Money for college for foster care youth

Learn about the Minnesota Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program

What is an ETV?
An Education and Training Voucher (ETV) provides up to $5,000 per award year to pay for post-secondary education, including:

- Tuition and fees
- Books
- Housing
- Transportation
- Child care
- Other school-related expenses.

This money does not need to be paid back.

Who is eligible?
First-time ETV applicants must be under age 26, accepted in an accredited institution of higher education, and at least one of the following:

- In foster care for at least 30 consecutive days between their 17th and 18th birthdays
- Adopted from foster care after age 16
- In foster care on or after age 16 when the juvenile court ordered transfer of custody to a relative
- Under state guardianship at age 18.

Students can apply to the ETV program for a total of five years up to their 26th birthday. Students must maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average and make progress towards graduation.

All students applying to the ETV program must be eligible to receive financial aid, such as the federal Pell Grant, Minnesota State Grant or loans.

How to apply
Students apply to the program by completing an online application on the ETV website at www.mn.gov/dhs/etv/. Applications are accepted July 1 to April 1 each year.

Are there other resources?
Students under state or tribal guardianship are eligible to receive a tuition waiver from post-secondary schools participating in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. Contact your post-secondary school to request a waiver.

Visit the ETV website at www.mn.gov/dhs/etv/ for more information and resources, including the ETV program and expense guidelines.

Review the planning, choosing and paying for college resources on the Minnesota Office of Higher Education website at www.ohe.state.mn.us/.

Questions: Contact Jill Von Holtum, program coordinator, at jill.von.holtum@state.mn.us or 651-431-4663.
Attention. If you need free help interpreting this document, ask your worker or call the number below for your language.

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Para el acceso a formatos accesibles de esta información o asistencia adicional con igual acceso a los servicios humanos, escriba a dhs.info@state.mn.us, llame al 651-431-4670, o utilice su servicio de relé preferido. 

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