**College and Vocational Resources**

Foster Care Students who wish to attend post-secondary education and vocational programs are awarded several resources to accomplish these goals. Below are some of the information and links for these resources. (pulled from Child Protective Services Website)

[Foster Youth Resources | Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (ms.gov)](https://www.mdcps.ms.gov/foster-youth/foster-youth-resources)

**ETV**

The ETV Program is a federal program that provides supplemental resources to meet the cost of attendance in post-secondary educational and vocational programs, as defined in the Higher Education Act of 1965, for all youth aging out of custody.

Youth must first apply for and receive an award letter from the institution they plan to attend. The award letter must detail all financial aid the student is to receive, including Pell Grants, MTAG, scholarships, and other grants, if applicable.

If ETV funding is depleted during the federal fiscal year, priority will be placed on making payments to post-secondary institutions for tuition and other school fees for full-time students. Allowances may or may not be paid.  All payments are subject to the availability of funds.

**ETV Eligibility**

* Youth must participate in the ETV Program prior to their 23rd birthday to continue receiving ETV funds until their 26th birthday or a maximum of 60 months.
  + The months do not have to be consecutive. A month is calculated as 30 calendar days.
  + Failure of a class or semester will still be counted for the use of ETV funds.
  + Youth who have not participated in the ETV program prior to their 23rd birthday will not be eligible for ETV funds.
* The following are eligible for ETV funds:
  + Youth currently in custody
  + Youth who have left custody at the age of 16 years or older and have not yet reached 21 years of age
  + Youth who were reunified on or after reaching age 16 and have not yet attained 21 years of age
  + Youth who were adopted on or after reaching age 16 and have not yet attained 21 years of age
  + Youth who participated in the ETV Program prior to their 23rd birthday
* Youth must have a high school diploma, GED, or a certificate of attendance to receive ETV funds.
* Youth must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 to continue receiving ETV funds. Youth who are unable to receive Pell Grants or subsidized loans because of GPA will not be eligible for ETV funds.

#### FAITH Scholarship

Former foster youth under age 25 may be eligible for the FAITH Scholarship, State Rep. Bill Kinkade Fostering Access and Inspiring True Hope Scholarship. To apply, please complete the MAAPP (MS Aid Application), available at [www.maapp.msfinancialaid.org](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.maapp.msfinancialaid.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Csabrea.smith%40mdcps.ms.gov%7C7eaa615229d146a1240908daf28e4f7c%7Cab8756c1eff747f58889a5b6ecab0f77%7C0%7C0%7C638088990285029811%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=qNHYw4tyjllhMyU7Oe%2FUVJerkUK9De6IHytPWPgJu5I%3D&reserved=0).

[Click here for Kinkade FAITH Scholarship Fact Sheet](https://www.mdcps.ms.gov/sites/default/files/Kinkade%20FAITH%20scholarship%20final%20overview%208.8.23_0.docx)

MDCPS or the qualified residential living facility will verify eligibility.  The funds will be available beginning in fall 2023.  Additional information is available at  [https://www.msfinancialaid.org/faith/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.msfinancialaid.org%2Ffaith%2F&data=05%7C01%7Csabrea.smith%40mdcps.ms.gov%7C7eaa615229d146a1240908daf28e4f7c%7Cab8756c1eff747f58889a5b6ecab0f77%7C0%7C0%7C638088990285029811%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=D4YKXGBTJDMr8JWZAV4asmgBakD%2BeJhqpKMEt%2FQdej0%3D&reserved=0).

For more information, please get in touch with the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid at  [sfa@mississippi.edu](mailto:sfa@mississippi.edu) or 1-800-327-2980 (toll-free in MS) or 601-432-6997.

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College Educated was founded on the principles that everyone deserves a college education, and that college should be accessible and in reach for anyone who wants to attend. On College Educated, you’ll find scholarship information, career resources, school and program rankings and advice on what it takes to enroll and succeed in the college of your choice.

[**https://collegeeducated.com/foster-youth-college-resources/**](https://collegeeducated.com/foster-youth-college-resources/)

Here are some of the resources listed from their page. There were many more not listed here. Above is the link that will take you to the page to view the resources from their page.

[**Foster Youth Internship Program**](https://www.ccainstitute.org/programs/view/foster-youth-internship-about)Students at the undergraduate and graduate levels who were in the foster care system can apply for a seven-week internship in Washington DC through this program.

[**Ready to Succeed**](https://readytosucceedla.org/)  
Ready to Succeed offers summer internships and other programs to help kids in foster care build a strong foundation for future success.

[**Foster Youth Face Extreme Barriers to College. Here is One Program That’s Helping**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7rHJSJhJkE)The Chronicle of Higher Education created this short video to highlight a program that helps foster kids bridge the gap between high school and college.

[**Can I Receive Federal Student Aid if I Was or Am in Foster Care?**](https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/article/can-i-receive-federal-student-aid-if-i-was-or-am-in-foster-care)This simple guide looks at whether kids in foster care qualify for financial aid and how they can get help paying for college and using the FAFSA.

[**FAFSA for Foster Youth: Everything You Need to Know**](https://www.ifoster.org/blogs/fafsa-for-foster-youth-everything-you-need-to-know/)

Learn more about applying for financial aid through the FAFSA and how to overcome some of the potential issues you might face in this article.