

Qualifying Post-Secondary Foster Supports

Benefit	Age Range	Eligibility	Who to Contact
Independent Living Program (ILP)	16-21	Transition Age Youth (TAY) ages 16 up to 21 are eligible for ILP services who were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in out-of-home foster care placement between 16-18 OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • under a KinGAP guardianship between the ages of 16-18 OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • under a non-related legal guardianship granted by dependency court on or after their 8th birthday 	Youth Development Services (877) 694-5741 youthds@dcfs.lacounty.gov www.ilponline.org <i>Only an ILP/Transition Coordinator can confirm ILP eligibility.</i>
Senior Expense Form	Graduating High School Seniors	ILP eligible students may qualify for financial assistance toward senior expenses such as photos, cap and gown, yearbook, prom, grad night and/or any other senior year related activities by meeting the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ILP Eligible • Student's cumulative GPA (overall GPA from 9th grade up to and including Fall semester of 12th grade) must be 2.8 or higher. • Student must be on-track to graduate for the cohort grad year for which the application is submitted. 	Youth Development Services 1(877) 694-5741 <i>Form is to be completed by the student; the school counselor (must have the unofficial transcript attached and original school stamp/seal); and submitted to the students ILP Coordinator.</i>
Chafee Grant	16-25	To be eligible for the Chafee Grant, a student must meet the following eligibility criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have not have reached their 26th birthday as of July 1st of the award year AND • Be a current or former youth in foster care who was a dependent or ward of the court, living in out-of-home foster care placement, between the ages of 16 and 18 OR • Be a youth who was placed in out-of-home care by a tribe or tribal organization between the ages of 16-18 	https://www.csac.ca.gov/chafee <i>All foster care eligibility is verified by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).</i> Email questions to: chafee@csac.ca.gov

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Independent Status on the FAFSA or CADAA	13+	<p>Independent Status means that a student does not need to provide parental information on the FAFSA or CADAA form. Students may qualify if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They were a dependent or ward of the court, even if for just one day, after they turned 13. This refers to youth who did not remain in the legal custody of their parents. • At any time since they turned 13 both parents (biological or adoptive) are deceased. • Someone other than their parent or stepparent has legal guardianship of them as determined by a court in their state of residence. <p><i>*Students who will be 24 years old or older as of January 1 of the year for which they are applying for aid are automatically independent and will not be asked the questions in this section.</i></p>	<p>https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/dependency</p> <p><i>Verification of foster youth status should occur through an automated data match with CDSS, however, the financial aid administrator at the college or career school might require proof that the student was a dependent or ward of the court.</i></p>
Cal Grant benefits for foster youth	13+	<p>Students in foster care in care at least one day after their 13th birthday can now receive a Cal Grant Access award for non-tuition costs of up to \$6,000 if attending a California public or private college or university.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in foster care can apply up to age 26. • Students in foster care can maintain their Cal Grant B for up to 8 years instead of 4. 	<p>https://www.csac.ca.gov/foster-youth-students</p> <p>https://www.csac.ca.gov/cal-grants</p>