

Appreciation for Representative Max Miller

Thank you for:

- Representing Ohio's 7th Congressional District, which includes Cuyahoga County.
- Your work on the Committee and Ways and Means.
- Thank you for saying that [more must be done to connect foster youth with the tools they need to be successful young adults.](#)





OHIO YAB Mission

We exist to be the knowledgeable statewide voice that influences policies and practices that impact youth who have or will experience out of home care.



IMPROVING OUTCOMES AFTER FOSTER CARE.

Ohio foster care youth and alumni are excited to be able to talk with federal decision-makers about:

- **Supports for current and former foster youth**, including Chafee funds, ETV and how they **support pathways to education, employment and economic self-sufficiency**.
- **Barriers faced by current and former foster youth**, including driver's license and education barriers, and how they **undermine pathways to education, employment and economic self-sufficiency**.

Our vision is to connect current and former foster youth with:

Education

K-12 supports leading to high school graduation.

Post-secondary supports, with options including colleges, universities and vocational schools.

Employment

Early employment exposure, access to a bank account, and tips on budgeting.

Awareness of and connection to employment resources, including internships and apprenticeships.

Economic Stability

Inform, support and empower teens in foster care; connect them with resources to break the cycle, such as Chafee, WIOA, and TANF-IL.

Overcome barriers, such as transportation, inconsistent allocation of resources and lack of informing and empowering youth.

Top 3 Chafee Recommendations

1. States need to [have a sense of urgency about making this provision available to foster youth](#). (Spend it down, outreach and early notification).
2. Extend Chafee eligibility to age 26 to better support successful transitions to adulthood.
3. Modernize Chafee to reflect today's costs.

Chafee Allocation

Chafee can be used in many ways to help foster youth.

States need to have a sense of urgency about utilizing this provision to prepare foster youth for successful adulthoods. This means: outreach, early notification, spend it down.



Chafee Allocation

Increased Population in Need of Chafee Services

1999

Our nation's Chafee funds were relied on to provide independent living preparation for foster youth between ages 16-18.

2026

Our nation's Chafee funds are relied upon to serve foster youth between ages 14-23, including ETV vouchers up until age 26.

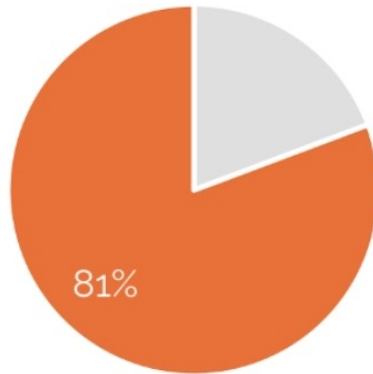


ETV Recommendations

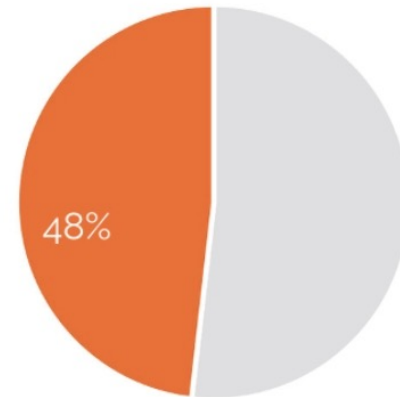
1. Allot the full \$60M in ETV funds.
2. Allow states to award up to \$12,000 per year to youth, to respond to the rising costs of attendance, including housing/food.
3. Encourage states to open up eligibility; there are currently [so many different extra eligibility requirements added by states.](#)

ETV Funds

Most ETV recipients
were food insecure in
the last year



Almost half have been
housing insecure in the
last year



Ohio's ETV provider recently did a research study about [housing and food insecurities faced by ETV recipients](#). The amount of funding for each student doesn't cover the cost of attendance including room and board. That's why the state of Ohio is currently looking into [tuition waivers](#).

Maximum Pell Grant Compared to Cost of Tuition

**Proposed Reduction from \$7,395- 5,710*

	Ohio Universities	Community Colleges	Vocational Tech Schools
Tuition and Fees	CSU (Cleveland): 12,000 OSU (Columbus): 13,000 UC (Cincinnati): 13,000	CSTCC (Cincinnati): 5,359 CSCC (Columbus): 5,000 Tri-C (Cleveland): 3,249	Great Oaks (Cincinnati): 10,416
Housing and Food	CSU (Cleveland): 15,000 OSU (Columbus): 15,000 UC (Cincinnati): 16,000	CSTCC (Cincinnati): 8,500 CSCC (Columbus): 8,640 Tri-C (Cleveland): 9,200	Great Oaks (Cincinnati): 17,308 is average cost of housing + groceries per year
Books and Supplies	CSU (Cleveland): 1,000 OSU (Columbus): 1,000 UC (Cincinnati): 1,000	CSTCC (Cincinnati): 3,843 CSCC (Columbus): 1,800 Tri-C (Cleveland): 1,700	Great Oaks (Cincinnati): Depends on which program; automotive supplies are 3K
Transportation	CSU (Cleveland): 1,500 OSU (Columbus): 732 UC (Cincinnati): 2,000	CSTCC (Cincinnati): 1,610 CSCC (Columbus): 2,700 Tri-C (Cleveland): 1,725	Great Oaks (Cincinnati): 1,056 if student purchases a bus pass

Post Secondary Experience Comparison

Young Adults With Family Support

Former Foster Youth

Tuition, Fees, Books, etc.

The average parent covers 43% of their student's college cost using income and savings.
([Sallie Mae study](#))

Must rely on selves - and during their time in foster care, they aren't always allowed to have a job or a bank account.

Support with Housing

63% of parents assist with the cost of dorm, rent or mortgage
([Savings.com research](#))

Must rely on selves - those who live on campus often struggle to find a place to stay during breaks.

Support with Transportation

44% of parents assist with car payments, car repairs and other car-related costs.
([Savings.com research](#))

Must rely on selves - and youth in foster care face barriers to getting a driver's license, or even driver's ed.

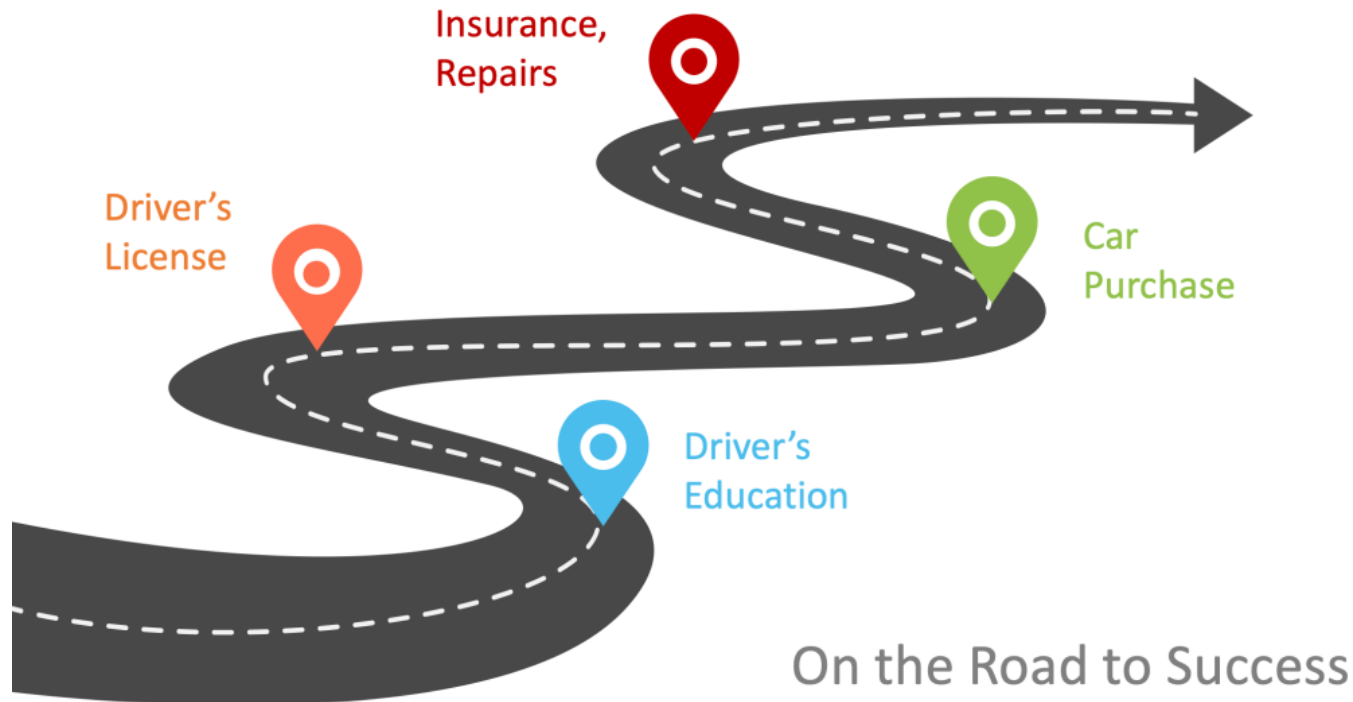
Other Areas of Support

83% of parents assist with groceries, 65% with cell phones, and 54% with health insurance.
([Savings.com research](#))

[Recent federal law](#) has added a work requirement to SNAP for former foster youth and might impact Medicaid.

Foster Youth and Driving Act

Would create state and tribal programs providing up to \$4,000 per year per youth for driver's education, training, insurance, licensing fees, and related costs.





Ohio recently lost its [TANF-Independent Living allocation](#). This happened at the same time that [driving requirements](#) were increased. We've been researching [how other states support foster youth](#), when it comes to driver's education, driver's licenses and car insurance.

Negative Impact on Employment

- **Driving is crucial for employment** because it significantly expands job opportunities beyond public transit routes, ensures reliable, on-time attendance, and enables access to jobs requiring travel, such as sales or deliveries.
- **A driver's license provides** flexibility, independence, and a competitive edge, often being a prerequisite for career advancement and securing roles in areas with limited transportation options.
- **Driving is a critical component** of many job opportunities, ranging from professional CDL truck driving to local delivery, courier, and rideshare services, with many jobs offering competitive pay and benefits.