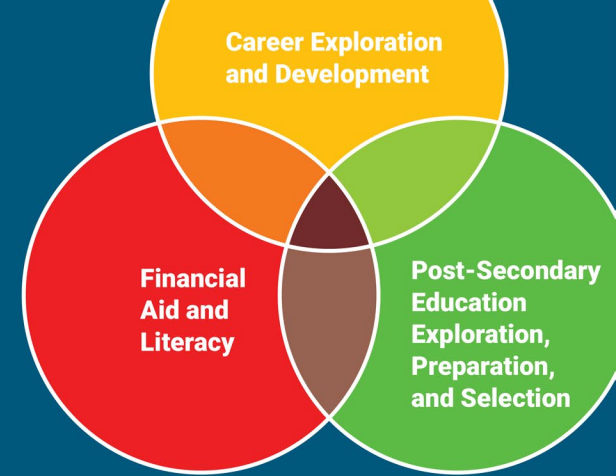


Accessing DCFS Post-Secondary Education Supports



Kim Peck

Downstate Administrator

DCFS, Office of Education and Transition Services
(OETS)





Overview

- File FAFSA every year!
- Important sections in the FAFSA that Youth in Care cannot ignore
- DCFS Post-Secondary Education Program benefits and requirements





- October 1 is the filing date for FAFSA.
 - Students file the fall of their senior year and every year after to secure funding for future years.
 - [FAFSA® Application | Federal Student Aid](#)





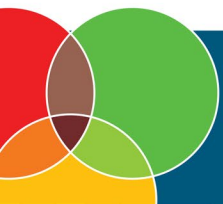
Funding From Financial Aid

- Federal Pell Grant - Up to \$7,395 for 2023-2024 school year based on a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester
 - Maximum of 12 semesters available to students
 - Year round Pell is available.
- IL Monetary Award Program (MAP) - Up to \$7,200 per school year based on the school's cost of attendance and a minimum of 3 credit hours and maximum of 15 credit hours per semester (and based on the school that you attend)
- Student loans based on year in school
 - \$9500 maximum 1st year, \$10,500 2nd year, \$12,500 3rd year and beyond
 - Always accept Subsidized first; then Unsubsidized
- Work-Study program available if the box checked on the FAFSA on a first come first serve basis
- Outside grants and scholarships from schools and other sources.



Why is age 13 so important for filing FAFSA and receiving financial aid?

- FAFSA reads “At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?”
- If a child goes into Permanency/adoption before turning 13, youth and parent’s financial information is required. This also applies to youth who return home to parent.





DCFS Post-Secondary Programs

- Youth in College / Vocational Training (YIC/VT) Placement
- Education and Training Voucher (ETV)
- DCFS Scholarship
- DCFS Tuition and Fee Waiver



Youth in College / Vocational Training (YIC/VT)



- DCFS must have court ordered legal responsibility for youth; a placement for youth in care.
- Monthly board payment of \$1,506 for up to 5 consecutive years, complete original program of study, or through age 25; whichever occurs first.
- Reimbursement for books/supplies not covered by financial aid grants.
- One time startup payment to be used for living expenses.





YIC / VT Requirements

- A one-time application (DCFS Form 449) must be completed by youth and caseworker.
- Student needs to fulfill the following requirements to continue in the program.
 - 12 credit hours or full time status.
 - Minimum of 2.0 term GPA at full time status.
- Eligible through age 25, if legal case closes at age 21 and continue to meet above requirements.





DCFS Scholarship

- Monthly board payment of \$1,506 up to 5 consecutive years or through age 25.
- One time startup payment to be used for living expenses
- Illinois Medical Card
- Reimbursement available for books not covered by financial aid grants
- Tuition & Mandatory fee waiver if attending Illinois public university or community college – If awarded, school uses MAP and other tuition specific funds before applying the DCFS waiver; student keeps Pell grant.





DCFS Tuition and Fee Waiver

- Department must have court ordered legal guardianship of the applicant, must have aged out of DCFS guardianship at 18 or older, or the department must have had legal guardianship prior to adoption or guardianship being finalized
- Applicant must have high school diploma from an accredited institution, high school equivalency certificate, or met State criteria for high school graduation before the start of the school year for which applicant is applying for waiver
- Applicant must have filed FAFSA; must be under age 26 at initial application
- If awarded, school may keep student's MAP and/or Pell grant funds prior to applying the waiver.



How To Access Tuition and Fee Waiver



- Complete and submit Tuition and Fee Waiver application form (DCFS Form 438-A) to: DCFS.TuitionWaiver@illinois.gov
- [CFS 438-A Tuition and Mandatory Fee Waiver Program \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.illinois.gov/CFS438-A)
- Student can submit application; does not require caseworker assistance.
- Applicant must have filed FAFSA
- Submit grades at end of each term and schedule for next term to continue the waiver. A new application form is not required each term.





Education & Training Voucher (ETV)

- Up to \$5,000 per Academic Year to cover Cost of Attendance items such as tuition, fees, books, supplies, uniforms, equipment and/or transportation not covered by other grants or scholarships.
- Award is based on Cost of Attendance and other grants/scholarships
- Computer/Laptop allowed ONLY if school includes a computer in their Cost of Attendance and there is funding remaining after tuition and fees are paid (students do not receive \$5000 AND a computer).
- Funding available through age 25 or 5 years as long as the student is continuing to make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in the program.





How To Access ETV Funding

- Complete and submit ETV Application (DCFS Form 449-3) ANNUALLY to: DCFS.ETVCoordinator@illinois.gov
 - [CFS 449-3 Application for Education and Training Voucher Funds \(illinois.gov\)](#)
- Applicant must have file FAFSA annually
- Student may attend any school that is listed as currently accredited at <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/search.aspx>
- ETV is not limited to IL schools; full time status not required; must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)





Virtual Office Hours

- Laura Gutierrez, OETS Post-Secondary Education Specialist
 - Each Wednesday 3:00-5:00 pm
 - <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m32c4e7e619de1abc0a9950ce1ff6f02c>
- Nashun Avery, OETS Post-Secondary Education Specialist
 - Each Monday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
 - <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=mf32c05d23836984bb71849d511bb18f7>



Resources



- National Center for Education Statistics- College Navigator
 - <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
- The ISACorps
 - <http://www.isac.org/isacorps>
- Illinois Student Assistance Commission
 - <http://www.isac.org/>
- Secondary Transitional Experience Program (STEP)
 - <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=35174>
- Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling
 - <https://www.iacac.org/>
- La Casa Cultura Latina at University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
 - <https://oiir.illinois.edu/la-casa-cultural-latina/resources/resources-dreamers>





Thank You

