
Closing the Financial Aid Gap for Foster Youth in College

February 4, 2009

Web Seminar of the California College Pathways Project



Web Seminar Technical Details

- Click on unique link forwarded in email invitation
- To access audio:
 - ❑ Call (773) 945-1010
 - ❑ Enter Access Code: 220-247-652
 - ❑ Enter unique PIN that is on screen

For assistance with audio, call 415-693-1322

To submit live questions, click on the “Question and Answer” arrow on your screen, type your question, and click “Send.”



California College Pathways Project

**Information
Sharing**

**Technical Assistance
& Training**



**Policy Analysis
& Development**

**Coalition Building
& Advocacy**

For more information, visit www.cacollegepathways.org

Purpose of Training

- Provide basic overview of financial aid
- Review new changes in FAFSA form that pertain to foster youth
- Share latest information about Chafee Education and Training Voucher
- Provide information about Burton Backpack to Success Program
- Answer your questions!



Panel Participants

- Dean Kulju, Director of Student Financial Aid Service and Programs, CSU Office of the Chancellor
- Jenny Vinopal, Assistant Director, Foster Youth Programs, CSU Office of the Chancellor
- Michael McPartlin, Guardian Scholars Program Coordinator, City College of San Francisco
- Diane Matsuda, Executive Director, John Burton Foundation

Moderator: Amy Lemley, John Burton Foundation



What is Financial Aid?

- Gift Aid
 - Scholarships
 - Grants
- Self-help aid
 - Loans
 - Employment opportunities



Goals of Financial Aid

- Primary goal is to assist students in paying for college and is achieved by -
 - Evaluating student's ability to pay educational costs
 - Distributing limited resources in an equitable manner
 - A package of financial aid awards is put together to meet the student's need & may consist of gift aid and/or self-help aid, depending on the student's eligibility



Definition of Need

Cost of Attendance (COA)

- **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**
-

= Need



Types of Financial Aid

State

- Cal Grants
- CSU - State University Grant (SUG)
- CSU - Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
- Community Colleges – Board of Governor's Grant (BOGG)

Federal

- Pell Grants
- (ACG) Academic Competitiveness Grant
1st or 2nd year of college
- (SMART) National Science & Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant
3rd or 4th year of college
- (FSEOG) Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants



2008-09 Cost of Attendance (9 months)

	At Home	On Campus	Off Campus
Fees	\$3,834	\$3,834	\$3,834
Books/Supp	1,533	1,533	1,533
Room/Board	3,950	9,321	10,165
Trans	1,161	1,040	1,255
Personal	2,459	2,388	2,466
TOTAL	\$12,937	\$18,116	\$19,253



Independent Student Definition

- At least 24 years old by December 31 of award year covered by the FAFSA;
- Graduate or professional student;
- Married;
- Has children or dependents (other than a spouse) for whom the student provides more than half support;



Independent Student Definition

- Orphan or ward/dependent of the court or foster care, etc.;
- Determined to be “independent” by financial aid administrator based on *unusual* circumstances





- 1 Before Beginning a FAFSA
- 2 Filling Out a FAFSA
- 3 FAFSA Follow-Up

Federal Student Aid FAFSA



We have simplified the process of filling out the FAFSA. You can follow each section all of the way through for a comprehensive set of instructions.

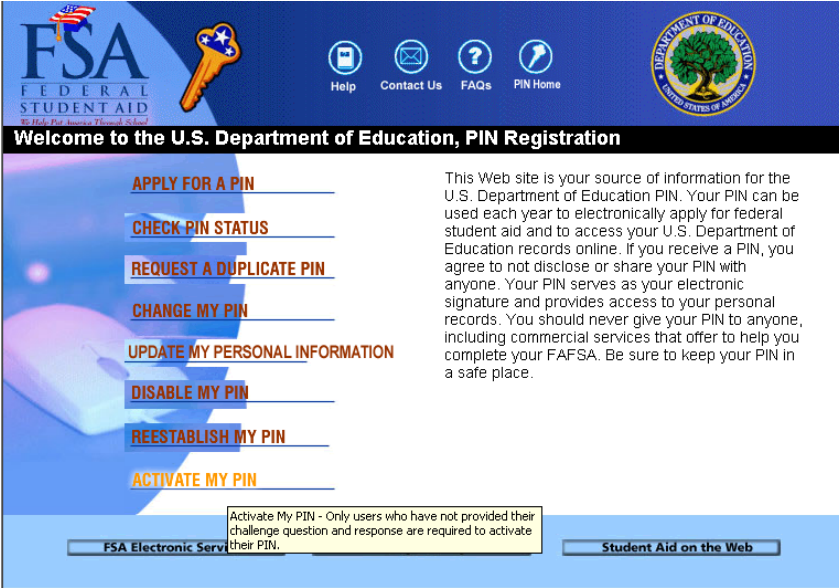
- 2009-10 FAFSA on the Web available on or after January 1, 2009
- Deadline – March 2, 2009
- FAFSA on the Web Worksheet:
 - Used as “pre-application” worksheet
 - Questions follow order of FAFSA on the Web

Get PIN to complete electronic process



PIN Registration

- Web site:
www.pin.ed.gov
- Can get PIN at any time
- May be used by students throughout aid process, including subsequent school years



The screenshot shows the FSA PIN Registration website. At the top, there is a blue header with the FSA logo (Federal Student Aid) and a key icon. To the right of the logo are icons for Help, Contact Us, FAQs, and PIN Home. Further right is the U.S. Department of Education logo. Below the header, a black banner reads "Welcome to the U.S. Department of Education, PIN Registration". The main content area has a light blue background with a hand holding a key. On the left, there is a vertical list of links: "APPLY FOR A PIN", "CHECK PIN STATUS", "REQUEST A DUPLICATE PIN", "CHANGE MY PIN", "UPDATE MY PERSONAL INFORMATION", "DISABLE MY PIN", "REESTABLISH MY PIN", and "ACTIVATE MY PIN". On the right, there is a paragraph of text explaining the purpose of the website and the importance of keeping the PIN safe. At the bottom, there are two buttons: "FSA Electronic Service" and "Student Aid on the Web". A small tooltip box is visible over the "ACTIVATE MY PIN" link, stating: "Activate My PIN - Only users who have not provided their challenge question and response are required to activate their PIN."



FAFSA 2009: New Questions Pertaining to Homeless and Foster Youth

Formerly consisted of a single question, and did not address homelessness as explicitly.

Changes the lower age limit from 16 to 13.

New questions collect better information and introduce new questions about verification.

Important for those working with foster youth to answer these questions accurately!



FAFSA 2009: Question 55

At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependant or ward of the court?

Answer Yes:

- ❑ If you had no living parent, biological or adoptive, when you were 13 years or older, even if you are adopted now.

Answer Yes:

- ❑ Were in foster care at age 13 years or older, even if you are not in foster care today.

Answer Yes:

- ❑ Were dependant/ward of the court at 13 years or older, even if you are no longer a dependant /ward today.



FAFSA 2009: Questions 56 & 57

Are you or were you an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?

Are you or were you in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?



FAFSA 2009: Questions 56 & 57

Answer Yes:

If you can provide a copy of a court's decision that you are an emancipated minor or are in legal guardianship. The court must be located in your state of legal residence.

If you can provide a copy of a court's decision that you were an emancipated minor or were in legal guardianship immediately before you reached the age of being an adult in your state. The court must be located in your state of legal residence at the time the court's decision was issued.

Answer No:

If the court order is no longer in effect or the court decision was not in effect at the time you become an adult.



Q 56: Sample Ward of the Court Verification Letter

RE: (child's name)

DOB: (child's date of birth)

Current Mailing Address:

County Contact Number:

County Identification Number:

Start Date of Wardship: (Date)

Close Date of Wardship: (Date)

This letter is to confirm that (child's name) was under the supervision and care of the court until the age of 18 in (county name) County from (dates of care; i.e., DATE to DATE). (Child's name) was placed in out-of-home care in a foster care placement.

This means that (child's name) is considered a "ward of the court" for the purpose of responding to questions on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Financial Aid Administrators should be advised that recent or current wards of the court typically have little or no income and for purposes of the FAFSA Application, the federal Verification Guide states that "Payments and services received from states for foster care or adoption assistance, under Part A or Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act" are not to be reported on Worksheet B of the FAFSA.

Signature

Date

Print Name



FAFSA 2009 Questions 58, 59 & 60

At any time on or after July 1, 2008, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?

At any time on or after July 1, 2008, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?

At any time on or after July 1, 2008, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?



FAFSA 2009 Questions 58, 59 & 60

Answer Yes:

- If you received a determination at any time on or after July 1, 2008, that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or, for question 60, at risk of being homeless
 - **Homeless** means lacking fixed, regular and adequate shelter, including living in shelters, motels, cars or temporary living with others
 - **Unaccompanied** means you are not living in the physical custody of your parents/guardian
 - **Youth** means you are 21 yrs of age or younger or are still enrolled in high school when signing this application



FAFSA 2009 Questions 58, 59 & 60

Answer No:

- If you are not homeless, at risk of being homeless or if you do not have a determination.

**You should contact your financial aid office for assistance if you do not have a determination but believe you are an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or are an unaccompanied youth providing for your own living expenses who is at risk of being homeless.



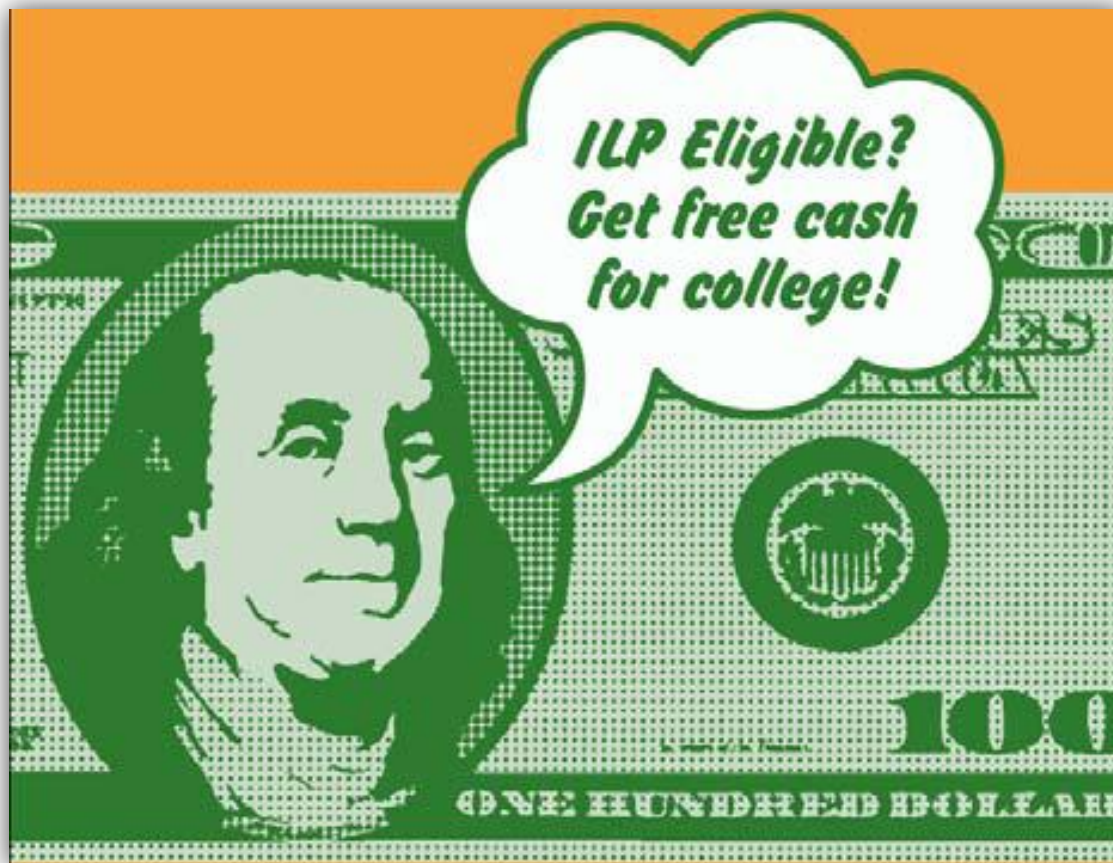
Homelessness Verification Letter

- High school or school district homeless liaison
- Emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program

For a list of Basic Centers and Transitional Living Programs in CA, visit www.cacollegepathways.org and look under Tools and Templates



California Student Aid Commission California Chafee Grant Program



Application for 2009-10 is now available on-line at:

www.chafee.csac.ca.gov



Chafee ETV Program

- ❑ This is a federally funded program administered through the California Student Aid Commission.
- ❑ Gives up to \$5000 to eligible former foster youth to use for career and technical training or college courses at California Community Colleges, Cal State Universities and University of California campuses, etc.



Chafee (ETV) Program

Overview of California's Chafee Program

State General Funding		Federal Funding	
SFY 06/07	\$5.7 million	FFY 06	\$8.1 million
SFY 07/08	\$5.7 million	FFY 07	\$7.1 million
SFY 08/09	\$5.7 million	FFY 08	\$6.9 million
SFY 09/10	TBA	FFY 09	TBA



HR 6893: Change to the Chafee

- Current Chafee ETV Eligibility Criteria:

Children who were in foster care anytime between the ages of 16 to 18 years of age are eligible for the Education and Training Voucher program (ETV).

- HR 6893 NEW!:

Starting 09-10 award year, children who exited foster care for relative guardianship or adopted after age 16 are also eligible for Chafee.



Chafee Grant

- What is a California Chafee Grant?
- Where can foster youth use the Chafee Grant?
- How do foster youth qualify?
- How do foster youth apply?



Chafee Eligibility Requirement

- Student must enroll at least half time as defined by the school
- Complete FAFSA and financial aid application at that school
- Have the financial aid office complete a Need Analysis Review (NAR)
- Meet or continue to meet financial aid academic progress definition.



General Eligibility Requirements

- ILP Eligible Youth: Within 10 days of application, CDSS will confirm eligible foster youth status to CSAC if known
- This verification system is automated to reduce bias and increase sensitivity to youth experience in care.



Chafee Grant: Who Gets Priority?

- Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Budget Impact: Unknown
- Priority for awarding grants due to limited funding
 - Renewal recipients
 - If funds remain, new applicants
 - Age: Up through age 22 (Must apply no later than age 21)
 - Enrolled in a post-secondary (vocational or academic)



Resources

- National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

Foster Youth: Tips for Completing the FAFSA

<http://www.nasfaa.org/publications/2009/anfafsatips012909.html>



Questions or Comments?

Enter questions on your screen now by clicking the “Question and Answer” arrow, typing your question, and clicking “Send.”

Or direct later questions or comments to:

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Project Announcements

- Spring 2009 newsletter to be released March 2009
- 07-08 Annual Report of campus support programs released in January
- Check out www.cacollegepathways.org

