

California Chafee Grant

Free Money for Foster Youth for College or Technical and Career Training



What is a California Chafee Grant?

The California Chafee Grant is free money for current or former California foster youth to help pay for college or career and technical training. Chafee Grants don't have to be paid back. You may also use your grant to pay for child care, rent and transportation while you're in school. A Chafee Grant is a federal and state funded grant subject to yearly availability of funds.

How do I qualify?

To qualify, you must:

- Be a current or former foster youth*
- Not have reached your 26th birthday as of July 1 of the award year
- Not have participated in the program for more than 5 years (whether or not consecutive)

**To qualify, foster youth dependency of the court must have been established between the ages of 16 and 18. KinGap youth who are or were eligible to receive Independent Living Program services, guardian placements and voluntary placements may not be eligible for the California Chafee Grant unless court dependency was established between the ages of 16 and 18.*

How do I apply?

You must submit the California Chafee Grant Program Application, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA).

- Submit the California Chafee Grant Program Application online at www.chafee.csac.ca.gov, or complete the paper form and mail it.
- Submit the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov or CADAA at www.caldreamact.org.

**Note: Forms are year-specific. Be sure to complete the applications that correspond with the academic year you will be attending school.*

Where can I use my Chafee Grant?

You can use your Chafee Grant at any eligible California college as well as colleges in other states. In California, you can attend:

- Career and technical schools
- California Community Colleges
- California State University campuses
- University of California campuses
- Independent colleges
- Private colleges

What happens after I apply?

- The Commission will review your FAFSA and CADAA and Chafee Grant Application.
- The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will verify your foster status. If CDSS is not able to verify your foster status, please complete the Foster Care Eligibility Certification Form and mail it.
- Once all of the above is completed, the Commission will send you a letter if you are selected for an award.

What is required to receive your Chafee funds?

Your school will verify that you are:

- Enrolled in an eligible public or private college or university or technical school.
- Enrolled at least half time.
- Enrolled in a program at least one academic year long.
- Maintaining satisfactory academic progress.
- Demonstrate financial need.
- The school will verify payment eligibility and disburse the check to you.

Don't Have a Social Security Number?

No problem. You can apply for the Chafee Grant without one. If you are an undocumented foster youth, submit the California Dream Act Application and the Chafee Grant Application.

How do I renew my Chafee Grant?

If you receive a Chafee Grant, it may be renewed through your 26th birthday (if you turn 26 after July 1 of the award year). You do not need to reapply for your Chafee Grant each year; however, you must submit a FAFSA or CADAA and your school must determine if you are still eligible.

The Commission may contact you for updated information. Be sure to respond to e-mails, letters or forms that you may receive.

Where can I find out more about the Chafee Grant and other services for foster youth?

For more information, contact your:

- High school counselor
- College academic advisor
- College financial aid office
- Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI) liaison
- County Independent Living Coordinator
- One-Stop Career Center
- Social worker or probation officer

You can also visit the following websites:

- www.chafee.csac.ca.gov
- www.communitycollege.org
- www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov
- www.fosterclub.com
- www.childsworld.ca.gov
- www.cacollege.pathways.org
- www.cccco.edu/
- www.calyouthconn.org

How can I contact the California Student Aid Commission?



Visit the Commission's Chafee Grant Web site at www.chafee.csac.ca.gov



E-mail your questions to chafee@csac.ca.gov



Call toll free 1.888.224.7268, option 3
Monday through Friday from
8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (PST)



Write or mail:

California Student Aid Commission
Specialized Programs Operations Branch
California Chafee Grant Program
P.O. Box 419027
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9027

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