OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

State Financial Aid Manual

Fostering Independence Grant

2026-2027 Manual

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About the Minnesota Office of Higher Education

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education is a cabinet-level state agency providing students with financial aid programs and information to help them gain access to postsecondary education. The agency also serves as the state's clearinghouse for data, research and analysis on postsecondary enrollment, financial aid, finance and trends.

The Minnesota State Grant Program is the largest financial aid program administered by the Office of Higher Education, awarding up to $224 million in need-based grants to Minnesota residents attending accredited institutions in Minnesota. The agency oversees other state grant and scholarship programs, tuition reciprocity programs, a student loan program, Minnesota's 529 Institution Savings Plan, licensing and early college awareness programs for youth.

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Introduction

This manual is written for institutions eligible for and receiving funds on behalf of eligible students in the Fostering Independence Grant (FIG) program and is subject to all subsequent changes in both federal and Minnesota state laws and regulations governing the program. This manual is updated on a regular basis. Institutions are required to read all e-mail and written correspondence from the Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE) to keep informed of any changes in policy or guidance. Changes announced during the interim have the full force and effect of the State Financial Aid Manual. All participating institutions are responsible for designating a FIG contact on campus and notifying OHE about changes to the institutional contact information; including name, e-mail address, and phone number.

Program Objective

The objective of the program is to provide an individual under age 27 who is currently or was formerly in Minnesota foster care with grants for up to five years for higher education costs.

Definitions

Academic Year

An academic year is the period of time in which a full-time student is expected to complete the equivalent of at least two semesters, two trimesters, or three quarters; or at least 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours; or at least 900 clock hours. See the 'Common Definitions' chapter of this manual for more details.

Adoption

Adoption means the adoption of an individual who has been in the care and custody of a responsible social services agency or Tribal social services agency and in foster care. Adoption is a legal process that gives adoptive parents and adoptees (the persons being adopted) legal rights, benefits, and protections.

Award Year

An award year is the period of time between July 1 to June 30. It can also be referred to as the state fiscal year.

Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)

The Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families is a state agency established in July 2024. It is comprised of programs transferred from the Department of Human Services (DHS), Education (MDE), Health (MDH), and Public Safety (DPS) with the mission to advance equitable outcomes for children, youth, and families through transformative, partner-driven policies, and practices. The Education and Training Voucher and

Extended Foster Care programs are included in the transfer from DHS. The Minnesota Office of Higher Education has a data sharing agreement with DCYF to identify students for the Fostering Independence Grant.

Education and Training Voucher

The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) is a federal program administered by the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families. Current and former foster youth can receive up to $5,000 per academic year for post-secondary education at a college, university, vocational, technical, or trade school in the United States eligible to receive Federal Pell Grants.

Students must be under age 26, accepted into an accredited, Federal Pell Grant-eligible college, university, vocational, technical, or trade school. Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). They must be high school graduates or GED recipients, eligible to receive financial aid, and meet at least one of the following:

- Experienced foster care for 30 consecutive days at age 17
- Adopted from foster care at age 16 or older
- Had transfer of permanent legal and physical custody by the court from foster care at age 16 or older
- Under state or tribal guardianship, in foster care when turning 18, and parent's parental rights were terminated or suspended.

Extended Foster Care

Minnesota law allows youth that are in foster care immediately prior to their 18th birthday to receive extended foster care services and payments.

Six months prior to the youth's 18th birthday, the county or tribe will send a notice to the youth, their parent(s) or legal guardian, guardian ad litem and foster parents explaining options for the youth when they turn 18, which are:

- Continue in foster care up to age 21
- Leave foster care when they turn 18, in which case a personalized transition plan must be developed during the last 180 days they are in foster care

In some cases, youth who left foster care at age 18 may be able to return to care. All youth in extended foster care are eligible for foster care maintenance payments which include a basic rate and an assessed supplemental rate.

For youth living in a supervised independent living setting, the county or tribe may pay all or part of the foster care maintenance payment directly to the youth.

FIG Adjustment Request

The process for requesting adjustments to the financial aid data used to calculate a FIG award for a student after the student has already been paid for a term.

Foster Care

Foster Care in Minnesota is defined in state statute 260C.007, subdivision 18[1].

MNAid

MNAid is the program platform and student interface for several Minnesota Office of Higher Education financial aid programs. MNAid Access: https://mnaid.guarantorsolutions.com/ApplicationSignOn/

Minnesota Alternative State Financial Aid Application

Previously called the Minnesota Dream Act Application, undocumented students unable to complete the FAFSA use this application to apply for state financial aid and in-state tuition rates.

Other Financial Assistance (OFA)

Previously known as Estimated Financial Assistance (EFA), Other Financial Assistance (OFA) refers to all scholarships, grants, loans, or other assistance known to the institution at the time the determination of the student's need is made.

Eligibility

Eligible Institutions

An eligible institution means an eligible public institution or an eligible private institution.

- All public postsecondary institutions eligible to participate under Minnesota Statutes 136A.101, Subd. 4[2] and Agency Rules 4830.0300[3];
- All accredited private postsecondary institutions eligible to participate under Minnesota Statutes 136A.101, Subd. 4 and Agency Rules 4830.0300;
- All postsecondary institutions eligible to participate under Minnesota Statutes 136A.101, Subd. 4 and Agency Rules 4830.0300 that are in candidacy status for obtaining full accreditation and eligible for and receiving federal financial aid programs; and

[1] https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/260C.007#stat.260C.007.18

[2] https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.101

[3] https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4830.0300/

Eligible Public Institution

The University of Minnesota campuses and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities are considered eligible public institutions. Eligible public institutions are required to participate in the Fostering Independence Grant program.

Eligible, Participating Private Institution

An eligible, participating private institution is an institution eligible for Minnesota student aid that has not opted-out of the Fostering Independence Grant program. Tribal colleges not under the Minnesota State College and University system, private for-profit colleges and universities, and private non-profit colleges and universities are considered private institutions.

Eligible private institutions must complete an annual opt-out to not participate in the Fostering Independence Grant program. Eligible private institutions who choose to opt-out must complete the "Eligible Private Institution Opt-Out Election" by March 1 for the following academic year. The "Eligible Private Institution Opt-Out Election" is sent to the designated campus contact and must be completed online.

A student receiving FIG and enrolled in a participating private institution remains eligible at their current institution even if the institution opts out in subsequent years. The student remains eligible for FIG at the institution until the student graduates, transfers, ends enrollment, or no longer meets student eligibility for FIG.

Student Eligibility

Student eligibility for FIG can be met through one of two ways.

1. An individual who is eligible for the Minnesota Education and Training Voucher Program is eligible for the Fostering Independence Grant.

Or

2. If the individual is not eligible for the Education and Training Voucher Program, in order to receive a foster grant, an individual must:
    - Meet the definition of a Minnesota resident student under 136A.101, subdivision 8[4]
    - After the individual's 13th birthday, be in or have been in foster care in Minnesota before, on, or after June 27, 2021, including any of the following:
        i. Placement in foster care at any time while 13 years of age or older;
        ii. Adoption from foster care at any time after reaching 13 years of age; or
        iii. Placement from foster care with a permanent legal custodian at any time after reaching 13 years of age;

[4] https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.101#stat.136A.101.8

Students also must meet these requirements to receive FIG.

- Be younger than 27 years of age before September 1st of the annual award year
- Have graduated from high school or completed the equivalent as approved by the Department of Education
- Accepted for admission to, or be currently attending, an eligible institution
- Have submitted an annual FAFSA or Minnesota Alternative State Financial Aid Application
- Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress as defined by the institution attending
- Not be in default on any state or federal student educational loan
- Not be more than 30 days in arrears in court-ordered child support that is collected or enforced by the public authority responsible for child support enforcement or, if the applicant is more than 30 days in arrears in court-ordered child support that is collected or enforced by the public authority responsible for child support enforcement, be complying with a written payment agreement under section 518A.69 or order for arrearages
- Not have been convicted or pled nolo contendere or guilty to a crime involving fraud in obtaining federal Title IV funds within the meaning of Code of Federal Regulations, subtitle B, chapter VI, part 668, subpart C

A student designated with only a family arrangement kinship placement at age 13 or older are not considered eligible for the Fostering Independence Grant. Students need to be under foster care placement as defined by the State of Minnesota.

Application Process

Students apply by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Minnesota Alternative State Financial Aid application. For the 2026-2027 FAFSA, there is one question that must be answered affirmatively for the student to self-identify.

On section 5 of the FAFSA, students must check the box next to this statement:

At any time since the student turned 13, they were in foster care.

On the Minnesota Alternative State Financial Aid application, students must answer yes to the question:

At any time since you turned age 13, were you in foster care?

Checking the foster care question affirmatively will generate SAR Comment Code 285 on the student's Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR). If students fail to answer yes, they can make a correction to their FAFSA and it will be reviewed for potential FIG eligibility.

Students are only confirmed as FIG-eligible one time. Failure to answer one of the questions above for a different award year will not change eligibility for the program after the student has been confirmed by DCYF, but they must answer affirmatively to one of the statements above each award year.

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education receives ISIRs for all students who have a Minnesota address or add a Minnesota post-secondary institution to their FAFSA application. The Minnesota Alternative State Financial Aid application is administered and managed by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.

Data-Sharing Agreement

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE) has a data-sharing agreement with the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to confirm foster care placement in Minnesota.

The personal identifiable information of applicants under age 27 who answer yes to the foster care questions on the FAFSA or MN Alternative State Financial Aid Application is sent to the ETV Coordinator at DCYF to determine the following for each student record:

1. Was the student in Minnesota foster care at age 13 or older? Yes or No
2. If yes to #1, does the student meet initial eligibility for the Education and Training Voucher? Yes or No
3. If yes to #1, is the student receiving Minnesota extended foster care benefits? Yes or No

The results from DCYF are returned to OHE and added to the student records in MNAid. Students with a "Yes" for #1 are added to the **Submit Financial Data** roster in MNAid to the first eligible institution the student added to their FAFSA.

Award Calculation

Verification

If a student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application is selected for verification by Federal Student Aid, the institution is responsible for verifying the accuracy of data provided on the student's application using procedures and tolerances established for federal Title IV financial aid programs. Verification must be resolved before calculating the Fostering Independence Grant award.

Cost of Attendance for FIG

Public Institution - For the purposes of calculating the FIG award amount, the recognized cost of attendance for a public institution is the student's federal cost of attendance (COA). Any COA budget adjustment for a public institution is included in the recognized cost of attendance except for budget adjustments for study abroad or study away.

Private Institution – For the purposes of calculating the FIG award amount, the recognized cost of attendance for a private institution is the lessor of the highest public institution cost of attendance (2-year COA, or 4-year COA) for the given award year or the student's federal cost of attendance. If the lesser COA is the student's federal cost of attendance, any COA budget adjustment is included in the recognized cost of attendance except for budget adjustments for study abroad or study away. Private Institutions will always enter the student's actual cost of attendance when submitting financial data to OHE.

Submit Financial Data

Students considered for FIG awards are added to the institution's award year **Submit Financial Data** roster in the Fostering Independence Grant module in MNAid.

Institutions should submit information for students who are registered for classes, have satisfied all verification requirements, and are packaged for aid. The **Submit Financial Data** roster must be reviewed monthly throughout the award year. Institutions should regularly provide updates as packaging and awards are added to student accounts at their institution. Students who have not been packaged for the current award year should be left on the **Submit Financial Data** roster.

Instructions for reviewing the Submit Financial Data roster

1. Click on **Submit Financial Data** to view the roster.
2. Users will see the roster of students to review. The academic year can be changed at the at the top of the page. Click on the Social Security Number to provide information on a student.
3. Users will fill in the relevant sections.

    - Complete information for all terms packaged. If you are submitting data for the Fall semester, provide all data information for the Fall and Spring semesters, if you have packaged both.
    - When submitting Cost of Attendance data, remember to separate the COA by term. Use the student's actual federally recognized COA for each term.
    - Include all adjustments to the COA except for Study Abroad adjustments.
    - For the Student Aid Index (SAI), enter by term. SAI cannot be prorated, so the SAI will be same for all enrollment periods. If the student has a positive SAI and the student's enrollment period is packaged for two terms, the SAI will be split in half and entered into both terms. (Example: For a student with an SAI of 1500 packaged Fall/Spring, the SAI would be entered as 750 for Fall and 750 for Spring.)
    - More detail on each category:

Title	Additional Information
Enrolled Credits	Currently enrolled credits or estimated credits
Cost of Attendance (COA)	The student's individual federal cost of attendance. Include any approved COA adjustments except for adjustments made for study abroad.
Portion of COA attributed to Housing	The amount of COA that has been designated for housing.
Student Aid Index (SAI) – if negative, enter zero	The Student Aid Index for the term.
PELL Grant	Pell awards based on registered credits or estimated credits assuming full-time enrollment.
Minnesota State Grant	MN SG awards based on registered credits or estimated credits assuming full-time enrollment.

Title	Additional Information
Federal SEOG	Federal SEOG awards based on registered credit or estimated credits assuming full-time enrollment.
Tribal Scholarships	Any approved Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program (MISP) or tribal scholarships.
Other State/Federal Aid	Financial Aid from other federal or state aid programs (MN Child Care Grant, MN GI Bill, TEACH Grant, etc.) Does not include Federal, State, or Private student loans or Federal Veterans (GI) Education benefits. Federal or State Work Study should not be included unless approved by OHE Staff.
Non-Institutional Awards (Outside Scholarships, 3rd Party Funds, etc.)	Non-federal, non-state, non-institutional funding from third parties or outside entities.
Institutional Grants, Scholarships, Waivers (Public Only)	Grants or scholarships provided directly from the institution or waivers for any charged tuition, fees, housing, meal plans, books and/or supplies. Includes the American Indian Scholars Program.

4. After you complete the fields, click “Save”. This will remove it from your **Submit Financial Data** roster.
5. Students with potential Education and Training Voucher (ETV) eligibility will move to the ETV Coordinator to review for ETV awarding. After the ETV Coordinator has completed their review and awarding, the students will move to the “Certification” roster in MNAid.
6. Students without potential ETV eligibility, will move directly to the “Certification” roster in MNAid.

Award Calculation

Award Calculation - Public Institution

The student’s actual, federal cost of attendance is the amount used to calculate FIG at a public institution. Cost of attendance adjustments are included in the total cost of attendance. The only exception are adjustments for study abroad or study away. Study abroad or study away adjustments are not included in the calculation of the Fostering Independence Grant. After establishing the cost of attendance, MNAid will subtract the student’s:

1. Student Aid Index by term
2. Federal Pell Grant award
3. Minnesota State Grant award
4. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
5. Tribal scholarships
6. Other state and federal aid
7. Education and Training Voucher award
8. Extended Foster Care benefits
9. Non-Institutional Awards (Outside Scholarships, 3rd Party Funds, etc.)
10. Institutional Grants, Scholarships, Waivers

The remaining amount will be the Fostering Independence Grant. Calculations are made for each term of enrollment. The SAI cannot be pro-rated, but is divided by the number of terms in the enrollment period. The calculation of FIG is completed in MNAid.

Award Calculation - Participating Private Institution

The highest 2-year public institution cost of attendance or highest 4-year public institution cost of attendance is the recognized cost of attendance to calculate the Fostering Independence Grant for private institutions. The actual federal cost of attendance will be used for the FIG calculation if it is lower than the 2-year or 4-year highest public COA. After establishing the recognized cost of attendance, MNAid will subtract the student's:

1. Student Aid Index by term
2. Federal Pell Grant award
3. Minnesota State Grant award
4. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
5. Tribal scholarships
6. Other state and federal aid
7. Education and Training Voucher award
8. Extended Foster Care benefits
9. Non-Institutional Awards (Outside Scholarships, 3rd Party Funds, etc.)

The remaining amount will be the Fostering Independence Grant. Calculations are made for each term of enrollment. The SAI cannot be prorated but is divided by the number of terms in the enrollment period. The calculation of FIG is completed in MNAid.

When submitting the COA information on the **Submit Financial Data** roster, institutions should always provide the student's actual federal COA (excluding any study abroad adjustments). MNAid will determine if the student's actual COA is higher than the highest recognized public COA.

Private Institution Financial Responsibility

Private institutions with an actual cost of attendance higher than the highest public institution cost of attendance must provide institutional grants, scholarships, tuition waivers, or tuition remission in an amount equal to the difference between the student's actual cost of attendance and the sum of the foster grant and the items #1-9 listed above under "Award Calculation – Participating Private Institutions."

Cost of Attendance Adjustments

Expense adjustments to the COA can only be made for those items not already accounted for in the cost of attendance unless they are in excess of the amount already included within the cost of attendance. All cost of attendance adjustments through professional judgment with documentation are considered in the student's cost of attendance for the Fostering Independence Grant except for study abroad adjustments.

Study Abroad adjustments to cost of attendance are not used in the calculation of the Fostering Independence Grant. Students with study abroad adjustments can receive student loans or work study based on individual eligibility.

Consortium Agreements and Multiple Schools

Any adjustment to a student's aid or cost of attendance from the result of an approved consortium agreement must be reflected in the financial data submitted for the FIG calculation.

Students attending more than one institution during a term can only receive the Fostering Independence Grant at the institution where they are receiving state and federal financial aid. Students are responsible for inquiring with their home institution on the process of completing a consortium agreement.

ETV and Extended Foster Care

Students listed as "ETV Eligible", are not necessarily receiving ETV funds. DCYF has limited funding for the ETV program. After submitting information in MNAid for the **Submit Financial Data** section for a student who is "ETV Eligible", the ETV Coordinator will review the information and determine if there is enough funding to award the student based on their awarding criteria.

When the student has reached the **Certification** roster in MNAid, campus users will see the student's ETV award and Extended Foster Care information when clicking on "View" under "Financial Data".

For ETV, the student submits receipts for college-related expenses to DCYF and then is reimbursed up to their award amount. It is possible a student will request funds be sent to the institution they are attending. A check will be mailed to the institution's business office and will include "ETV" after the student ID number. Starting with the 2024-2025 award year, ETV is not considered Other Financial Assistance (OFA), but is included in the calculation of FIG. If a student receives an ETV award, they can potentially receive a student loan and/or work study for the ETV award amount based on individual eligibility.

Extended Foster Care is also not considered OFA, but is included in the calculation of FIG. If a student has Extended Foster Care, they can potentially receive a student loan and/or work-study based on individual eligibility.

Federal Student Aid Dear Colleague Letter GEN-13-18 describes the treatment of extended foster care payments that are made directly to the student when determining Title IV federal student aid eligibility. This letter explains why Extended Foster Care is not considered OFA: https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/dear-colleague-letters/2013-07-03/gen-13-18-subject-extended-foster-care-payments

Federal Student Aid Dear Colleague Letter GEN-23-11 describes the treatment of the Education and Training Voucher when determining Title IV federal student aid eligibility. This letter explains why the Education and Training Voucher is not considered OFA: https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/dear-colleague-letters/2023-08-04/fafsa-simplification-act-changes-implementation-2024-25

Waitlist Process

If the projected remaining award year budget or remaining funds are lower than the award year's anticipated need, a waitlist will be implemented. The waitlist process is built directly into MNAid. To support the waitlist, a priority deadline is published on the Office of Higher Education FIG website each year for students to submit the FAFSA or Minnesota Alternative State Financial Aid application.

When enacted, students who have **Submit Financial Data** entered will be put into the waitlist queue. Students will be prioritized for awards using the following criteria:

1. Submission of the FAFSA or Minnesota Alternative State Financial Aid application before the priority deadline
2. Students who received FIG in the prior award year
3. Submission date for the FAFSA or Minnesota Alternative State Financial Aid application after the priority deadline

Students approved from the waitlist will move to Certification. ETV-eligible students who reach Certification but have changes that require another review by the ETV coordinator will remain approved from the waitlist.

The waitlist will have two cycles within an award year. The first cycle of the waitlist includes Summer 1, Fall, Winter, Spring. The second cycle is for Summer 2.

Certification

The **Certification** roster in MNAid will display students eligible to receive FIG based on the financial information provided by the institution, the result of any ETV awards, and if the student is receiving Extended Foster Care payments. Institutions should wait to certify the students on their rosters until after all other financial aid, scholarships, and third-party awards have been calculated or applied to the student's account.

The **Certification** roster opens for institutions based on the following schedule:

Term	Dates
Summer 1 (Header)	August 1st
Fall	August 1st
Winter	December 1st
Spring	January 1st
Summer 2 (Trailer)	May 1st

Instructions on reviewing the **Certification** roster are available in Appendix A.

Eligibility Notifications and Award Notifications

OHE sends annual initial eligibility emails to students after receiving confirmation of FIG eligibility from DCYF. Eligible students who list a participating, eligible institution on their FAFSA are sent an email with the institution listed. Eligible students who do not have a participating, eligible institution on their FAFSA are sent a separate email notifying them that they meet requirements for the program, but have not listed a participating, eligible institution. No amounts are included in the email. A sample email is available in Appendix C.

Students should be notified of their FIG award amounts through the typical awarding process at each institution. Institutions may choose to wait and notify students since actual award amounts require enrollment and all other grants, scholarships, and waivers to be finalized. Suggested award emails for public and private institutions are in Appendix D and E.

Limit on Number of Annual Awards

Students completing requirements for a 2-year program are limited to three years of receipt. Students completing requirements for a 4-year program are limited to five years of receipt. Receiving FIG for a 2-year program will count towards the five years of receipt if the student starts a 2-year program and moves to a 4-year program. Students who reach age 27 are no longer eligible for FIG even if they have remaining terms of receipt remaining.

Award receipt is tracked at OHE in MNAid using Minnesota Units. Three years of FIG receipt is equivalent to 72 Minnesota units. Five years of FIG receipt is equivalent to 120 Minnesota units.

Students who meet all other eligibility requirements are eligible for FIG until they have exceeded the unit total for the institution/program type. (Example: A student completing a 4-year degree with FIG usage of 118.9 Minnesota units. This student is eligible to receive one more term of FIG for their 4-year degree. They are no longer eligible FIG for a two-year program as they have usage higher than 72 units.)

Minnesota Units for FIG are calculated using the following chart.

Credits Per Term	Clock Hours Per Week	Units for Quarter	Units for Semester
15+	30+	8	12
14	28-29	7.5	11.2
13	26-27	6.9	10.4
12	24-25	6.4	9.6
11	22-23	5.9	8.8
10	20-21	5.3	8.0
9	18-19	4.8	7.2
8	16-17	4.3	6.4
7	14-15	3.7	5.6
6	12-13	3.2	4.8
5	10-11	2.7	4.0
4	8-9	2.1	3.2

Credits Per Term	Clock Hours Per Week	Units for Quarter	Units for Semester
3	6-7	1.6	2.4
2	4-5	1.1	1.6
1	2-3	.5	.8

A student's total FIG usage is displayed in MNAid at the bottom of the student's FIG record. Program totals and remaining eligibility are displayed as:

Total Units: **XX.XXXX**
Remaining Eligible Units 2-year (72): **XX.XXXX**
Remaining Eligible Units 4-year (120): **XX.XXXX**
Total Cumulative Award: **$XX,XXX**

Students who have reached 72 units will have a warning at the top of their FIG record stating that they are no longer eligible for FIG for a 2-year program. Students who reach 120 units will have an ineligibility message at the top of their FIG record and will not show up on any institution's **Submit Financial Data** roster. Similar messages are displayed on the MNAid student portal if a student has set up a student access account for MNAid.

Enrollment Changes

Enrollment changes during a term may result in the return of FIG funds. Below are scenarios and requirements.

Total Withdrawals

Before FIG is applied: Do not apply FIG to the student's account. Students are not eligible for FIG if at the time of initial disbursement, the student is not actively enrolled. If payment has already been sent to the institution, but the aid has not been applied to the student's account, a FIG Adjustment Request must be submitted.

After FIG has been applied: Do not recalculate the award or include it in the State Refund calculation. The award will stay the same and will not be adjusted.

Partial Withdrawals

Before FIG is applied: Use the updated enrollment level and current award amounts in the calculation. If the student's federal COA is adjusted due to the withdrawal, provide the new COA.

After FIG has been applied: No award adjustments.

Never Attended

If the student never attended any courses, the student is not eligible to receive FIG. Any FIG funds applied to the student's account must be returned. A FIG Adjustment Request must be submitted if funds were sent to the institution.

Dropped Courses

If the student successfully drops one or more courses after FIG has been applied, you will need to complete a FIG Adjustment Request with the updated enrollment level and any financial data award changes.

Retroactive Payments

A student is eligible for a retroactive payment for a past term if the student is currently enrolled in a subsequent term, provided the student currently meets all program eligibility requirements as of the date of the disbursement and the award year has not been closed out. If the payment is for a term that has already been completed, the disbursement must be based on the enrollment levels and cost of attendance at the end of the term.

Only Earned F Grades

Students who have not received FIG and have earned only F grades for the term are not eligible for FIG for the term.

North Star Promise

In the order of enactment for state financial aid programs, the North Star Promise (NSP) is calculated after FIG. Since FIG awards go up to the student's full cost of attendance and NSP only goes up to actual tuition and fees, most students will only receive FIG even if they could also receive NSP. Below are some scenarios where a FIG-eligible student could receive NSP.

Scenario #1:

SAI	16,000
Cost of Attendance	$18,000
Tuition and Fees	$6,000
Other Aid (Pell/MSG)	$0
Adjusted Gross Income	Under $80,000

This student's SAI is very close to the COA. Since they have no other aid sources, they would receive a $2000 FIG award and then a $4000 NSP award to cover the remaining tuition and fees. **This scenario will be rare since most FIG recipients have a zero or negative SAI.**

Scenario #2:

SAI	19,000
Cost of Attendance	$18,000
Tuition and Fees	$6,000

SAI	19,000
Other Aid (Pell/MSG)	$0
Adjusted Gross Income	Under $80,000

This student's SAI is higher than the COA, which means the student will not receive a FIG award. Since they have no other aid sources and are not eligible for FIG, they would receive a $6000 NSP award to cover all of the tuition and fees. **This scenario will be rare since most FIG recipients have a zero or negative SAI.**

NSP is not a need-based program, therefore SAI is not included in the NSP calculation. Refer to the NSP manual for guidance on awarding NSP.

Summer Awards

Students are eligible to receive FIG for a summer term as a header or trailer.

Institutions with a trailing summer term, should review their prior-term award rosters to determine if students are registered for summer. Students previously on the **Submit Financial Data** roster for fall or spring will not show up on the roster for summer if data was submitted for a prior term in the same award year.

Award rules and processing are the same for a summer term as a fall or spring term.

The highest 2-year and 4-year public COA for summer terms is viewable under the Award Rules for FIG in MNAid.

Disbursements to Student Accounts

Disbursements must be based on the student's status as of the date of disbursement or the institution's add/drop date for the semester or term, whichever is later.

If a student withdraws or fails to meet another program eligibility requirement prior to disbursement, it is possible the student may not receive funding for that term.

Institutions may not make a payment to a student for a payment period or term until the student has registered for classes during that payment period or term.

Institutions are liable for all funds that are disbursed to a registered student prior to the start of the enrollment period if that student fails to begin the enrollment period.

Institutions must reimburse program funds disbursed to a student prior to the start of the enrollment period if the institution cannot document the student began attending classes.

All other related disbursement guidelines used for the State Grant program apply to the Fostering Independence Grant including determination of disbursement date, acceptable methods of disbursement, student authorization for Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) transactions, student account balance requirements and other applicable guidelines described in the 'Disbursement Process' section of the State Grant chapter in the Financial Aid Manual.

Uncashed Checks or Incomplete Overages

If an institution attempts to disburse funds by check or EFT transaction to the student, and the check is returned to the institution or the EFT transaction is rejected, the institution may make additional attempts to disburse the funds to the student, provided those attempts take place within 45 days after the funds were returned or rejected. If no additional attempts to disburse funds are made, the funds must be returned to the program within that 45-day period. If an institution attempts to disburse funds by check to the student and the check is not cashed, the institution must return funds to the program within 240 days of the check being issued.

If a school cannot locate a student to whom a state financial aid credit balance must be paid, the school must return the credit balance to the appropriate state financial aid program. The Agency does not specify how a school should determine which financial aid funds created the credit balance. However, when possible, the Agency encourages schools to return state financial aid fund balances to the SELF Loan program first to reduce the likelihood of default. The school is permitted to retain any interest earned on the student's credit balance funds.

Adjustments

Adjustments Before Certification

Any adjustments to financial data used to determine a student's FIG award can and should be made by the institution before certification is completed. Adjustments are made by looking a student up under **Quick View** in MNAid and clicking on the student's FIG award year record. Campus users can scroll down to the **Financial Data** section and make updates to any previously submitted information.

Changes made under **Quick View** will update the award calculation on the **Certification** roster.

If the student is ETV eligible, any changes made in Quick View will require review by the ETV coordinator. After submitting changes, the student's record will be moved to the ETV coordinator to determine if the ETV award amount will change. After it is reviewed by the ETV Coordinator, the record will return to your **Certification** roster. ETV awards can be added, increased, decreased, or removed entirely based on the new financial data information.

Campus users should compare award information at their campus with the information in MNAid, to ensure it is the same before completing certification.

Adjustments After Payment

Individual student adjustments are not accessible by campus users in MNAid after a payment has been sent to the institution for a term. If an adjustment is required, campus users must complete a FIG Adjustment Request. Changes will be made by OHE staff in the MNAid system. After a request has been approved campus users will receive an email explaining the change in the FIG award calculation and steps to return funds to OHE. The FIG Adjustment Request can be found here[5] or in Appendix F.

Within 30 days of any approved adjustments resulting in a refund, the institution must make any necessary refunds to OHE. When returning FIG funds to OHE, you must include the Minnesota Office of Higher Education Refund Return Form.

Required changes after payment

Institutions must complete an adjustment request if any of the following occur:

- The number of enrolled credits has changed. Withdrawals do not require an adjustment, but dropped courses the student never attended require an adjustment.
- The student's cost of attendance has changed.
- A new award has been added or increased.
- An award has been removed or decreased, but not from an R2T4 adjustment
- A data entry error was previously made.

Changes that do not require an adjustment include:

- A student withdraws from a course but remains in other courses.
- A course is coded as "Never Attended", but they remain in other courses.
- A R2T4 is completed for a student, and a balance is created due to changes in other awards.

Annual Report

The Office of Higher Education shall prepare an anonymized report to be submitted annually to the chairperson and minority chairperson of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over higher education that contains:

1. The number of students receiving foster grants and the institutions attended; and
2. Annual retention and graduation data on students receiving foster grants.

The report may be combined with other legislatively required reporting. If submitted as a separate report, the report must be submitted by January 15 each year. The annual report is available on the OHE website.

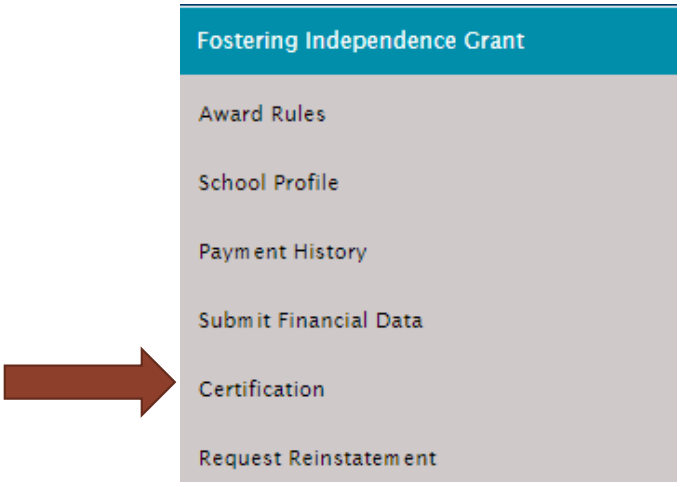
[5] https://tinyurl.com/2chanafr

Appendix A: Certification Roster Instructions

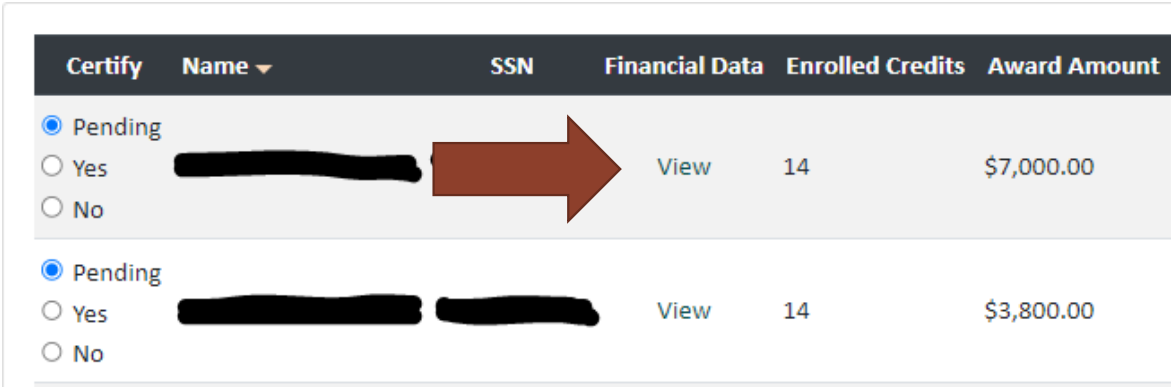
The following are instructions for completing the **Certification** section in the Fostering Independence Grant (FIG) module in MNAid.

OHE recommends completing this section of a student's FIG record after all payments have been calculated and applied to the student's account for the term you are reviewing. As a last dollar cost of attendance program, this should be the last award applied to a student's account.

1. **Click on "Certification" to view your roster.**



2. **Before certifying a student, click on "View" under "Financial Data".**



3. **Compare the financial data on this pop-up window with the information in your campus system. If any of the numbers have changed since you previously completed "Submit Financial Data", you will need to update the information. Please review the guidance below depending on whether or not you are a public institutions or private intuition.**

   - Public Institutions: Public institutions show must report any institutional grants, scholarships, or waivers and do not have Private Institutional Responsibility.

	FALL 2026-2027
Enrolled Credits	6
Cost of Attendance (COA)	$10,736.00
Portion of COA attributed to Housing	$4,928.00
Student Aid Index (SAI)	$0.00
PELL Grant	$1,849.00
Minnesota State Grant	$444.00
Federal SEOG	$0.00
Tribal Scholarships	$0.00
Other State/Federal Aid	$0.00
Non-Institutional Awards (Outside Scholarships, 3rd Party Funds, etc.)	$0.00
Institutional Grants, Scholarships, Waivers (Public Only)	$0.00
Extended Foster Care	$0.00
DCYF Education Training Voucher	$0.00
Private Institutional Responsibility (calculated)	*n/a*

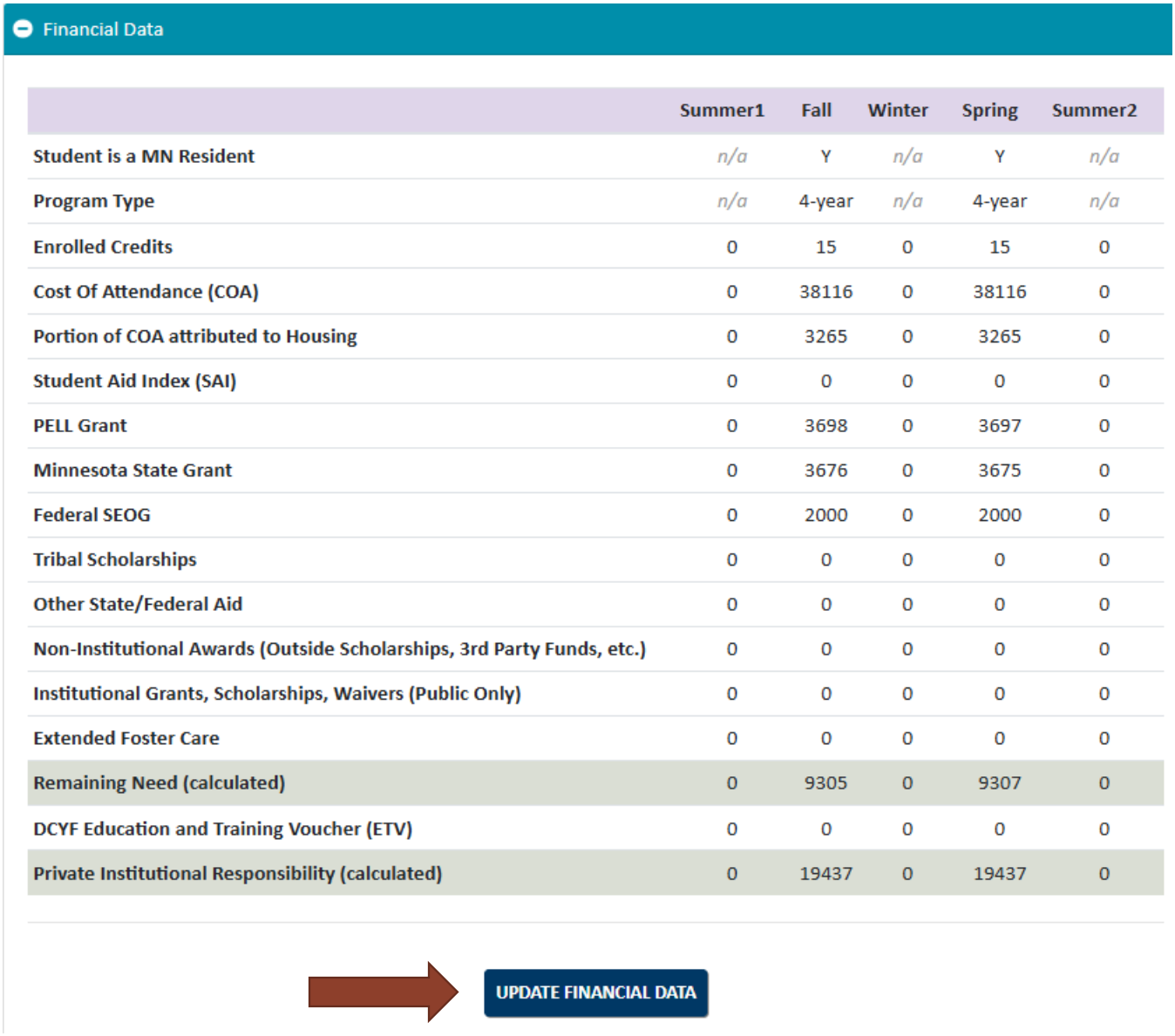
- Private Institutions: Private institutions can see their Private Institutional Responsibility at the bottom of this section.

	FALL 2026-2027
Enrolled Credits	15
Cost of Attendance (COA)	$38,611.00
Portion of COA attributed to Housing	$3,760.00
Student Aid Index (SAI)	$0.00
PELL Grant	$3,698.00
Minnesota State Grant	$0.00
Federal SEOG	$2,000.00
Tribal Scholarships	$0.00
Other State/Federal Aid	$0.00
Non-Institutional Awards (Outside Scholarships, 3rd Party Funds, etc.)	$0.00
Institutional Grants, Scholarships, Waivers (Public Only)	$0.00
Extended Foster Care	$0.00
DCYF Education Training Voucher	$0.00
Private Institutional Responsibility (calculated)	$19,932.00

4. **To make any updates, look the student up under "Quick View" and click on the appropriate program year for the Fostering Independence Grant.**

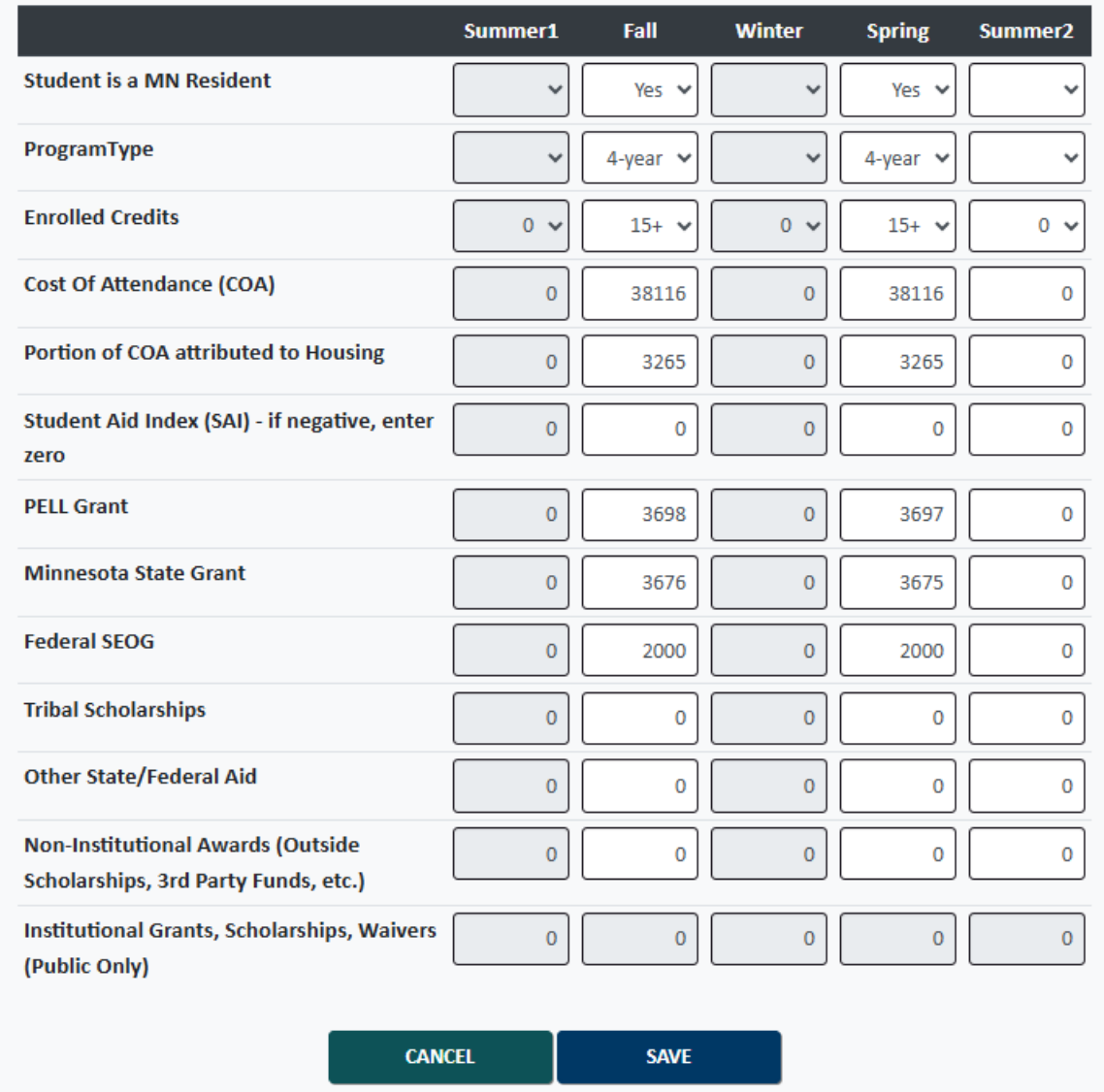


5. Scroll down to the "Financial Data" section and click on "Update Financial Data".



	Summer1	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer2
Student is a MN Resident	*n/a*	Y	*n/a*	Y	*n/a*
Program Type	*n/a*	4-year	*n/a*	4-year	*n/a*
Enrolled Credits	0	15	0	15	0
Cost Of Attendance (COA)	0	38116	0	38116	0
Portion of COA attributed to Housing	0	3265	0	3265	0
Student Aid Index (SAI)	0	0	0	0	0
PELL Grant	0	3698	0	3697	0
Minnesota State Grant	0	3676	0	3675	0
Federal SEOG	0	2000	0	2000	0
Tribal Scholarships	0	0	0	0	0
Other State/Federal Aid	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Institutional Awards (Outside Scholarships, 3rd Party Funds, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0
Institutional Grants, Scholarships, Waivers (Public Only)	0	0	0	0	0
Extended Foster Care	0	0	0	0	0
Remaining Need (calculated)	0	9305	0	9307	0
DCYF Education and Training Voucher (ETV)	0	0	0	0	0
Private Institutional Responsibility (calculated)	0	19437	0	19437	0

6. **A screen will pop-up allowing you to update any term that has not already been paid. Make all necessary changes and then click "Save".**



	Summer1	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer2
Student is a MN Resident		Yes		Yes	
ProgramType		4-year		4-year	
Enrolled Credits	0	15+	0	15+	0
Cost Of Attendance (COA)	0	38116	0	38116	0
Portion of COA attributed to Housing	0	3265	0	3265	0
Student Aid Index (SAI) - if negative, enter zero	0	0	0	0	0
PELL Grant	0	3698	0	3697	0
Minnesota State Grant	0	3676	0	3675	0
Federal SEOG	0	2000	0	2000	0
Tribal Scholarships	0	0	0	0	0
Other State/Federal Aid	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Institutional Awards (Outside Scholarships, 3rd Party Funds, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0
Institutional Grants, Scholarships, Waivers (Public Only)	0	0	0	0	0

CANCEL SAVE

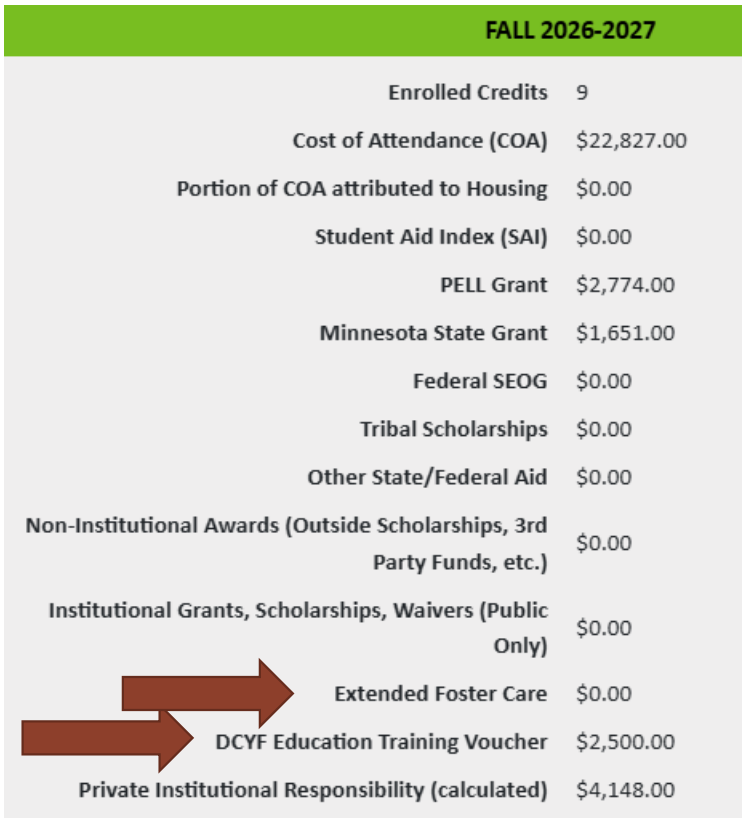
7. **Close and then reopen the "Certification" roster. The changes you made will reflect in the FIG award amount.**

8. **If you have made updates to any of the financial data items and the student does not show up on the "Certification" roster it can be for one of two reasons.**

   - The student is no longer eligible for FIG, or
   - The student is "ETV Eligible" and needs to be reviewed by the ETV Coordinator to determine if the changes you made to the financial data will impact the ETV award. Check your "Certification" roster a

few days later to see what the updated information is after the ETV Coordinator has completed the review. You can review the current status at the top of the student's FIG award year record. Students with the status of "Pending ETV Data" are being reviewed by the ETV Coordinator.

9. **Open "View" under "Financial Data" again to see if there are any amounts for "Extended Foster Care" or "DCYF Education Training Voucher".**



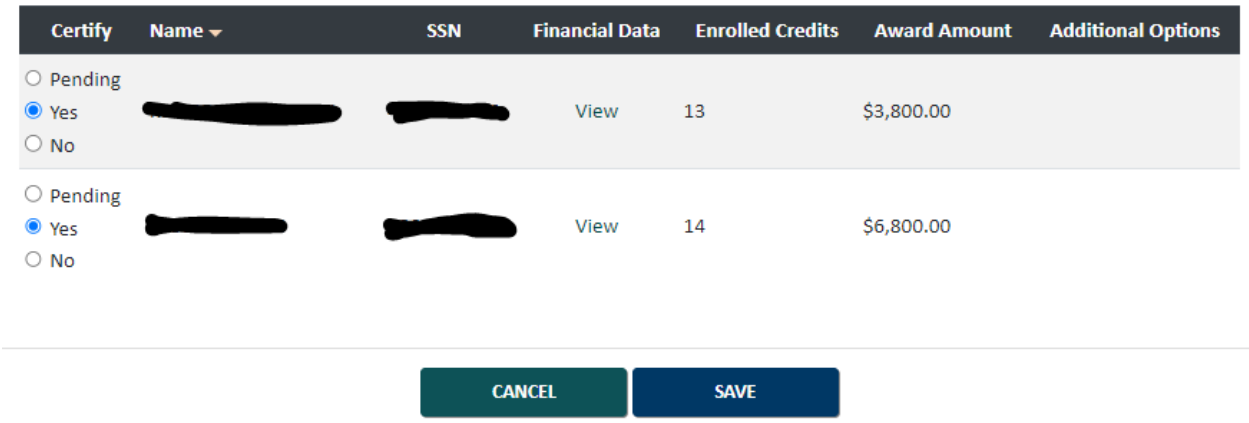
FALL 2026-2027	
Enrolled Credits	9
Cost of Attendance (COA)	$22,827.00
Portion of COA attributed to Housing	$0.00
Student Aid Index (SAI)	$0.00
PELL Grant	$2,774.00
Minnesota State Grant	$1,651.00
Federal SEOG	$0.00
Tribal Scholarships	$0.00
Other State/Federal Aid	$0.00
Non-Institutional Awards (Outside Scholarships, 3rd Party Funds, etc.)	$0.00
Institutional Grants, Scholarships, Waivers (Public Only)	$0.00
Extended Foster Care	$0.00
DCYF Education Training Voucher	$2,500.00
Private Institutional Responsibility (calculated)	$4,148.00

10. **If there are no amounts for these two programs, you can move to certifying the payment request. If you see amounts for either program, OHE recommends the following:**

- **Extended Foster Care:** This is used in the calculation of FIG, but does not count in a student's COA as it is not considered Other Financial Assistance (OFA) by Federal Student Aid (FSA). This means, students can potentially receive student loans or work study for the amount listed.
- **DCYF Education Training Voucher:** This is used in the calculation of FIG, but does not count in a student's COA as it is not considered Other Financial Assistance (OFA) by Federal Student Aid (FSA). This means, students can potentially receive student loans or work study for the amount listed.

11. You will now choose one of the following actions:

- Select “Yes” under the Certify section. This is your institution’s formal request to OHE for the award amount listed. Add the award to the student’s account. Click “Save” to complete the request. A payment will be sent to your institution within a week.
- Select “No” if the student has earned a bachelor’s degree before payment or if the student is on SAP financial aid suspension. Click “Save” to remove the student from your Certification roster.
- Leave as “Pending” if you are not prepared to change the status, although this is only considered a temporary status.
- If the student never attended the term or is no longer attending at the time of certification, go back to Quick View, look the student up under the year specific FIG record, and change all financial data to zero. This will remove the student from your Certification roster.



Appendix: B: Initial Eligibility Email

Subject: Minnesota Fostering Independence Grant Program 2026-2027

MNAid ID: XXXXXXX

Dear FIRSTNAME LASTNAME:

Congratulations! Based on information you submitted on your 20265-20276 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Minnesota Alternative State Financial Application and confirmed by the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth and Families, you meet initial requirements for the Minnesota Fostering Independence Grant.

This is a financial aid program for Minnesota students previously in foster care. Eligible students attending a participating college or university can have their full cost of attendance covered through a combination of financial aid, scholarships, waivers, and other foster care benefits. More information including eligible institutions is available on the Minnesota Office of Higher Education website: https://ohe.mn.gov/grant-scholarship/fostering-independence-higher-education-grants.

Based on the colleges you added to your FAFSA or Minnesota Dream Act Alternative State Financial Aid Application, we have added you to the roster of XXXXXXXXXXX. This is an eligible, participating Fostering Independence Grant institution. Work with the financial aid office at your institution to ensure you are completing all necessary steps and paperwork to receive an award notice. Your financial aid office will need to finalize your financial aid package before the Minnesota Office of Higher Education can calculate how much of a Fostering Independence Grant you can receive.

The Fostering Independence Grant priority deadline is May 1, 20265 for the 20265-20276 award year. Students who complete their 20265-20276 FAFSA or Minnesota Alternative State Financial Aid Application by the priority deadline will be considered for the Fostering Independence Grant before those who complete their application after this date. The priority deadline will only be used if there is a projected funding shortfall for the award year.

If you are attending an institution different from the listed above, please notify the Minnesota Office of Higher Education using the contact information below to move your application to a different institution.

This notice is not a guarantee that you will receive the Fostering Independence Grant. There are additional eligibility requirements that must be completed at the institution you are attending. Each college or university has determined their own cost of attendance and therefore the amount of the Fostering Independence Grant will be different depending on the institution you attend and what other forms of aid you receive. Additionally, some students receive enough funding through other sources to not need a Fostering Independence Grant.

OHE recommends you create a user account in the Minnesota Aid Student Portal (MNAid) to track your Fostering Independence Grant status and awards along with other state financial aid programs that are administered in MNAid. Create a username and password here: https://mnaid.guarantorsolutions.com/StudentPortal/

If you have any questions, please contact the financial aid office at the college you are attending or the Fostering Independence Grant unit at the Minnesota Office of Higher Education by phone at (651) 642-0567 or by email at adam.d.johnson@state.mn.us

Sincerely,

Minnesota Office of Higher Education

Appendix C: Sample Award Notification Public Institution

Fostering Independence Grant

Sample Award Notification - Public Schools- Fall 2026

Below is suggested language institutions can use as an award notice for the Fostering Independence Grant. Information in **red** are where you can personalize or provide alternative guidance to students. Feel free to add additional information where appropriate.

First Name Last Name (Student ID#),

Congratulations, you have been awarded the Fostering Independence Grant (FIG) for the 2026-2027 academic year.

You will receive **{$ amount}** for the Fall 2026 semester and are estimated to receive **{$ amount}** for the Spring 2027 based on {XX} Spring enrolled credits and known financial aid. This is a need-based state financial aid program to fund the last dollar of your cost of attendance at **{school name}** after you have been awarded other grants, scholarships, and/or waivers.

(Include this information if the student is receiving ETV): You have also been awarded the Minnesota Education and Training Voucher (ETV). Action is required by you to access ETV funds. You should have received an email from the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families with instructions on accessing your award. ETV funds can be used for college-related expenses like tuition or rent. Contact the ETV program at dcyf.etvcoordinator@state.mn.us with any questions on accessing your ETV. You will also be contacted by Youthprise. They are the contracted partner for the ETV program. You can often access these funds earlier than your FIG funds.

How was the Fostering Independence Grant calculated?

First, **{school name}** determined your cost of attendance based on your enrollment level and program.

The following are then 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 or scholarships
- Any waivers or remission

The remaining amount is your Fostering Independence Grant award for the term.

What is my cost of attendance?

It is the estimated cost of attending college. It includes tuition, fees, books, supplies, housing, food, transportation, and personal expenses. The amount of each category is set by the college every year. There may be several different costs of attendance at a college based on a student's program or housing situation. Your enrollment level can also change your cost of attendance. **Check with the Financial Aid Office or search on the college website to see a breakdown of the cost of attendance.**

Can I appeal my cost of attendance?

Students with exceptional and/or unique educationally-related expenses may appeal to increase their cost of attendance. Common scenarios that may qualify a student for an increased cost of attendance include: child care expenses, significant medical/dental expenses paid during the academic year, special course fees, and disability expenses. **Check with the Financial Aid Office on the appeal process.**

Are all items in my cost of attendance included in the Fostering Independence Grant calculation?

Generally, yes. The only cost of attendance adjustment not included in the calculation is for study abroad or study away adjustments.

Can my award change?

Yes. If you receive a new or increased grant, scholarship, or waiver after receiving the Fostering Independent Grant, your FIG award will be reduced by the same amount. You could also receive an increase in your Fostering Independence Grant if a grant, scholarship, or waiver is removed from your account.

How do other college Foster Care programs impact the Fostering Independence Grant calculation?

Extended Foster Care Benefits and Education & Training Voucher funds are included in the calculation of your FIG award. If you receive either of these benefits, they are subtracted from your FIG award.

Can I take out federal student loans?

Most students who receive a FIG award are not eligible for federal student loans. However, if you are receiving Extended Foster Care or the Education and Training Voucher, you could have loan eligibility. Also, if you have a Student Aid Index (SAI) higher than zero, you might be able to take out student loans. **Check with the Financial Aid Office on your options.**

Can I receive federal or state work-study?

Most students who receive a FIG award are not eligible for federal or state work-study. If you are receiving Extended Foster Care or the Education and Training Voucher, you might have work-study eligibility. **Check with the Financial Aid Office on your options.**

Am I eligible for the North Star Promise?

Most students who receive FIG are not eligible for the North Star Promise (NSP) as other grants and scholarships are enough to cover tuition and fees. Some students will receive both FIG and NSP, but it is uncommon.

If you have questions on the Fostering Independence Grant award calculation, contact the state program administrator:

Adam Johnson
State Financial Aid Program Administrator - Minnesota Office of Higher Education
651.355.0617 - Adam.D.Johnson@state.mn.us

Appendix D: Sample Award Notification Private Institution

Fostering Independence Grant

Sample Award Notification Private Schools - Fall 2026

Below is suggested language your campus can use as an award notice for the Fostering Independence Grant. Information in **red** are where you can personalize or provide alternative guidance to students. Feel free to add additional information where appropriate.

First Name Last Name (Student ID#),

Congratulations, you have been awarded the Fostering Independence Grant (FIG) for the 2026-2027 academic year.

You will receive **{$ amount}** for the Fall 2026 semester and are estimated to receive **{$ amount}** for the Spring 2027 based on **{XX}** Spring enrolled credits and known financial aid. This is a need-based state financial aid program to fund the last dollar of your cost of attendance at **{school name}** after you have been awarded other grants, scholarships, and/or waivers.

(Include this information if the student is receiving ETV): You have also been awarded the Minnesota Education and Training Voucher (ETV). Action is required by you to access ETV funds. You should have received an email from the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families with instructions on accessing your award. ETV funds can be used for college-related expenses like tuition or rent. Contact the ETV program at dcyf.etvcoordinator@state.mn.us with any questions on accessing your ETV. You will also be contacted by Youthprise. They are the contracted partner for the ETV program. You can often access these funds earlier than your FIG funds.

How was the Fostering Independence Grant calculated?

First, **{school name}** determined your cost of attendance based on your enrollment level and program. Then, the Minnesota Office of Higher Education used the lesser of your federal cost of attendance or the highest Minnesota public institution cost of attendance as a starting amount for your recognized cost of attendance.

The following are then subtracted from the recognized 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

The remaining amount is your Fostering Independence Grant award for the term.

What if my cost of attendance is greater than the highest public institution cost of attendance?

If your cost of attendance is greater than the highest Minnesota public institution cost of attendance, {school name} has awarded you a combination of the following to reach your federal cost of attendance:

- Institutional grants or scholarships
- Waivers for tuition, housing, or meal plans
- Remission of charges

What is my cost of attendance?

It is the estimated cost of attending college. It includes tuition, fees, books, supplies, housing, food, transportation, and personal expenses. The amount of each category is set by the college every year. There may be several different costs of attendance at a college based on a student's program or housing situation. Your enrollment level can also change your cost of attendance. **Check with the Financial Aid Office or search on the college website to see a breakdown of the cost of attendance.**

Can I appeal my cost of attendance?

Students with exceptional educationally-related expenses may appeal to increase their cost of attendance. Common scenarios that may qualify a student for an increased cost of attendance include: child care expenses, significant medical/dental expenses paid during the academic year, special course fees, and disability expenses. **Check with the Financial Aid Office on the appeal process.**

Are all items in my cost of attendance included in the Fostering Independence Grant calculation?

Generally, yes. The only cost of attendance adjustment not included in the calculation are for study abroad or study away adjustments.

Can my award change?

Yes. If you receive a new or increased grant, scholarship, or waiver after receiving the Fostering Independent Grant, your FIG award will be reduced by the same amount. You could also receive an increase in your Fostering Independence Grant if a grant, scholarship, or waiver is removed from your account.

How do other college Foster Care programs impact the Fostering Independence Grant calculation?

Extended Foster Care Benefits and Education & Training Voucher funds are included in the calculation of your FIG award. If you receive either of these benefits, they are subtracted from your FIG award.

Can I take out federal student loans?

Most students who receive a FIG award are not eligible for federal student loans. However, if you are receiving Extended Foster Care or the Education and Training Voucher, you could have loan eligibility. Also, if you have a

Student Aid Index (SAI) higher than zero, you might be able to take out student loans. **Check with the Financial Aid Office on your options.**

Can I receive federal or state work-study?

Most students who receive a FIG award are not eligible for federal or state work-study. If you are receiving Extended Foster Care or the Education and Training Voucher, you might have work-study eligibility. **Check with the Financial Aid Office on your options.**

If you have questions on the Fostering Independence Grant award calculation, contact the state program administrator:

Adam Johnson
State Financial Aid Program Administrator - Minnesota Office of Higher Education
651.355.0617 - Adam.D.Johnson@state.mn.us

Appendix E: FIG Adjustment Request

Any qualifying change to the financial data used in the calculation of the Fostering Independence Grant (FIG) award must be updated in the MNAid system[6]. Adjustments to financial data after a Fostering Independence Grant term payment has been processed for a student are made through one of the following requests:

Option 1: Complete the FIG Award Adjustment Request.

Option 2: Email adam.d.johnson@state.mn.us with the following information:

1. Student Last Name:
2. Student's MNAid ID#:
3. Name of your school
4. What is the award year?
5. Why are you requesting this change? (Choose one)
    - Increasing or adding award
    - Decreasing or removing award
    - Cost of Attendance adjustment
    - Credit change with award adjustments
    - Correcting data entry error
6. Which semester or quarter are you requesting a change for?
7. Declared major level for student
    - 2-year (Certificate, Diploma, or AA)
    - 4-year (BA)
8. What data do you want to change?
    - Enrolled Credits:
    - Cost of Attendance (COA):
    - Portion of COA attributed to Housing:
    - Student Aid Index (SAI):
    - Pell Grant:
    - Minnesota State Grant:
    - Federal SEOG:
    - Tribal Scholarships:
    - Other State/Federal Gift Aid:
    - Private Grants/Scholarships:
    - Other Institutional Aid/Waivers (Public Only):

After the student's record has been adjusted in MNAid, you will receive an email notifying you of a new payment or a request to return funds.

[6] https://mnaid.guarantorsolutions.com/ApplicationSignOn/