

## How can we support you?

There is a Foster Youth Success Initiative liaison available at each of the 115 California community colleges. The liaison on your campus can connect you with a wide range of services, including:





- Verifying your foster youth or former foster youth status
- Providing college- or community-based referrals for housing, transportation, food, and health/wellness services
- Referring you to other campus support programs, such as:
  - Extended Opportunity Programs and Services/Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (EOPS/CARE)
  - California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)
  - CAFYES/NextUp
  - Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)
  - Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success
  - Independent Living Program (YESS-ILP)

Visit your campus financial aid office for more information.



### For more information:

#### Connect with us:

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The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation, with 115 colleges serving 2.1 million students — including more than 20,000 foster youth — annually. For more information, visit [CaliforniaCommunityColleges.cccco.edu](https://CaliforniaCommunityColleges.cccco.edu).

Brought to you by the California Community Colleges, the “I Can Afford College” campaign informs current and prospective students and their families about the year-round availability of financial aid. For more information, visit [icanaffordcollege.com](https://icanaffordcollege.com).



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# Make a California Community College your first step to success

A guide to the financial aid programs and services available at California community colleges, specifically for youth who have lived in **foster care**.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE  
California Community Colleges

[icanaffordcollege.com](https://icanaffordcollege.com)

# What do California community colleges have to offer foster youth?

Navigating college successfully can be challenging! The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office established the Foster Youth Success Initiative in 2007 to support your success in college. We are dedicated to helping you receive a degree or vocational certificate, or complete your general education courses so you can transfer to a four-year university.

We can assist you with:

- Enrolling at a community college and applying for financial aid
- Securing your priority enrollment through attending an orientation, taking assessment tests, and developing an education plan to select your classes
- Keeping track of deadlines and staying focused on reaching your educational goals
- Locating tutoring, counseling and other services to support your academic success
- Planning your transition to a four-year university



## How do I pay for college?

Financial aid is available from many public and private organizations, including your college, to assist you in paying for your education. It can help pay for fees, books and other college costs, including living expenses.

There are a few basic types of aid: grants and scholarships, which you don't have to pay back — such as the Pell Grant, Chafee Grant, Cal Grant and Osher Scholarship; work study jobs on or off campus; and loans, which must be repaid. Plus, at the California Community Colleges, you may also receive a California College Promise Grant (Formerly the Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waiver), which waives your enrollment fees. There are other financial aid programs that can provide assistance as well.

The first step in accessing these resources is to apply, even if you aren't sure you'll qualify. Applying is easy, and it's free. To learn more, and to get started on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) — which opens the door to most types of financial aid — go to [icanaffordcollege.com](http://icanaffordcollege.com).

When you're in college, it can feel like money is always tight. To help you take charge of your finances, the California Community Colleges system offers a free money management tool through CashCourse, which can be found at [www.cashcourse.org](http://www.cashcourse.org). This website can assist you in stretching your financial aid dollars as far as possible. If you're thinking about taking out a loan, be sure to use this tool first so you can learn about options for covering college costs and, if a loan is necessary, develop a responsible plan for repayment.



## Ready to enroll?

Foster youth are eligible for priority enrollment, which means you get to choose your classes before other students. In order to maintain your eligibility, you must complete orientation, assessment and an education plan. For more information on priority enrollment, visit [StepForward.cccco.edu](http://StepForward.cccco.edu).

To enroll in your local community college, visit [CCCApply.org](http://CCCApply.org).

Common Types of State and Federal Aid	Award Amount (subject to change)
Federal Pell Grant	Up to \$5,920 per academic year*
Cal Grant B	Up to \$1,672 per academic year**
Chafee Grant***	Up to \$5,000 per academic year*
California College Promise Grant (Formerly the Board of Governors Fee Waiver)	Waives enrollment fees*

\* Apply year-round

\*\* Apply between October 1 and March 2

\*\*\* These are limited dollars, so submit your FAFSA and Chafee Grant Application early; for more information about the Chafee Grant and to apply, visit <http://bit.ly/ChafeeGrantInfo>

For a comprehensive list of different types of financial aid, visit <http://bit.ly/TypesOfAid>

