



## ACCESSING DCFS POST-SECONDARY PROGRAMS

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DCFS Office of Education and Transition Services

## DCFS POST-SECONDARY PROGRAMS

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

# YOUTH IN COLLEGE/VOCATIONAL TRAINING (YIC/VT)

- DCFS must have court ordered legal responsibility for the youth; a placement for youth in care.
- Monthly board payment of \$1,577 for up to 5 consecutive years, once Bachelor's Degree is earned or through age 25; whichever occurs first.
- Reimbursement for books not covered by financial aid grants.
- One time startup funding to be used for living expenses

# YIC REQUIREMENTS

- **Submit a complete application (CFS-449). It is a one-time application and must be completed by the case worker**
- **Student needs to fulfill the following requirements to continue in the program.**
  - Submit a schedule of classes every semester showing a minimum of 12 credit hours or full time status.
  - Submit final grades for the semester they just completed showing a minimum of 2.0 term GPA at full time status.
  - If unable to maintain full time status, student must contact YIC coordinator prior to dropping below full time status.

# DCFS SCHOLARSHIP

- **Competitive Scholarship; Must award a minimum of 53.**
- **Monthly stipend of \$1,557 up to 5 consecutive years or through age 25.**
- **One time startup funding 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 state funded community colleges or universities – school uses MAP and other tuition specific funds before applying the DCFS waiver.**

# DCFS SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- **DCFS must have court-ordered legal guardianship for the applicant, the applicant must have aged out of DCFS care at age 18 or older, or the department must have had legal guardianship for the applicant immediately prior to an adoption or guardianship being finalized.**
- **Submit a complete application. It is a one-time application if awarded the scholarship.**
- **A complete application must be submitted within application period -- January 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>)**
- **Student needs to fulfill the following requirements to continue in the program.**
  - Submit a schedule of classes every semester showing a minimum of 12 credit hours or full time status.
  - Submit final grades for the semester they just completed showing a minimum of 2.0 term GPA at full time status.
  - If unable to maintain full time status, student must contact YIS coordinator prior to dropping below full time status.

## TUITION & 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**

# HOW TO ACCESS TUITION & FEE WAIVER

Complete and submit Tuition and Fee Waiver program application CFS-438-A to [DCFS.TuitionWaiver@illinois.gov](mailto:DCFS.TuitionWaiver@illinois.gov). The individual student can do this and does not require case worker to do so

Submit grades and schedule each term once accepted into the program to continue

# EDUCATION & TRAINING VOUCHER (ETV)

- Youth for whom DCFS is legally responsible or who aged out of care at age 18 or older OR achieved permanency at age 16 or older through either guardianship or adoption.
- Up to \$5,000 to cover Cost of Attendance items such as tuition, fees, books, supplies, uniforms, equipment and/or transportation not covered by other grants or scholarships.
- Funding available through age 25 or 5 years as long as the student is continuing to make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in the program.
- Award is based on Cost of Attendance and other grants/scholarships
- Computers allowed ONLY if schools include a computer in their Cost of Attendance and there is funding left after tuition and fees are paid (students do not receive \$5000 AND a computer).
- Student may attend any school that is listed as currently accredited at <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/search.aspx>

# HOW ACCESS ETV FUNDING

Submit a complete CFS-449-3 package Once a year directly to [DCFS.ETVCoordinator@illinois.gov](mailto:DCFS.ETVCoordinator@illinois.gov).

ETV program does not require full time status; however, the student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

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**[DCFS.ETVCoordinator@Illinois.gov](mailto:DCFS.ETVCoordinator@Illinois.gov)**

**[Post-Secondary Education Services \(illinois.gov\)](https://illinois.gov)**

**DCFS Website > Brighter Futures > Education Resources for Youth in Care > Post-Secondary Education Services**



# VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

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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>