

FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE GRANT

A higher education grant program for former and current Minnesota fosters

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The Fostering Independence Grant is a higher education financial aid program that seeks to make college more accessible for Minnesotans who were in foster care.

Eligibility and Academic Requirements

- ✓ You have been in the Minnesota foster care system at any point after age 13
 - Placement in foster care at any time while 13 years of age or older
 - Adoption from foster care after reaching 13 years of age
 - Placement from foster care with a permanent legal custodian at any time after reaching 13 years of age
- ✓ You are a Minnesota Resident eligible for state financial aid or the Minnesota Education and Training Vouchers (ETV)
- ✓ You are age 26 or under
- ✓ You have graduated from high school or completed the equivalent as approved by the Minnesota Department of Education
- ✓ You have been accepted for admission to, or are currently attending, an eligible institution
- ✓ You are meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress as defined by your institution
- ✓ You have NOT yet earned a bachelor's degree

Eligible Institutions

- ✓ Minnesota State colleges and universities
- ✓ University of Minnesota campuses
- ✓ Participating tribal colleges
- ✓ Participating private institutions

What's Covered?

The program will pay for your cost of attendance at eligible institutions. This includes:

- ✓ College tuition and fees
- ✓ Books and supplies
- ✓ Housing and food allowance
- ✓ Transportation allowance
- ✓ Miscellaneous living allowance



Check our website for a [full list of participating institutions](#).

Fostering Independence Grants can not be used at out-of-state schools.

Scan the QR code
to learn more



OHE.MN.GOV



FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE GRANT FAQ

How do I apply?

To apply you must complete one of the following and answer affirmatively to the foster care question on the application:

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.studentaid.gov
- Minnesota Alternative State Financial Aid Application at ohe.mn.gov/alternative-state-aid-application

You also need to apply to your postsecondary institution and follow-up on any requests for admissions and financial aid.

How is the grant calculated?

This grant is a need-based, last-dollar program.

First, your institution will determine your cost of attendance based on your enrollment level and program. Then, the following amounts are subtracted from the cost of attendance:

- Your Federal Student Aid Index (SAI)
- Any Federal and State Gift Aid (Example: Federal Pell Grants, Minnesota State Grant)
- Any tribal scholarships
- Extended Foster Care Benefits
- The Education and Training Voucher (ETV)
- Any private grants or scholarships
- Any institutional grants, waivers, or scholarships (for public institutions)

The remaining amount is your Fostering Independence Grant award for the term and/or you may receive additional grants, waivers, or scholarships if you are attending a private institution.

What happens next?

After the Office of Higher Education receives a copy of your FAFSA or Minnesota Alternative State Financial Aid Application, the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Family will confirm your Minnesota foster care experience. If you are eligible for the grant and have added a participating school to your application, you will be added to the roster of the institution and will receive an eligibility email from the Office of Higher Education.

How long can I receive the grant?

This is a need-based grant program that can cover all of your college expenses for up to five years. You must apply for the FAFSA or Minnesota Alternative State Financial Aid Application each year. Students enrolled in a two-year degree, certificate, or diploma program can only receive the grant for up to three years. Students enrolled in a four-year undergraduate degree program can only receive the grant for up to five years.



Important to note:

You must reapply for FAFSA or Minnesota Alternative State Financial Aid Application annually to continue receiving the Fostering Independence Grant.

Questions? Contact:

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