**Current and Former Foster Youth**

**Community College Enrollment Information**

1. Application for Admission

Complete an online application which can be accessed at the community college website. To access California community college on-line application process visit [www.cccapply.org](http://www.cccapply.org). Refer to the Registration Calendar at your college of interest for the dates the online application is available. Computer access and assistance is available on most campuses as well as over the phone.

A Student I.D. number and student e-mail address will usually be assigned shortly after processing your application. Correspondence from the college will be sent to the e-mail address, so be sure to check it at least once per week.

2. Financial Aid

Financial aid is designed to help cover the cost of going to school. This includes paying for tuition, books, supplies, transportation, child care and living costs. Students may apply for grants, student loans, work study programs and scholarships. Dollar amounts for individual financial aid programs vary by recipient, but you must apply to qualify. **In order to receive financial aid you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or undocumented students can complete a Dream Act Application** ([www.csac.ca.gov/dream\_act.asp)](http://www.csac.ca.gov/dream_act.asp%29)**.** Students can complete the FAFSA on-line or print a FAFSA worksheet at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>.

Current and former foster youth, who have not reached the age of 22 as of July 1 of the year they are applying, may qualify for up to $5,000 per year under the **Chafee Education and Training Voucher (ETV) grant program.** In order to be eligible for the Chafee ETV grant, youth must have been a ward/dependent of the court anytime on or after their 16th birthday. Students must submit both the FAFSA or CADA and *first time applicants only* must also submit the California Chafee Grant Application online at [www.chafee.csac.ca.gov](http://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov/), or complete the paper form and mail it in, by March 2nd. Students can still submit later if this deadline is missed, but less funding may be available.

**FOR MAXIMUM FINANCIAL AID, STUDENTS SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR FAFSA AND CHAFEE APPLICATIONS BY MARCH 2.**

California residents may also qualify for the **Cal Grant,** which covers up to $1,670 for living expenses at community colleges. This is money for college in California for students who apply within one year after high school, meet income eligibility, get at least a 2.0 GPA and submit a FAFSA or CADA by the March 2nd deadline. *If you qualify for Cal Grant, make sure that your high school has submitted a certified grade point average (GPA) with the California Student Aid Commission by no later than March 2nd.*

In addition to the Chafee ETV grant, most foster youth are eligible to have their California community college course enrollment fees waived through the **Board of Governor’s (BOG) fee waiver program**.

**Foster Youth Success Initiative Liaisons (FYSI)** are available at every community college throughout California to assist current and former foster youth to navigate all academic and student support services and programs. In addition, the FYSI liaisons can answer foster youth questions about financial aid in general and the BOG fee waiver and Chafee ETV grant programs specifically. Contact information for the designated FYSI liaisons at each of the 113 community colleges can be found at <http://extranet.cccco.edu/Divisions/StudentServices/FosterYouthSuccessInitiatives/FYlpc.aspx>

**Additional Financial Aid Information**

To qualify for most financial aid, students must have a high school diploma or a GED or have passed the California High School Proficiency Exam.

When completing the FAFSA pay attention to the dependency questions included in Section Three as these questions specifically address foster youth status and will affect what information is required to complete the FAFSA. Answering “yes” to the question about whether you were in foster care at any point after the age of 13 will exclude you from needing to submit parent or guardian income information. You will most likely be required to submit verification of your foster care status to the financial aid office in the form of a **ward of the court letter.**  To obtain this letter, ask your social worker or ILP Coordinator. You can also obtain a letter from the State Foster Care Ombudsman by calling 1-877-846-1602.

**Once you have met with the FYSI liaison and have completed the FAFSA it is very important to respond to any e-mail or written correspondence you receive regarding the status of your financial aid,** such as your **Student Aid Report (SAR).**

Financial aid information and forms can also be found at the community college website. Free financial aid workshops are offered at most campuses. Many colleges will provide financial aid workshops specifically for youth upon request. For additional information about financial aid please visit [www.icanaffordcollege.com](http://www.icanaffordcollege.com).

3. Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) and Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS)

EOPS assists those challenged by language, social, economic and educational disadvantages with enrolling in college as well as assisting them to complete their educational goal while attending college. EOPS services include priority registration, book vouchers, academic and support counseling, and other support services. **Foster youth may be eligible and should apply for EOPS.** Contact the EOPS office at the school to which you are applying for information about application requirements and deadlines. Some colleges also have specialized programs for foster youth within EOPS known as **CAFYES**. For a list of colleges with CAFYES programs, visit [www.student.cacollegepathways.org/find-campus-support-programs/cafyes/](http://www.student.cacollegepathways.org/find-campus-support-programs/cafyes/).

In addition to the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services, DSPSempowers students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, to achieve their goals and become contributing members of society by eliminating barriers and facilitating services for students while attending college. Walk-in services and appointments can be made at the DSPS office of most colleges. Check at the college website for hours and other information.

4. Assessment

All new students are required to take a Reading, English, and Mathematics assessment test. You **MUST MAKE AN APPOINTMENT** at the college assessment center to be assessed. **These tests are very important and should be prepared for in advance**. Most college assessment centers offer links to test preparation materials on their website.

 **Youth will be required to show a picture I.D. and your Student I.D. number at the time of the Assessment.**

5. College Orientation/Course Planning/Transfer

Prior to enrolling in courses, students should meet with a counselor who will provide assistance with developing a “first semester” course list and provide essential certificate, associate degree, transfer, and financial aid information. Many colleges offer group advising and college orientation sessions. If you are enrolled in EOPS, you will already have received these services.

For the most up-to-date orientation information visit the College website orientation link.

Students interested in transferring from a two-year college to a four-year college should meet with a counselor early on in the process, to develop an education plan and map out the appropriate sequence of courses and ensure that coursework units are transferable.

6. Enrollment

To enroll in courses you must have your Student I.D. number and have met the assessment requirements prior to registration. Most colleges offer on-line registration. As a current or former foster youth you may be entitled to register prior to the general registration period. **Make sure that you determine in advance if you are eligible for early registration and that you take advantage of this option**. You must complete an orientation, assessment and education plan to qualify for early registration. Visit [www.stepforward.cccco.edu](http://www.stepforward.cccco.edu) for details.

It is highly recommended that every student create a Personal Identification Number (PIN) to protect the confidentiality of their records. All community colleges do not require students to create a PIN; check with the college to which you are applying to see if they require students to create a PIN. If you experience problems registering, Live Support is provided Online by most colleges. Registration assistance is also available on most campuses.

7. College Fees

In addition to enrollment fees, many colleges have nominal health and/or student activity fees that are not covered by the BOG fee waiver. These fees are due at the time of registration and payments may be made online at most colleges. Check in advance with the Admissions Office for forms of payment that are accepted.

**Warning! Disenrollment may occur after registration if fees have not been paid within a certain timeframe. Check with the college admissions office for relevant deadlines.**

8. Additional Resources

**Listing of California Community Colleges**

<http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/AlphaList.aspx>

**Resources available for parenting youth:**

**California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)**

CalWORKs funds are for the purpose of assisting welfare recipient students and those in transition off of welfare to achieve long-term self-sufficiency through coordinated student services offered at community colleges including: work study, job placement, child care, coordination, curriculum development and redesign, and under certain conditions post-employment skills training, and instructional services.

<http://extranet.cccco.edu/Divisions/StudentServices/CalWORKs.aspx>

**Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE)**

The State of California established the Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) program in the California Community Colleges as "a unique educational program geared toward the welfare recipient who desires job-relevant education to break the dependency cycle. The CARE program offers educational support services, including supplemental grants and services for child care, textbooks, school supplies, and transportation, to EOPS students who are welfare-dependent single parents with young children. CARE is part of the EOPS program that is available at community colleges throughout California.

<http://extranet.cccco.edu/Divisions/StudentServices/EOPSCARE.aspx>

9. Additional Foster Youth Higher Education Support Programs

Currently, there is a wide range of academic support programs for current and former foster youth attending two and four year colleges in California. These programs are sometimes referred to as Guardian or Renaissance Scholar programs. The range of services provided by these programs varies considerably, and the most accurate information about each program can be gained by directly contacting the program coordinator. These programs offer an array of services, often including financial aid assistance, dedicated campus support staff, and housing among others. The goal of campus support programs is to provide former foster youth attending higher education with specialized academic, social and financial support.

For additional information regarding specific programs available, please visit the California College Pathways website link below.

<http://www.student.cacollegepathways.org/find-campus-support-programs/>

**Current and Former Foster Youth**

**Community College Enrollment Checklist**

Application for Admission

\_\_\_ My online Application for Admission was submitted electronically on this date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_ My Student ID number is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_ My Student e-mail address is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_ The name, phone # and e mail address of the FYSI liaison or person at the college that helped me: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Recent High School Graduates

\_\_\_ Contact your high school counselor to request a copy of your final transcript.

\_\_\_ Submit your final high school transcript by mail or in person to the Admissions & Records Office at the college you would like to attend.

Transfer, Returning and Students from other colleges

\_\_\_ Request an official sealed transcript from all other U.S. colleges/universities attended to be sent to the admissions office of the college you would like to attend.

\_\_\_ Transcript(s) requested from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on this date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_ Transcript(s) requested from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on this date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Financial Aid

\_\_\_ I have made an appointment to meet with the FYSI liaison in the Financial Aid Office.

\_\_\_ I have applied for a BOG fee waiver (for CA Residents only) to pay my fees for the academic year.

\_\_\_ I have completed the FAFSA or Dream Act Application.

\_\_\_ I have verified whether additional forms, including verification of my foster care status, are required at the college that I am interested in attending and I have completed the additional forms.

\_\_\_ I have submitted my application for Chafee funds to the California Student Aid Commission.

\_\_\_ I have verified that my high school submitted my GPA verification to the California Student Aid Commission.

\_\_\_ I have looked into other scholarships and funding opportunities

Extended Opportunity Programs and Services and Disabled Students Programs and Services

\_\_\_ I have applied to be a part of the EOPS and/or CAFYES program.

\_\_\_ I have visited the DSPS office (if applicable).

\_\_\_ I have contacted the foster youth support program (if available)

Assessment

\_\_\_ I have taken the assessment test.

\_\_\_ I am a returning student and already took the assessment test.

\_\_\_ I took the assessment test at another college and have provided my scores to the Assessment Center

\_\_\_ **OR** I have provided **official** transcripts showing satisfactory completion of English composition and/or college level math to the Evaluations Office.

\_\_\_ I am going to exercise a one-course waiver and take a course that does not have a prerequisite assessment level.

College Orientation/Course Planning

\_\_\_ I have signed up for a new student group advising/Orientation session.

\_\_\_ I have contacted the Counseling Center to schedule an appointment to complete an educational plan

Registration/Enrollment

\_\_\_ I have determined if I qualify for early registration and completed an orientation, assessment, and education plan to qualify.

\_\_\_ I have created a Personal identification Number (PIN) to protect my records.

\_\_\_ I have registered for \_\_\_fall \_\_\_spring \_\_\_summer

\_\_\_ I have printed my schedule of classes.

\_\_\_ I have paid all required registration and enrollment fees.

Resources for Parenting Youth

\_\_\_ I have applied for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids benefits.

\_\_\_ I have applied to participate in the Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education.

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