



Chafee Educational And Training Voucher Program

The Chafee Educational and Training Voucher Program (ETV) provides resources specifically to meet education and training needs of youth aging out of foster care.

Alabama's ETV Program provide funds to youth currently in foster care and youth formerly in foster care who have not attained age twenty three (23) years to attend accredited colleges, universities, vocational and/or technical training institutions. The funds are granted through the Chafee Independence Program. Legislation authorizing the ETV Program was a separate section of the Chafee Act. Use of these funds has no impact on ILP county allocations except that youth receiving ETV should use these funds for eligible educational expenses. No county funds are needed to access ETV funds. Youth may receive up to \$5000.00 per year for four years as they pursue higher education.

The youth's cost of attendance is determined and evaluated with their existing financial award in order to determine how much money they can receive. A youth may receive both Pell Grant and the ETV which, when combined, are equal to or less than the cost of attendance. The cost of attendance includes:

- Tuition, fees, room and board, or housing allowances;
- Allowances for books, school supplies, transportation, loan fees for the school year;
- Miscellaneous expenses including rental or purchase of a personal computers;
- Health insurance;
- Childcare and qualified living expenses related to post-secondary education.

Youth must complete a new application each year to determine eligibility.

In order to continue receiving the grant, the youth must maintain "satisfactory progress" in school which means that their grades are adequate to the requirements of the certificate or degree. Normally this would mean a "C" average or better in courses critical to completion. If a youth's performance drops below the "satisfactory" level, he/she will be allowed to continue to receive the grant for one more grading period in hopes that performance will improve. OFA can be very helpful in assisting the struggling youth obtain assistance so that he/she can succeed academically.

Youth Eligibility

- The youth must be eligible for the IL program (in DHR custody).

- The youth must be between the ages of 18-21. Eligibility up to age 23 may continue for youth who were receiving vouchers on their 21st birthday and are continuing to make satisfactory progress (2.0 GPA).
- The youth is either in foster care, aged out of foster care on or after their 18th birthday, or was adopted from foster care after their 16th birthday.
- The youth must have finished high school or have their GED and must be in a full or half-time post-secondary program or are accepted for next term. The youth must be making acceptable progress toward graduation to (2.0 GPA) continue receiving the grant.
- The youth must be a citizen or documented alien (eligible for other federal benefits).
- The youth may not have more than \$10,000 in personal reserves.

Qualifying Schools

The youth must be attending a post-secondary institution of higher learning or post-secondary vocational training school. The school must be accredited by a nationally accredited agency or association or has been granted pre-accreditation status. The school must be eligible to accept Pell Grants on behalf of their students. The school must offer a 4-year bachelor's degree, a two-year associate's degree or a state or nationally recognized certificate.

Administration

All of the ETV scholarships are being administered by Orphan Foundation of America. The Foundation will submit checks directly to third party providers or, in rare circumstances, directly to the youth for approved budgeted expenses.

[Chafee Educational Training Voucher Application](http://www.statevoucher.org) (link to website: www.statevoucher.org)

Other Funding Sources

Free Application for Federal Student Aid www.fafsa.gov.
Look for Scholarships www.fastweb.com.