

2025 Tuition Waivers by State

State	Name of Program	Age Limit	Foster Care Requirement	Financial Support	Limitations and Parameters	Additional Notes
1. Alaska	University of Alaska Presidential Foster Youth Tuition Waiver CCS HB 302	21	In care after 16th birthday	Tuition	Only provides 15 tuition waivers.	<i>*Also has ETV funds.</i>
2. Arizona	Arizona Tuition Waiver for those formerly in foster care 15-1809	23	In foster care at age 14 or older Adopted at age 14 or older	Tuition as needed after other scholarships and grants are applied (ETV doesn't count against the amount)	<i>"The Arizona board of regents shall provide a tuition waiver scholarship at any university under the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents and each community college district shall provide a tuition waiver scholarship at any community college"</i>	
3. Connecticut, Part 1	Post-Secondary Education Program Tuition Waiver Policy 42-20-20	23	In foster care on 18 th birthday	Tuition, fees, room and board (on campus), and/or off campus stipend, books, equipment, supplies and materials.	a. Full-time only b. Must enroll immediately after high school competition	<i>*Caseworkers can blacklist youth for perceived bad behavior.</i>
Connecticut, Part 2 See pages 10-11 of this manual.	College Assistance/ Postsecondary Education Assistance for Adopted Children Tuition Waiver	Apply by 21, receive funding until 23	Adopted before 18th birthday and after Dec. 31, 2004	Tuition, fees, and room and board equivalent to the cost of tuition, fees, and room and board at the University of Connecticut Storrs Campus.	Requires a \$500 personal contribution per year.	

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4. Florida	Tuition and Fee Exemption Tuition Waiver	28	See the parameters as listed in the 2024 Statute	The statute states that these students are exempt from tuition and fees.	Schools disagree on what they consider “fees,” and this differs by institution.	<i>*Includes adoptees</i>
5. Illinois	Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Scholarship Program	23	Includes former foster youth who were adopted or placed in private guardianship. Link to details.	Tuition and fees are waived at public Illinois universities, colleges and vocational schools.	Full-time only Doesn't apply to private or out-of-state colleges/universities	<i>*Each year the Department shall select a minimum of 53 students, at least 4 of whom shall be children of veterans.</i>
6. Iowa	All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grant	Enroll by 23, receive funding until 24	Parameters are listed at this link .	Funding can be used for tuition, fees, books, dorms, housing, meal plans, transportation and other expenses.	Full-time only	<i>*Grants usually range from \$2,000 to \$8,000 per year, but can also be less.</i>
7. Indiana	21st Century Scholars is an overarching state scholarship for which foster youth qualify	Not listed.	Must be an Indiana resident and apply in 7 th or 8 th grade. An exception is made for foster youth, who can also enroll during high school.	2-4 year scholarship that covers tuition at an eligible Indiana college or university.	Does not cover the cost of books, room and board, parking fees, lab fees or any other fees.	Students must take a pledge and will be punished for violations . And must earn 30 credits per year.
8. Kansas	Kansas Foster Child Educational Assistance Tuition Waiver Program	23	Parameters are listed at this link .	Tuition and fees are waived at public Kansas universities colleges and vocational schools	Does not cover books or room and board.	<i>*Sample application.</i>

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9. Kentucky	Kentucky Foster or Adopted Children Tuition Waiver Program	28	Current and “aged out” foster youth, and young people who were adopted from foster care.	Tuition and fees are waived at public Kentucky universities colleges and vocational schools	Youth who were reunified, entrusted to kinship care or placed for adoption in another state/country aren’t eligible.	<p><i>*Sample flyer.</i></p> <p><i>*Only covers up to 150 credit hours.</i></p>
10. Maine	Post-Secondary Education Tuition Waiver	No age limit	<p>Listed here.</p> <p>*If the Maine DHHS subsidy is waived by the adoptive parent(s), the student is no longer eligible for a tuition waiver.</p>	Support is only provided for a limited number of students on a first-come, first-served basis.	The award is renewable for up to five years of full-time enrollment.	<p><i>*Link to wording of legislation.</i></p>
11. Maryland	Tuition Waiver for Foster Care Recipients	Enroll by 25	Individuals under the age of 25 who have been placed in an out-of-home placement and are enrolled at a Maryland public college or university.	Tuition and fees are waived at public Maryland universities colleges and vocational schools.	The waiver does not cover room and board, books and supplies, or transportation.	<p><i>*Link to program details</i></p>
12. Massachusetts, Part 1	DCF Foster Child Tuition Waiver and Fee Assistance Program	24	Foster youth who age out of the system without be adopted or reunified.	Tuition and fees	Same guidelines as listed below.	<p><i>*Link to program details.</i></p>
Massachusetts, Part 2	DCF Adopted Child Tuition Waiver and Fee Assistance Program	24	Regardless of the date of adoption. Link to details .	100% of tuition and fees for undergraduate programs	<p>Links to:</p> <p>a. Eligibility checklist</p> <p>b. Tuition waiver guidelines (detailed)</p>	<p><i>*Must be adopted by a Massachusetts state employee or by an eligible resident</i></p>

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13. Michigan, Part 1	Fostering Futures Scholarship	No age limit	In care on or after 13th birthday – link to details	Tuition, fees, room and board, books, supplies and equipment	Only covers up to 3K	Students can be full or half time
Michigan, Part 2	Seita Scholars Link to more details	Between 17-25	WMU students who have lived some or all of their teenage years in foster care	Renewable each semester up to completion of the undergraduate degree.	Specific to Western Michigan University Must be full time and reside on campus	Designed and created by a former foster youth: Dr. John Seita
14. Minnesota	Fostering Independence Grant (FIG)	27	Link to details	Cost of attendance: tuition and fees, books, supplies, transportation and room and board.	Participating Minnesota colleges and universities	Last dollar grant after other financial aid sourced are applied
15. Missouri	Missouri Reach	25	A bit complicated	Tuition and fees	100 hrs of community service/internship each year of award	Link to statute
16. New Hampshire	Tuition Waiver for Foster Children	25	Link to details	Tuition and fees	Only 5 participating schools	Only awards 35 vouchers per year
17. New Jersey	New Jersey Foster Care Scholars Program	23	A bit complicated	Tuition, fees, books, supplies, laptop, transportation, housing, childcare	Applies other scholarships and grants first	Includes those who have been adopted at age 12+
18. New Mexico	Free College Tuition for Former Foster Youth in New Mexico	Must enroll prior to age 25	In foster care at any time after age 14 Link to more details	Tuition and fees	NM Senate Bill 206. prohibits public higher education institutions in New Mexico from charging tuition and fees for young adults who have experienced foster care	Link to statute *New Mexico has ETV as well, to assist with other college expenses (books, supplies, housing, drivers ed + auto insurance)

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19. New York	Foster Youth College Success Initiative	No upper age limit	Link to details	Tuition, fees, books, transportation and housing	Only 3 participating schools	Link to a recent webinar
20. North Carolina	North Carolina Foster Youth Tuition Waiver	26	Adopted at age 12+ or aged out at 18	NC Reach is a post-secondary educational scholarship after other scholarships and grants have been applied.	North Carolina public higher education institutions are required to permit former foster youth to attend classes without the required payment of tuition	Link to statute Link to in-depth details (ETV and NC Reach work together to support students)
21. Oklahoma, Part 1	Foster Care Tuition Waiver	26	Student must have graduated within the previous three years	Only covers resident tuition.	Doesn't cover additional fees.	Link to more details How they are seeking to weave resources together
Oklahoma, Part 2	Oklahoma Youth with Promise Scholarship	26	In foster care at age 18 or aged out at that time.	Scholarship to cover student needs.	Up to 6K	Link to flyer
22. Oregon		Must enroll by age 25	In foster care, or a former foster youth who spent 180 days in substitute care after age 14. Link to FAQs.	Tuition and fees, only for the equivalent of four years of undergraduate education <i>*But it often takes foster youth longer to graduate.</i>	Required participants to do 30 hours of community service each academic year. *But former foster youth will also have to work to cover other expenses: Housing, etc.	Link to statute , which also includes homeless youth Link to flyer with additional resources

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23. Rhode Island	Higher Education Opportunity Incentive Grant Program	21	Youth have to age out and are required to have been in custody for 24 months.	Supplements federal, state and institutional scholarships, grants and loans	Young adults are required to remain in extended foster care to be eligible, and to be enrolled full-time.	Link to Policy Details.
24. Tennessee	Tennessee HOPE Foster Child Tuition Grant	Not specified	Link to details.	Covers tuition and fees after scholarships or grants have been applied.	Doesn't cover other elements of cost of attendance, such as food, housing, books or supplies.	Recipient can remain eligible for up to six years from the date of initial enrollment.
25. Texas	College Tuition and Fee Waiver		Link to details. *Includes some adoptees	Tuition and fees	Must meet GPA requirements of FAFSA	Link to statute
26. Utah	Tuition Waivers for Children in Long-Term Foster Care	26	Youth are required to have been in custody for 24 months and be age 17 or older.	Tuition and fees	Full or part time	Link to statute Link to overview
27. Virginia	Virginia Foster Care Tuition Grant	No age limit	In special needs adoption at age 14+ or in foster care when turn 18.	Tuition and fees	Virginia public higher education institutions are required to cover.	Link to statute (ETV covers other needs)
28. Washington	Passport To College Tuition Waiver Program	26	Aged out of system after 2007, spent one year in care after 16	Tuition and fees	Full or part time	Link to statute
29. West Virginia	Foster Care Tuition Waiver Link to details	No age limit	In foster care/congregate care for at least one year before high school graduation.	Tuition and fees	Doesn't cover room, board, books, etc.	Link to statute which passed in 2000

Best Practices:

- NOT requiring students to attend full-time.
- NOT requiring students to enroll immediately upon high school completion.
- Considering the needs of adoptees who lack support on or after reaching age 18.