

California Chafee ETV Grant Program

PROGRAM BACKGROUND:

The Promoting Safe and Stable Families Act was amended in 2001 to create the Chafee Education and Training Voucher Program to provide up to \$5,000 per school year for eligible youth aging out of foster care. These grants may be used for education and related expenses, such as transportation, rent and child care.

The [California Student Aid Commission](#) (CSAC) administers the Chafee Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program in California under an interagency agreement with the Department of Social Services (CDSS). The CDSS informs current and former foster youth about the Chafee ETV program through bi-annual mailers to approximately 20,000 youth.

ANNUAL ALLOCATION:

For FFY 2011, Congress appropriated \$45 million for the Chafee ETV nationwide. California was awarded \$6,345,498 with a State General Fund match of \$5,700,000

FOSTER YOUTH SERVED

As of May 2, 2011, 2,503 current and former foster youth have been awarded Chafee grants for Fiscal Year 10/11.

ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for a Chafee ETV grant, the student must meet following criteria:

- Be a current or former foster youth
- Be a dependent or ward of the court and living in foster care between the ages of 16-18
- Be under the age of 22 as of July 1 of the award year

The Student Aid Commission reviews the FAFSA and Chafee ETV grant applications. The CDSS verifies the student's foster care eligibility status, and the college or technical school's financial aid office determines the financial aid need. When the application is complete, the Student Aid Commission sends the youth a letter advising them of their award status.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Students can apply for Chafee ETV grants anytime during the year and must submit:

- [Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#)
- [California Chafee Grant Program Application](#)

ADDITIONAL YOUTH RESOURCES

[Guardian Scholars](#) from the Orangewood Children's Foundation

[Foster Youth Services](#) at the California Department of Education