid. A good practice is to unselect the term first and then complete the financial eligibility section of the payment roster. This will help avoid over reporting other aid.

My student's check amount seems off, what can be done about this?

If the amount issued is too low take a look at the payment roster. Understand that the cost of attendance and unmet need fields are set at the annual level. Payments are then split per term. Selecting more than one term attending will result lower payouts. If you said the student was attending fall and spring and has an unmet need of $2,000, and only request payment for spring, you will be sent $1,000 for the student. If the student's need was $2,000 go back into the roster and uncheck non applicable terms and save the record. After the weekly job run an additional payment for the difference will be issued.

Will a student receive $5,000 all at once?

No, the award will be determined based on your financial need. We also divide the award by the terms attended. For example:

Students attending a semester term school will receive 2 payments, if they attend both semesters. Students attending a quarter term school will receive 3 payments, if they attend all three quarters. Students in a year-round term program will receive 4 payments if they attend every quarter (including summer) in the academic year.

Below is an example of a student's payout at various institution types assuming the student has $5,000 in unmet need, attends all required terms, and is enrolled at least half time.

Attending a semester school	Semester 1 $2,500	Semester 2 $2,500			Total: $5,000

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3		Total:
Attending a 3-quarter school	Quarter 1 $1,667	Quarter 2 $1,667	Quarter 3 $1,666		Total: $5,000
Attending a 4-quarter school	Quarter 1 $1,250	Quarter 2 $1,250	Quarter 3 $1,250	Quarter 4 $1,250	Total: $5,000

The student had over $5,000 in need but only attended one semester. How much will they receive?

Consult the chart above. For each term completed, the student will qualify for the corresponding award amount. If a student only attend a single semester or a single quarter, they will only receive a single payment that academic year.

A student attended the fall term, was paid for the fall and is not in attendance for the spring. Should I mark them, "not enrolled?"

No, if a student was in attendance for a term, just use the term attending boxes to show nonattendance.

Disbursing Chafee Funds

My student dropped below half time or is no longer enrolled after I requested payment. What should I do?

Funds may be disbursed to a student if the student was eligible at the time Chafee funds were requested. Please check student eligibility prior to requesting funds. If the student's status changes after funds are requested, please follow institution policy.

I need to return Chafee funds to the Commission, how do I do that?

Please refer to the Chafee Payment Guide.

Renewing the Chafee Grant

Do students have to submit the Chafee Application and CDSS verification every year?

No, to renew the Chafee Grant, the student must complete a financial aid application for the upcoming school year.