

Frequently Asked Questions for Students

ETV Program

Education & Training Voucher Program

CONTACT:

For more information about this program contact your DSHS Children's Administration Social Worker, Independent Living Program Social Worker or the ETV Program Manager at 1-877-433-8388.

ETV Program
1-877-433-8388
ETVWASH@DSHS.WA.GOV

What are ETVs?

The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program offers financial assistance to current and former foster youth to help you attend colleges, universities or vocational training programs. Students may receive up to \$5,000 per academic year to help pay for tuition, fees, books, room and board, rent and other school-related expenses not covered by financial aid.

Am I Eligible?

You may qualify if:

- accepted into or are enrolled in a degree, certificate or other program at an accredited college, university, technical or vocational school; and
- have not yet reached their 21st birthday; **or**
- have not yet reached their 23rd birthday and received ETV funds as of their 21st birthday; and
- are currently in foster care; **or**
- was a dependent of the State of Washington and aged out of foster care system at age 18, emancipated or was adopted from foster care after their 16th birthday; and
- show they are making progress towards a degree or certificate

Do all students get \$5,000?

ETV awards are unique to each student based on the cost of attendance formula established by your school for your financial aid award. Your total education aid cannot exceed your cost of attendance so not every student may receive a full \$5,000. Your cost of attendance is determined by your school and includes tuition, fees, books, housing, transportation and other school-related costs.

For general information on the cost of attendance, go to www.nces.ed.gov to learn more about the standard calculations for tuition and fees plus room and board costs for any school that receives federal Pell Grant funding.

How can I apply?

The application form for ETV is available online from the College Success Foundation at www.collegesuccessfoundation.org. An ETV website will be available in early 2007. If you are applying for the first time, you will need to submit:

- application form
- essay
- copy of your high school diploma or GED certificate or transcript in advance of anticipated graduation
- letter or acceptance from your school or program or your class schedule
- financial aid award letter from your school including your cost of attendance

You must also have submitted your FAFSA (www.fafsa.org) for federal and state financial aid before applying for ETV funds. If your school does not accept federal or state financial aid, contact the ETV Program Manager for more information.

Is there a deadline?

ETV Priority Deadlines: Applications received after priority deadlines will receive funding based on availability.

- August 1 (full year / fall quarter)
- January 1 (winter quarter)
- March 1 (spring quarter)
- June 1 (summer quarter)

Do I have to apply every year?

Yes. You still need to submit a renewal application, your grades from the previous term, class schedule, financial aid award and cost of attendance letter from your school or program.

Who determines if I'm eligible?

The ETV Program Manager will decide if you are eligible to receive ETV funds. The actual amount of your funds will be based on your unmet financial need determined by your school or program, based on funds availability.

What costs will ETV cover?

ETV can help with costs for attendance including:

- Tuition, books and fees for student loans
- Equipment and school supplies required by your program
- Computers if required by your school or program
- Room and board, rent, food
- Transportation such as a bus pass or campus parking pass
- Childcare while you're at school
- Costs related to a disability such as tutoring or adaptive software

ETV cannot pay for items such as mortgage payments, car purchase, gas, late fees, personal loans, computer games, home furnishings, personal clothing, or other expenses not part of your cost of attendance.

How will my expenses get paid?

The ETV Program will pay for expenses directly. You will need to submit receipts, invoices, leases or other documents that explain expenses to the ETV Program. You will need to provide information on who the payment will go to and the amount of the payment.

There is no specific, monthly payment schedule made to you or your school. Every student's schedule and individual financial needs are different. Tuition payments are made to schools before the start of the quarter or semester whenever possible, however the ETV Program does not guarantee pre-payment. The sooner you contact the ETV Program, the sooner we will be able to make a payment.

Before an ETV payment is made to a school, landlord or business (vendor), we need a completed W-9 form, as required by the Internal Revenue Service. The ETV Program manager may need your help to remind the vendor to complete the W-9 because your bill will not get paid without this information.

What is my responsibility to the ETV program?

You are responsible for keeping your contact information current, submitting your financial aid forms (FAFSA) and award letters, program acceptance letter that includes Cost of Attendance, completing an ETV application each year, sending a copy of your schedule and transcript/grades every quarter (or semester) to the ETV program, and maintaining at least a 2.0 GPA.