



Minnesota Education and Training (ETV) Program: Preparing foster youth for college success

**Intended primarily for
social workers, school counselors, foster parents
and others supporting a youth in foster care.**

Tuition support ■ College ■ Aid ■ Education ■ Training
Vouchers ■ Scholarships ■ Post-secondary options



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Child Safety and Permanency Division

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LB3-0001 (3-13)



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Education and Training Voucher Program Overview

The Minnesota Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program is funded by the federal government and administered by the Minnesota Department of Human Services. It was implemented in 2003. ETVs provide funds to eligible youth to attend accredited colleges, universities, vocational and technical colleges, or trade schools. Students can receive up to \$5,000 per ETV award year to help pay for approved school and living expenses. ETVs supplement a student's efforts to obtain financial assistance to help pay for the cost of post-secondary education. ETVs do not have to be paid back. All states have an ETV program. The guidelines are to help students and those working with them plan for post-secondary education. They are also to describe the ETV program and expectations of students participating in the program.

Importance of Post-secondary Education

Foster care youth need to know that there is a world of possibilities for them as they enter adulthood. A youth's planning and support team of social workers, family members, foster parents/caregivers, Guardians ad litem, school staff, and others can play a significant role in guiding them to successful experiences after high school by increasing their expectations of what they can accomplish through education and by adequately preparing them. Data proves that youth from foster care need to be prepared academically, and have a network of support for post-secondary success.

The Midwest Evaluation of Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth found the following outcomes of youth at age 21: "Compared with their peers, these young adults are on average less likely to have a high school diploma, less likely to be pursuing higher education, less likely to be earning a living wage, more likely to have experienced economic hardships, more likely to have a child outside of wedlock, and more likely to have become involved with the criminal justice system".¹ Foster care youth often report that few people in their lives expect them to attend and succeed in post-secondary education. These students are seldom provided the kind of guidance and stable supports needed to prepare for and navigate higher education.²

Planning for Post-secondary Education

Independent living plan: Minnesota's county and tribal social workers have a responsibility to prepare foster care youth for successful adult living. An independent living plan is required by [Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.212](#), subd.1 (b) (12) (i), for youth age 14 or older, that includes planning for post-secondary education. Youth under state/tribal guardianship and those under permanent custody to the agency should be the highest priority of preparation for adult living. Instilling a vision of post-secondary education can start at any age, and concrete planning should start in middle school.

Learning plan: School districts must assist all students by no later than grade nine to explore their educational, post-secondary, and career interests, aptitudes and aspirations. This includes developing a plan for a smooth and successful transition to post-secondary education or employment per [Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.125](#).

Review post-secondary educational planning and paying [resources](#) on pages 24-25 that can be used in developing the above plans with youth and their planning and support team.

¹ Courtney, M.E. et al, (2007) "Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth: Outcomes at Age 21." Chapin Hall Center for Children, University of Chicago.

² Supporting Success: Improving higher education outcomes for students from foster care, Casey Family Programs.

Important ETV program dates

- **July 1–June 30:** ETV award year.
- **July 1–Sept. 30:** Due date submission period for fall semester applications. Students starting school in fall semester submit complete applications by Sept. 30 at midnight to be awarded ETVs, as long as funds are available.
- **By Oct. 31:** First-time fall semester ETV students must complete an orientation session. Students not completing an orientation by this date will lose their ETV award.
- **By Jan 31:** Fall semester grades/transcripts and spring semester class schedules submitted to Lutheran Social Service (LSS) ETV staff for students to continue to use their ETVs.
- **Jan. 1:** First day to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application. The first step of the financial aid process is to complete the FAFSA each year. Once the FAFSA is submitted the information is sent to each post-secondary school the student indicated. Schools upload the information and, based on available funds, an award package is created for the student.
 - To complete the FAFSA, go to the [FAFSA](#) website.
 - Go to the [Minnesota College Goal](#) website for free help with the FAFSA application.
 - Review the Federal Student Aid [FAFSA: Apply for Aid video](#) and additional videos.
- **Jan. 1-31:** Due date submission period for spring semester applications. Students starting school in spring semester, submit complete applications by Jan. 31 at midnight to be awarded ETVs, as long as funds are available.
- **Feb 1-April 30:** LSS ETV staff review requests for additional ETV funds.
- **By Feb. 28:** First-time spring semester ETV students must complete an orientation session. Students not completing an orientation by this date will lose their ETV award.
- **April 30:** Last day to submit requests for additional ETV funds.
- **June 26:** Last day to submit requests for payment or reimbursement of approved expenses.

Connect with the ETV program

- Contact Jill Von Holtum, ETV program coordinator, Minnesota Department of Human Services, at dhs.etvcoordinator@state.mn.us, or 651-431-4663.
- Contact Lutheran Social Service (LSS) ETV program staff:
 - Kelsey Gubrud, primary contact, 320-231-7075, extension 5, or Kelsey.Gubrud@lssmn.org.
 - Marilyn Wagoner, support staff, 320-231-7075, extension. 8, or marilyn.wagoner@lssmn.org.
 - Angela Mateski, supervisor, 320-231-7075, extension 1, or Angela.Mateski@lssmn.org.
- Go to the [ETV website](#) for the following information:
 - **Program info:** Includes a brief description of the program, and a link to additional information about the program, applying for college, financial aid, tuition waivers, etc.
 - **Eligibility:** Lists eligibility criteria for first-time and renewal applicants.
 - **Benefits:** Provides a link to [ETV Expense Guidelines](#)
 - **Apply:** Provides a link to the [ETV online application](#), lists the required documents to attach to applications, and the application due date periods.
- Like the ETV program on [Facebook](#).
- Request to be on the “College Connection Update” email list by sending your name and email address to Kelsey.Gubrud@lssmn.org.

Eligibility

First-time applicants are eligible to apply for the ETV program after meeting the following criteria:

- Under age 21
- Graduated from high school or received a General Educational Development (GED) diploma
- Accepted into an [accredited](#) federal Pell Grant eligible [institution of higher education](#)
- Awarded financial aid, such as the federal Pell Grant, Minnesota State Grant
- One of the following:
 - In foster care per [Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.007, subd. 18](#) on their 18th birthday
 - Adopted, including customary adoptions,* from foster care after their 16th birthday
 - In foster care on or after age 16 when the court ordered transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative per [Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.515, subd. 4](#)
 - Under state or tribal guardianship at age 18.

* Customary adoption means a traditional tribal practice recognized by the community and tribe which gives a child a permanent parent-child relationship with someone other than their birth parent(s).

Renewal applicants apply each year they need funds for undergraduate or graduate education, if they meet all of the following criteria:

- Participated in the ETV program on their 21st birthday and have not reached their 23rd birthday
- Continue to attend an [accredited](#) federal Pell Grant eligible [institution of higher education](#)
- Continue to be eligible for financial aid, such as the federal Pell Grant, Minnesota State Grant
- Are making satisfactory progress toward completing their education
- Have a 2.0 or better cumulative grade point average.

Attending post-secondary school out of state

Students can attend post-secondary schools in another state and apply to the Minnesota ETV program. They will not be eligible to receive the [Minnesota State Grant](#), and may not receive a [tuition waiver](#) if under Minnesota state or tribal guardianship at age 18.

- **Students apply to the Minnesota ETV program** when attending post-secondary schools in another state for any of the following reasons:
 - They were previously awarded an ETV from Minnesota.
 - They are in Minnesota extended foster care.
 - Their residence is in Minnesota.
- **Students apply to another state ETV program** if they left Minnesota extended foster care, and moved to another state to live, and enrolled in a post-secondary school, and have not been awarded an ETV through Minnesota.
- **Students must continue to apply to the state program that awarded them an ETV** even if they move to another state.
- Other state ETV coordinators are found at [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#).

ETV application process

Students apply to the ETV program each year they need funding for post-secondary education by completing an [online application](#) on the [ETV website](#). ETVs are awarded to eligible students submitting complete applications in the due date period, as long as funds are available. A complete application is the application/budget filled out or updated, all required supporting documents attached to the application, and for first-time applicants, the Verification of Eligibility form, and for eligible students, confirmation of a tuition waiver.

Applications

There are two different applications: One for first-time applicants and one for renewal applicants. Students must select and submit the correct application.

First-time application:

- Select if applying for the first time or if previously applied and did not receive an ETV award.
- When this application is submitted, the required [Verification of Eligibility form](#) is emailed to the county or tribal agency worker listed on the application. The form must be completed by county or tribal agency staff before ETVs are awarded.
- Renewal applicants do not complete this application as the Verification of Eligibility form will be emailed to the worker listed on the application. This form is not required for renewal applicants.

Renewal application:

- Select if previously applied and received an ETV award.
- Information from the previous application will auto-fill into the renewal application.
- First-time applicants should not complete this application as the required Verification of Eligibility form will not be emailed to agency staff to complete.

Due date periods

Applications are accepted twice during the ETV award year of July 1 to June 30. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. The two due date periods are:

- **July 1 to Sept. 30 fall semester:** Students starting post-secondary school fall semester must submit a complete application during this due date period. Students are awarded ETVs for the period of time they will be in school from July 1 to June 30.
- **Jan. 1 to Jan. 31 spring semester:** Students starting post-secondary school spring semester must submit a complete application during this due date period. Students apply for and are awarded ETVs for the time they will be in school from Jan. 1 to June 30.

Assistance

Agency staff and adults working with youth are encouraged to assist them in completing the application. Department ETV staff is available to provide assistance in completing the application.

ETV awards

The maximum ETV award for the award year of July 1 to June 30 is \$5,000, and spring semester of Jan. 1 to June 30 is \$2,500. The total amount of financial aid accepted by students, including their ETVs, cannot exceed their cost of attendance.

Determining awards

Department ETV staff determines awards based on each students' unmet need. Unmet need is the amount left after subtracting expenses from financial aid. Students are awarded ETVs based on their unmet need within an award range, not to exceed the amount of need or maximum ETV award amount. Students are not awarded ETVs if they have a negative need.

An example of an award determination:

\$10,000 total expenses
- 8,000 total financial aid
= \$2,000 unmet need

The ETV award range for \$2,000 of unmet need is \$900-\$1000.

Award notification

Applicants awarded ETVs are notified by email. The email contains the award letter, award worksheet and orientation information, as follows:

- **Award letter:** Lists the ETV amount, the time period of the award, and conditions on the award.
- **Award worksheet:** Lists expenses, financial aid and unmet need used to determine ETVs.
- **Orientation information:**
 - First-time students receive an orientation schedule and instructions to sign up for a session.
 - Renewal students receive forms needed to access their ETVs.
- For students in extended foster care, their social worker is copied on the email.
- The contact person listed on the application will also be copied on the email if students checked yes to the question, “Can the contact person be included in all emails ETV staff send to you?”

Applicants not awarded ETVs are notified by mail of the reason(s).

Revising ETV awards

ETV awards may be revised for reasons listed below. ETV staff reviews information submitted and may decrease or increase their award, if funds are available.

Contact department ETV staff, at dhs.etvcoordinator@state.mn.us for students:

- Who believe that not all expenses were included in their budget when their award was determined, send an email with the type(s) and amount of expense(s) not included.
- [Transferring schools](#) during the award year, confirm the new school is an accredited institution of higher education that awards financial aid, and email a revised award worksheet listing new expenses, school acceptance letter, financial aid award letter, and class schedule.

Contact LSS ETV staff, at kelsey.gubrud@lssmn.org for students:

- Receiving additional scholarships not considered when their award was determined, send an email with the revised financial aid award letter.
- Not awarded the maximum ETV amount, can request additional funds by submitting a completed Request for Additional ETV Funds form and a revised award worksheet with changes in expenses to LSS ETV staff. Staff starts reviewing requests in February of the award year, and notifies students by email. Those awarded additional funds receive an update ETV award letter.

Using ETV awards

ETVs can pay for school-related and living expenses. The [ETV Expense Guidelines](#) list all expenses that can be paid for by ETVs. Students awarded ETVs in fall semester for the award year can use their ETVs for approved expenses on July 1 to June 30. Students awarded ETVs for spring semester can use their ETVs for approved expenses January 1 to June 30. ETVs cannot pay for expenses that occurred before or after the award period. See Appendix C: Steps to Using ETVs.

Removing ETV awards

ETV awards can be removed from students for the following reasons:

- First-year students do not complete an orientation session by the required date
- Withdrawing from school
- Not responding to ETV staff contacts within one week after the second attempt
- Not submitting grades, class schedules or other documents as required or requested by ETV staff
- Having a cumulative grade point average (GPA) under 2.0 for two consecutive semesters
- Suspended from financial aid
- Transferring to a post-secondary school that does not meet ETV eligibility
- Award amounts not used by the end of the award year are returned to the program.

Orientation

Orientation sessions are an opportunity for ETV students to meet LSS ETV staff, get information on what expenses ETVs cover, and how ETVs pay for expenses. Orientation schedules are on [ETV Facebook](#) in June for fall semester and December for spring semester. The following guidelines apply:

- **First-time students** are required to attend an orientation session before they can begin using their ETVs. They receive an orientation packet at the session with the necessary forms. They can invite their social worker, foster parents/caregivers, family members, and/or other supportive individuals to the session. Students not completing a session by the due date will lose their ETVs.
- **Renewal students** can attend an orientation session but it is not required. They can use their ETVs after receiving their award letter and submitting the required forms. Materials needed to access their ETVs is emailed with their award letter.

Student responsibilities

As a participant in the ETV program, students are required to do the following:

- **Orientation:** First-time students must attend a session by the required dates.
- **Maintain attendance in school:** ETVs pay for approved expenses of students attending school. ETVs cannot pay for expenses after students withdraw or graduate from school, even if they have funds available. Students should contact ETV staff before withdrawing or graduating to discuss using their ETVs to pay for approved expenses.
- **Maintain academic progress:** Meet [Satisfactory Academic Progress standards](#) set by the school. Students are to maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 and complete all classes to move toward successfully completing a degree or certificate in the time period set by the school. Students with a cumulative GPA of under 2.0 for two consecutive semesters must provide the ETV program an academic plan completed with their school, or develop a plan with ETV staff. The plan must outline the issues impacting school performance, how the student plans to resolve the issues, and steps to ensure future academic success.
- **Maintain financial aid eligibility:** Students not awarded or suspended from financial aid are not eligible for ETVs until they are reinstated. Contact LSS ETV staff after reinstatement.
- **Additional responsibilities include:**
 - Respond to ETV staff contacts within one week after the second attempt at contact, or risk not being awarded ETVs or having ETVs removed.
 - Maintain an active email account and check it frequently.
 - Submit a copy of grades and class schedule after each quarter or semester completed. Failure to submit either form will result in stopping all payments, reimbursements, and the use of ETVs until the information has been received by LSS ETV staff.
 - Submit all Check Request forms for payment/reimbursement by June 26 each year.
- **Contact LSS ETV staff if any of the following occurs during the ETV award year:**
 - Change in address, email address and/or phone number.
 - Change your name during the award year.
 - Financial situation changes.
 - Have questions about using ETV funds.
 - Financial aid is increased, suspended or terminated.
 - Add or drop class.
 - Plan to withdraw or withdrew from school.
 - Plan to transfer to a new school.
 - Leave or are discharged from extended foster care.
 - Need support to maintain school attendance.
 - Need assistance connecting to school and/or community resources.

Staff responsibilities

The Minnesota Department of Human Services receives federal funds and manages the ETV program, and contracts with Lutheran Social Service (LSS) of Minnesota-Wilmar to implement it.

Department ETV staff is responsible for the following activities:

- Managing the ETV program.
- Coordinating programming with Lutheran Social Service (LSS) ETV staff.
- Organizing program training, and other informational sessions.
- Attending meetings with students and agency staff, as requested, to provide ETV program information and preparing for post-secondary resources.
- Sending program information emails to county, tribal and private agency social service staff.
- Answering questions about the ETV program and application.
- Assisting students with the ETV application.
- Receiving and reviewing ETV applications, contacting applicants, and determining awards.
- Sending award letters and orientation information to ETV students.

Students' contact with department ETV staff usually ends when they receive their award letter.

Contact information: Minnesota Department of Human Services, P.O. Box 64943, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0943, at dhs.etvcoordinator@state.mn.us, or 651-431-4663; Fax: 651-431-7522.

Lutheran Social Service (LSS) ETV staff is responsible for the following activities:

- Receiving all students' ETV funds and assisting them in developing budgets.
- Tracking how each student spends their ETVs.
- Organizing and delivering orientation sessions around the state.
- Answering questions and maintaining contact with students after orientation and through the ETV award year.
- Processing requests for payment and/or reimbursement of approved expenses.
- Receiving, reviewing and approving requests for additional funds.
- Completing or collecting academic plans of students with a cumulative grade point average of under 2.0. Providing support for students to complete academic plan tasks.
- Assisting with issues that may interfere with post-secondary attendance and performance.
- Locating post-secondary and community supports as requested by students.
- Receiving required documentation after each term completed to confirm students are attending school and to approve continued use of ETVs.
- Maintaining an [ETV Facebook page](#).
- Coordinating with county and tribal agency staff of students in extended foster care.
- Meeting with students, if requested.
- Tracking students' school status, graduation and employment after graduation.
- Sending emails to ETV students with program information and updates.
- Submitting quarterly reports to the department.

Students' contact with LSS ETV staff starts when they receive their award letter. LSS ETV staff is the primary contact for students during the school and ETV award year.

Contact information: Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, 1601 Hwy 12 E, Suite 6, Willmar, Minnesota 56201; Fax: 320-231-7037. See [page 4](#) for individual contact information.

Appendix A: Application Preparation Checklist

Students complete the following tasks before opening the application to submit a complete application.

___ **Confirm eligibility for the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program.** Only eligible students should apply. There are no exceptions to the criteria. Contact Department ETV staff to confirm eligibility at dhs.etvcoordinator@state.mn.us, or 651-431-4663.

___ **Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** after Jan. 1 for federal and state financial aid, grants, work-study and loans. Students who are under state or tribal guardianship or have been in foster care any time since turning age 13 are independent students and do not have to include their parents' information. The FAFSA is sent to the student's post-secondary school to develop their financial aid award letter. [Minnesota College Goal](#) offers workshops to help students complete the FAFSA application.

___ **Know what ETV pays for and what students pay for at their post-secondary school.**

- **Review the [ETV Expense Guidelines](#)** for what ETVs pay for, and to prepare to complete the ETV application budget
- **Create a post-secondary school [budget](#)** to identify all post-secondary school-related and personal expenses, and have a plan to pay for those not covered by financial aid or ETVs.

___ **Apply for scholarships** in addition to the FAFSA and ETV to pay for expenses not covered by financial aid and ETVs and to avoid taking out loans. See Appendix F.

___ **Confirm state ward status and request a [tuition waiver](#).** Students are eligible for a tuition waiver if they are under state or tribal guardianship at age 18, are under age 21, and accepted into a Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system post-secondary school that offers a waiver. Contact the school to request a waiver and provide documentation, such as a court order or letter from social worker.

___ **Obtain required documents.** Applicants must attach the following documents to the application in a format ETV staff can open and read. The FAFSA or Student Aid Report (SAR) is not the financial aid award letter, and neither should be attached to applications.

- **First-time applicants:** Post-secondary school acceptance letter, financial aid award letter and class schedule.
- **Renewal applicants:** Post-secondary school acceptance letter, if a student changed school since their last ETV application, financial aid award letter, class schedule, and transcripts from the last school year completed. Transcripts must include the cumulative grade point average and number of credits earned since starting post-secondary education.

___ **Answer the following application essay questions:**

- **First-time applicants:** Why do you want to go to college? What are your career goals? Who are supportive people in your life? How can the ETV program support you?
- **Renewal applicants:** Describe your last year of college, including academic performance, changes and accomplishments or difficulties. Who are supportive people in your life? How have they supported you during the last year? How can the ETV program continue to support you?

___ **Open, complete and submit an [ETV application](#).**

Appendix B: Online Application Instructions

Applicants have four hours to complete and submit or save the application. The time remaining is on each page of the application. If the time does not change, the application maybe disconnected from the internet and it cannot be submitted or saved. Print what is entered, exit the application and start the application again. All questions on the application are required and must be answered. Click on the ETV Expense Guidelines box on the first and budget pages to open and review.

ETV Application: Open the [ETV website](#) and click on the “Apply” tab and then [ETV online application](#), or click on [ETV online application](#) to open the landing page below.



Minnesota Education and Training Voucher Program Application

First Time Application

Complete a first time application if you are applying for the first time, or if you applied previously and did not receive an award.

Renewal Application

Complete a renewal application if you previously received an award.

You will be prompted to log in using your Minnesota Department of Human Services Online Account.

[Have an account and forgot your password?](#)
[Need to create an account?](#)

All applicants must have a username and password to enter the application. Go to a separate window on the department’s website to create a username and password. The ETV application is not on this site so do not start an application. You must return to the landing page to start the ETV application. Make sure the landing page looks like the screen shot above. If it does not, it is not the ETV application. Exit this site and click on [ETV online application](#) to go to the landing page.

First-time applicants:

- On the landing page, select “First Time Application” if applying for the first time, or applied previously and did not receive an award.
- Do not complete a renewal application.
- Click on “If you are a first time user, click here to register” to go to the registration website.
- Complete registration, exit the website and return to the ETV application landing page.
- Keep username/password as it is needed to enter your application every year you apply for the program. ETV staff does not know and cannot get your username/password.
- Click “First Time Application” and “Open application.”

Renewal applicants:

- On the landing page, select “Renewal Application” if previously received an award.
- Do not complete a first-time application.
- If you do not remember your username or password, click on “If you do not have a username or password, even though you have received an ETV award in the past, click here to register” or “Have an account and forgot your password?”
- Complete the registration, exit the website and return to the ETV application landing page.
- Keep your username/password as it is needed to enter your application every year you apply for the program. ETV staff does not know and cannot get your username/password.
- On the landing page, click “Renewal Application” and “Open application.”

Login to the application. All applicants: An eDocs login screen appears. Enter your username/password and click “Login”. There are two issues with logging into the application.

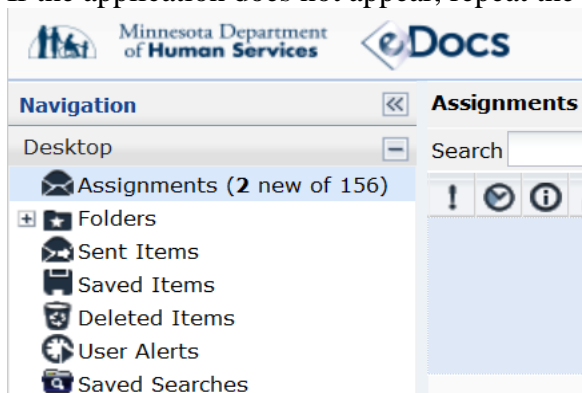
Issue 1: A message appears that your username/password are incorrect or not recognized.

Resolution: Exit the application. It can take up to six hours for the computer system to register a username and password after an account is created.

Issue 2: An eDocs Navigation screen appears and looks like the screenshot below.

Resolution:

- Exit the screen to return to the landing page. Do not take any action on this screen. It is not part of the application.
- On the landing page, click on “First Time” or “Renewal” application and then “Open application.”
- If the application does not appear, repeat the step.



Page 1: Application Type and Eligibility Criteria: Students must meet the eligibility criteria to apply or reapply to the ETV program. There are no exceptions to the criteria.

First-time applicants:

- Select “New application” if starting an application or “Returning to complete an application” if an application was previously started and saved Enter your Social Security number.
- Complete the eligibility section, and click “Start application.”

Renewal applicants:

The screenshot shows the 'Renewal Type' and 'Eligibility Criteria' sections of the application form. In the 'Renewal Type' section, 'New renewal' is selected. Two Social Security Number (SSN) input boxes are shown, both containing asterisks. A green checkmark is visible next to the second SSN box, and a 'Get your info' button is present. The 'Eligibility Criteria' section contains two groups of checkboxes. The first group, 'One of the following must be checked', includes options for not reaching 21st birthday or participating in the ETV program. The second group, 'All of the following must be checked', includes options for being enrolled in an accredited institution or making progress toward completing a school program. A timer in the top right corner shows 3:59:44 remaining.

- Select “New application” if starting an application or “Returning to complete an application” if an application was previously started and saved.
- When either is selected, two Social Security number boxes appear. Enter your Social Security number in both boxes.
- A green check mark will appear. Click on it and a “Get your info” box will appear.
- Click on the “Get your info” and information from your previous application will fill in to this application.
- Complete the “Eligibility Criteria” section and click on “Start renewal.”

Page 2: Student Information: All applicants answer or update all questions.

Page 3: Placement History

First-time applicants:

- Answer all questions.
- Under heading “My social worker or probation office is:” Add the staff person from the county/tribal agency responsible for your placement, even if you left care.
- When first-time ETV applications are submitted, this worker is immediately sent an automated email with instructions to complete an online [Verification of Eligibility form](#).
- If you do not have a current worker, contact the agency to get a name and email address to add to your application. Incorrect email addresses delay determining ETVs.

Renewal applicants:

- Update all questions.
- All applicants must add an agency worker’s name and email address as it is a required field. An option is to enter ETV staff name/email address: Jill Von Holtum at jill.von.holtum@state.mn.us.

Page 4: Post-secondary education: All applicants answer or update all questions, including the correct date for the “Anticipated Graduation/Completion Date.” It is used to determine ETV awards.

Page 5: Essay

First-time applicants: Answer all essay questions.

Renewal applicants:

- Students completing their first renewal application have their first-time application essay auto-fill into this section. The renewal application questions are different and must be answered.
- Applicants not updating essays will be asked to do so, and it may delay determining ETVs.

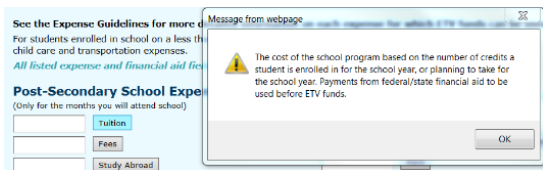
Page 6: Authorization and agreement: All applicants read the documents and follow instructions.

- **Authorization for Release of Information** describes the information that can be shared about you. If you approve, check the authorization button
- **Participation Agreement** outlines your responsibilities as an ETV participant. If you approve, check to agree.
- **Click on the Notice of Privacy Practice** button to open the form. Review how private information about you and your participation in the ETV program may be used and disclosed, and how you can obtain your information.

Page 7: School year budget: All applicants do the following:

School year budget:

- **Fall semester applicants:** Check all months you plan to attend school during the ETV award year of July 1 to June 30. Add expenses and financial aid for the months attending.
- **Spring semester applicants:** Check the months you plan to attend school during Jan. 1 to June 30. Add expenses and financial aid for the months attending.
- The months should match the school start and graduation dates in the post-secondary section.



Expense section:

- Click on ETV Expense Guidelines to review all expenses ETVs pay for and rules for expenses.
- Click on the name of each expense to open an informational message/definition. Review before adding amounts for each expense.
- Add the total amounts for each expense for the time period identified under expense headings, such as “Only for the months attending school” under the Post-Secondary School Expense heading and “For the entire ETV award year” under the Housing and Personal Expenses heading.
- Add only the expenses that occur during the award year (either July 1/Jan. 1 to June 30).
- Medical insurance is not paid by ETVs. Students can apply for the [Affordable Care Act](#).
- Transportation expenses appear only if “Off Campus” housing type is selected.
- Car-related expenses appear only if “Car” is selected.
- **Extended foster care living settings:**
 - Students living in foster homes have the option to add rent/deposit, utilities and food to the expense section. These expenses are considered when determining ETV awards even though ETVs cannot pay for them.
 - Students in supervised independent living settings, such as a dorm or apartment, must add rent/deposit, utilities, and food to their budget. These expenses will be considered when determining ETV awards even though ETV funds cannot pay for them.

Financial aid section:

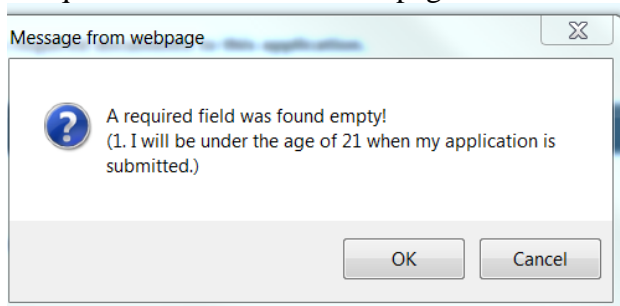
- Click on the financial aid type for information, or to go to a website.
- **Extended foster care living settings:**
 - Students living foster homes who did not add rent/deposit, utilities and food to the expense section should not add the amount of the Basic Monthly Foster Care Maintenance and Foster Care Supplemental amounts to the financial aid section.
 - Students in supervised independent living settings must add Basic Monthly Foster Care Maintenance and Foster Care Supplemental amounts to the financial aid section.
- Financial aid awarded and not listed on the budget should be added in the ‘Other’ section.
- Students awarded tuition waivers add the amount in the tuition waiver box.

Attachments: All applicants do the following.

- Attach only the documents listed on the application. Substitute documents will not be accepted.
- Attach documents only when ready to submit an application. Documents will not remain on a saved application.
- Click on “Manage Attachments” for the “Attachment Manager” screen to appear. Click on “Add File” and “Browse” to the location of the saved documents and attach each document.
- Click “Finish” when all documents are attached and return to the application.
- Department ETV staff must be able to open and read the attached documents.
- Incorrect documents or those that cannot be opened and read will delay determining ETVs.

Submit or save application: All applicants do the following.

- Check either “I am the applicant” or “I am the parent/guardian” and “Print Form”.
- If a required question was not answered, a message box will appear with the question. Answer the question and return to this page to submit or save the application.



Submit final application if application is [complete](#).

- Applicants are immediately sent this automated confirmation email. Their name appears in the “Student” section.



- Do not return to submitted applications to correct or add information as it will create a second submitted application. Contact department ETV staff to make additions, corrections and/or attach documents.
- First-time applicants’ agency workers are immediately sent an automated email with instructions to complete an online [Verification of Eligibility form](#).
- Department ETV staff does the following after applications are submitted:
 - Receives email notifications when applications are submitted, and when the Verification of Eligibility forms are sent to and submitted by agency staff.
 - Sends applicants confirmation emails that their application was received, as follows:
 - **Complete applications:** Students receive ETV award email.
 - **Incomplete applications:** Students receive instructions on completing their applications.
- Applications must be [complete](#) by midnight on the last day of the due date period for students to be considered for ETVs, if funds are available.

Save application for later if application is incomplete.

- Applicants are immediately sent this automated email with instructions on returning to complete their application.
- Department ETV staff do not receive the email.



ETV Application has been saved

Student: Jane Dee Doe
Date saved: 11/05/2015 16:06:42

To complete your application:

- Go to the [ETV Application](#)
- Log in using your Minnesota Department of Human Services Online Account
- Under Application Type, select 'Returning to complete an application'
- Enter your SSN and click 'Get your info' to populate the form with your saved data

Verification of Eligibility Form

First-time applicants: When first-time applications are submitted, the county or tribal agency worker listed on the application Placement History section, is immediately sent this automated email with instructions to complete an online Verification of Eligibility form. The purpose of the form is for agency workers to confirm applicants' ETV program eligibility and current foster care status.



Request to complete ETV Verification of Eligibility

Please complete the Verification of Eligibility for **Name of Student**

You will need to log in using your Minnesota Department of Human Services Online Account. If you log into MN-ITS, SMI or CSED, you will have an existing account. If you do not have an account, you can [register here](#).

- Enter the unique ID: _____ and click 'Get student info' to populate the form with the student's information
- ETV Verification of Eligibility form

Submitted: 6/27/2014 09:13:58

Note: The ETV applicant has signed a release of information as part of the application allowing agency staff to complete and submit this form.

If you have questions regarding this request, please contact Jill Von Holtum at 651-431-4663 or dhs.etvcoordinator@state.mn.us.

County/tribal agency staff must do the following:

- Create or use an existing username and password to open, complete and submit the form.
- The form must be submitted before applicants are awarded ETVs.
- Contact department ETV staff at 651-431-4663, or dhs.etvcoordinator@state.mn.us, for assistance in completing the form.

Appendix C: Using ETV Awards

ETV Expense Guidelines

All expenses ETVs pay for are listed on the expense guidelines. The form has the types of expenses, information about each expense, required documentation, and where payments are sent. ETV students and those working with them can review the guidelines to determine how to spend their ETVs. The form notes restrictions on what ETVs cover for students in extended foster care and students enrolled less than half-time (five credits or less). Students in extended foster care can use their ETVs to pay for all expenses except those included in the monthly maintenance payments defined in [Minnesota Rules, section 9560.0521, subpart 10](#). Students enrolled in five credits or less can use ETVs to pay for tuition, fees, books, child care and transportation expenses.

Award year dates

- **July 1 to June 30:** Period of time students awarded ETVs for the award year can use their ETVs for approved expenses.
- **Jan. 1 to June 30:** Period of time students awarded ETVs for spring semester can use their ETVs for approved expenses.
- ETV award letters list the period of time students are awarded and can use their ETVs. Students can use their ETVs throughout the award period, unless they withdraw or graduate from their post-secondary program. [Review the reasons for removal of ETVs section.](#)
- **June 26:** Last date to submit Check Request forms for payment/reimbursement of expenses.

ETV forms

All students receive the following forms needed to use their ETVs. First-year students receive them at orientation sessions, and can complete and submit the required forms at a session. Renewal students receive the forms by email, and must submit the required forms to LSS ETV staff by email, fax or mail before they can use their ETVs. Students are encouraged to keep the forms for reference throughout the ETV award year.

Forms two, three, four and five must be completed and submitted to LSS ETV staff before students can use their ETVs.

- Form 1: ETV Staff Responsibilities and Contact Information
- Form 2: Student Responsibilities and Participation Agreement
- Form 3: Release of information
- Form 4: W-9: Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification
- Form 5: Direct deposit
- Form 6: Check request
- Form 7: Request for additional funds
- PowerPoint outlining ETV program rules and instructions on using ETVs
- [ETV Expense Guidelines](#)

Steps to using ETV awards

Like other forms of financial aid, ETV awards of more than \$1,000 are divided into two semesters for students applying for the ETV award year. Students can use one-half of their ETV award for fall semester, and the remaining funds for spring semester after submitting their grades and class schedule. The funds not used in fall semester are carried over to spring semester. ETVs not used during the ETV award year are returned to the program.

Unlike other forms of financial aid, ETVs are not automatically sent to students or their post-secondary schools. All funds are sent to the LSS ETV program to manage, and students must submit request forms to pay for or be reimbursed for approved expenses.

Step 1: Students determine payment method of reimbursement or direct payment to vendor.

Reimbursement: Students pay for eligible expenses and request reimbursements by submitting a completed Check Request form with required documentation. There are two options for students to receive reimbursement:

Option 1: Direct deposit into a checking or savings account. Students selecting this option must complete the following forms: W-9: Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification and Direct Deposit. Both forms are submitted with a voided check to LSS ETV staff.

- First-year students selecting this option submit the forms and voided check at orientation
- Renewal students selecting this option mail, email or fax the completed forms and a voided check to LSS ETV staff.

Option 2: Check sent by mail.

- Payments are issued on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- All students must complete Form 4: W-9: Request for Taxpayer Identification Number form.
- First-year ETV students complete the form at orientation. Renewal students mail, email or fax the completed form.

Direct payment to a vendor: Students submit a completed Check Request form with required documentation to LSS ETV staff.

Step 2: Request payment or reimbursement of an approved expense, as follows:

- Confirm payment occurred during the ETV award period.
- Confirm funds can pay for the expense based on placement and/or school enrollment status.
- One Check Request form should be completed for each expense. However, for monthly expenses such as rent, utilities, internet, phone, car insurance, advance payments of up to three months can be made directly to the vendor.
- Attach the required documentation and receipts to the Check Request form.
- Submit documentation and receipts to LSS ETV staff.
- Submit Check Request forms and documentation for payment before bills are due.

Step 3: Processing payment or reimbursement of an approved expense, includes:

- LSS ETV staff review the submitted Check Request form, documentation and receipt(s), and contact students if additional information is needed. Processing payments will be delayed if a form is incomplete and/or the required documentation is not attached.
- Students must respond to questions from LSS ETV staff, and provide information requested as soon as possible to process requests.
- Payments can take up to 14 working days after a completed request form is submitted.
- All requests for payment/reimbursement must be submitted before a student withdraws or graduates from school.
- ETV funds cannot pay for expenses after students withdraw or graduate from school, even if they have funds available.

Step 4: Students can continue to use ETV funds if they do all of the following:

- Continue to be enrolled in and attending school
- Submit a copy of grades after each period completed, and class schedule for the next period attending to LSS ETV staff. Failure to submit either form will result in stopping all payments, reimbursements, and the use of ETVs until information has been received by ETV staff.

Appendix D: Terms and Definitions

The Minnesota Education and Training Voucher program uses the following terms and definitions.

Accredited post-secondary institution: Accreditation recognizes institutions of higher education that must maintain certain standards for its graduates to gain admission to reputable institutions or achieve credentials for professional practice. The goal of accreditation is to ensure the education provided meets acceptable levels of quality. The degree must be awarded by a public or private two-year or four-year post-secondary education, university, and community post-secondary education, vocational or technical institution in the United States that is accredited by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), or an accreditation organization recognized by CHEA. Check the [database](#) of accredited post-secondary institutions and programs.

Affordable Care Act (ACA) for Former Foster Care Youth: As of Jan. 1, 2014, youth leaving foster care on their 18th birthday or later are eligible for Medical Assistance up to age 26. The former foster care category for Medical Assistance (MA) also includes individuals who turned 18, or aged out of foster care, prior to Jan 1, 2014. Go to the [MNSure website](#).

Complete ETV application: Complete applications are an application and budget filled out or updated, all required supporting documents attached to the application, and for first-time applicants, the Verification of Eligibility form, and for eligible students, confirmation of a tuition waiver.

Cost of attendance (COA): The total amount it costs to go to post-secondary school. It includes tuition, fees, room and board, and allowances for books, supplies, loan fees, transportation and dependent care. It also includes miscellaneous and personal expenses, including an allowance for rental or purchase of a personal computer, costs related to a disability, and reasonable costs for eligible study-abroad programs. It is used to help determine how much financial aid a student will need to cover their costs during the academic year.

Customary adoption means a traditional tribal practice recognized by the community and tribe which gives a child a permanent parent-child relationship with someone other than the child's birth parent(s).

ETV recipient: Student awarded an ETV. Also known as an ETV student.

ETV award: Funds ETV recipients are awarded. Also known as ETVs or vouchers.

ETV award letter: Letter sent to ETV students with the amount of their award, the time period of the award, and conditions on the award.

ETV award worksheet: Expenses, financial aid, and unmet need used to determine ETV awards.

ETV award year: July 1 to June 30 each year.

Extended foster care: Minnesota law allows youth who are in foster care on their 18th birthday to receive extended foster care services and payments. Six months prior to youth's 18th birthday, the agency will send a notice to youth, their parent(s) or legal guardian, guardian ad litem and foster parents explaining options for youth when they turn 18, which are: Continue in foster care up to age 21, or leave foster care when they turn 18, in which case a personalized transition plan must be developed during the last three months they are in foster care.

Financial aid award letter: The financial aid office of the post-secondary school sends students an award letter with the types and amounts of financial aid they are eligible to receive from federal, state and school sources. For more details, go to the [Federal Student Aid website](#).

Financial aid package: After the FAFSA is submitted, information is sent to each post-secondary school the student indicated. Each school generates a financial aid award package based on available funds for the student. The school's financial aid staff combines various forms of aid into a package to help meet a student's education costs.

First-time recipient/student: Student awarded an ETV for the first time.

Foster care: Children placed away from their parents/guardian and in 24-hour substitute care by a responsible social services agency that has placement and care responsibility, including placement in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions and pre-adoptive homes. Foster care does not include placement in the following facilities: Hospitals, inpatient chemical dependency treatment facilities, facilities that are primarily for delinquent children, any corrections facility or program within a particular correction's facility not meeting requirements for Title IV-E facilities as determined by the commissioner, facilities to which a child is committed under the provision of chapter 253B, forestry camps, or jails. [Minn. Stat., section 260C.007, subd. 18]

Independent student: Students are considered independent and do not have to provide their parental information if at any time since they turned age 13 they were in foster care or were dependent or ward of the court. The financial aid administrator may require proof of foster care or state ward status. If a student thinks they should be independent because of unusual circumstances, they should talk to the financial aid office. The aid office can change the student's status to independent.

Institution of higher education: The term "institution of higher education" is defined in sections 101 and 102 of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as amended. In general, the term includes three different types of institutions: Public and nonprofit institutions of higher education; proprietary institutions of higher education; and postsecondary vocational institutions. ETV funds can be used only at an accredited school, defined as: Awards a bachelor's degree, or not less than a two-year program that provides credit towards a degree, or provides not less than one year of training towards gainful employment, or is a vocational program that provides training for gainful employment and has been in existence for at least two years, and all of the following: Admits as regular students only persons with a high school diploma or equivalent; or admits as regular students persons who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance; be public, private, or non-profit; and accredited or pre-accredited and is authorized to operate in a state.

Monthly foster care maintenance: Payments to cover the cost of a youth's food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, and personal incidentals, and reasonable travel to a youth's home for visitation. Students in extended foster care receive monthly maintenance payments. [Minn. Rules 9560.0521, subp. 10]

Renewal recipient/student: Student awarded an ETV in a previous year.

State guardianship: Children are placed under the guardianship of the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services when courts terminate parents' rights (TPR). They remain under state guardianship until they are adopted or reach their 18th birthday. Other terms used are state ward or ward of the court. [Minn. Stat., sections 260C.317 and 260C.515]

Student Aid Report (SAR): A summary of information submitted on a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students receive this report after a FAFSA has been processed. If there are no corrections or additional information, the SAR will contain the expected family contribution, which is the number used to determine eligibility for federal student aid.

Transfer of permanent legal and physical custody: The court may order a transfer to a fit and willing relative in the best interests of the child. [Minn. Stat., section 260C.515, subd. 4]

Tribal guardianship: American Indian children under the suspension of parental rights or termination of parental rights under guardianship of a tribe or tribal social service agency.

Tuition waiver: Students under state guardianship, or an Indian child under suspension of parental rights or termination of parental rights under guardianship of a tribe or tribal social service agency, at age 18 are eligible to receive a tuition waiver, if under age 21 and accepted to a Minnesota state post-secondary school offering waivers.

Supplemental difficulty of care rate: Payment in addition to the monthly foster care maintenance, based on an assessment by the responsible agency.

Unmet need: The amount of expenses remaining after financial aid is considered. It is used to determine ETV awards. ETV awards cannot exceed the amount of unmet need.

Appendix E: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the maximum ETV award?

The maximum award is \$5,000 for the ETV award year and \$2,500 for spring semester.

Is post-secondary education free for Minnesota foster care youth?

No. Foster and adopted youth should apply for scholarships to pay for post-secondary education costs not paid by grants and ETVs. Foster and adopted youth, and those under state guardianship have access to these educational benefits:

- **Independent status:** Students are considered independent and do not have to provide their parental information if at any time since they turned age 13 they were in foster care or were dependent or ward of the court.
- **Tuition waiver:** Youth are eligible to receive a tuition waiver if they are under state or tribal guardianship at age 18, and under age 21, and accepted into a school offering tuition waivers. Waivers pay for all or part of the student's tuition.
- **SAT fee waiver:** Youth in foster care and under state or tribal guardianship are eligible.

Do all eligible students who apply to the ETV program receive an award?

No, ETV awards are determined by student's unmet need, which is the amount left after subtracting expenses from financial aid. ETV awards cannot exceed the amount of need. Students whose financial aid exceeds their expenses do not demonstrate a need and are not awarded ETVs.

Are students eligible for the ETV program if they receive a tuition waiver?

Yes, students under state or tribal guardianship at age 18 who receive tuition waivers are eligible to apply, and receive ETVs if financial aid does not exceed expenses.

Are there age requirements for the ETV program?

Yes, first-time applicants must be under age 21 when they are awarded ETVs. Students participating in the program on their 21st birthday can apply up to their 23rd birthday if they are enrolled and making progress in school. Students cannot be awarded funds after their 23rd birthday.

Can ETV recipients use their ETV award after their 23rd birthday?

Yes, students awarded ETVs before their 23rd birthday can use their funds through the award year, as long as they are attending post-secondary schools.

Can ETVs pay for a student's expenses before and/or after the ETV award year?

No, ETV funds cannot pay for expenses occurring before or after the award year.

Can ETV funds pay for housing and food expenses of students in extended foster care?

No, students in extended foster care receive monthly maintenance payments from the agency responsible for their care to cover the cost of food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, and personal incidentals, and reasonable travel to a youth's home for visitation. ETV funds cannot pay for these expenses, even if the expenses exceed the monthly maintenance payment. [Minn. Rules 9560.0521, subp. 10]

Can students attend post-secondary schools outside of the United States and receive ETVs?

No, students must be able to receive federal financial aid to apply for the ETV program. However, students can participate in study abroad programs as part of their post-secondary schools.

Do students have to attend a Minnesota post-secondary school to receive ETVs?

No, students can attend schools in other states and receive ETVs from Minnesota's ETV program.

Can students submit ETV applications anytime during the year?

No. ETV applications are accepted twice during the award year. The application due date periods are July 1 to Sept. 30 and Jan. 1 to 31. Students must be able to submit a complete application during one of the application due date periods. A complete application is the application and budget filled out and all required supporting documents attached to the application.

If a student received an ETV from Minnesota and moves to another state, do they continue to apply through Minnesota?

Yes, students must continue to apply to the ETV program in the state that awarded their ETVs.

Can students apply for an ETV if they are still in high school and taking post-secondary education courses?

No, students must be high school graduates or received a GED, accepted into an accredited institution of higher education, and awarded financial aid to apply for and be awarded an ETV.

Can students lose their ETV award?

Yes, review the removing ETV awards section on page 7.

Are students informed of the consequences of leaving school?

Yes, ETV staff reviews the consequences at orientation sessions.

If a student withdraws from school for a semester, do they lose their ETV award?

It depends on the date during the award year that a student withdraws from school. The ETV award year is July 1 to June 30 each year. Students awarded ETVs for the school year and withdraw fall semester, can have their ETV funds held if they contact LSS ETV staff to confirm their plan to resume school attendance in spring. If they return to school spring semester, LSS ETV staff re-determines their ETV award based on expenses and financial aid for the time period they are attending school. If they do not return to school, their award is removed and returned to the program. Students awarded ETVs for spring semester and withdraw during the semester have their funds removed and returned to the program.

Can students transfer post-secondary schools after they are awarded ETVs?

Yes, however, ETV awards are determined by the information in the application submitted. Awards do not transfer to the new school. An award for the new school will be determined if the school meets ETV eligibility by being an accredited institution of higher education and awards financial aid, and after the student submits to department ETV staff their school acceptance letter, financial aid award letter, class schedule, and revised budget. Awards may decrease or increase based on need and the amount of ETV funding available. Students planning to change schools should contact LSS ETV staff to discuss paying for expenses before withdrawing from their current school. ETVs cannot pay for expenses of students after they withdraw from school, even if they are in the process of transferring to a new school.

Appendix F: Post-secondary Educational Resources

Choosing a career path and developing the skills needed to succeed in that path is a process, and not a one-time decision. Consider using the following resources with youth to start post-secondary education preparation early.

The following resources are from the [Minnesota Office of Higher Education website](#) (MN OHE) unless otherwise indicated:

- [Interest Assessment](#)
- [College prep timeline](#)
- [Earn college credits in high school](#)
- [College preparation and admissions tests](#)
- [Recommended High School Classes](#)
- [Within My Reach](#) booklet for youth to plan for college

[Minnesota TRiO](#) programs offer pre and post-secondary program information and support.

Choosing a post-secondary school:

- [Identify what you want in a school](#)
- [Explore Minn. college options](#)
- [For-Profit Colleges: Do Your Homework](#) from the Office of Minnesota Attorney General
- [Choosing a College](#) booklet
- [Campus Visit checklist](#)
- [College Comparison worksheet](#)

Applying to a post-secondary school:

- [Steps to applying to college](#)
- [What you will need to apply](#)
- [Essay Writing Tips](#)
- [I Applied . . . Now What](#)
- [Other applying for college resources](#)

Paying for post-secondary school:

- [What Does College Cost?](#)
- [Minnesota College Savings Plan](#)
- [About Financial Aid](#)
- [Financial Aid Basics](#) booklet
- [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) booklet
- [Reducing Textbook Costs](#)
- [Financial Aid Comparison Worksheet](#)
- [Factors affecting financial aid](#)
- [Funding Your Education](#) from Federal Student Aid
- [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#)
- [Completing the FAFSA 2016-17](#) instructions
- [Minnesota College Goal](#) website for free help with the FAFSA application
- Review the Federal Student Aid [FAFSA: Apply for Aid video](#) and additional videos

Scholarship resources:

- [Scholarships offered by Minn. institutions](#)
- [Free Scholarship Searches and Resources](#)
- [Reduced Out-of state Tuition options](#)
- [Student Loan Advice](#)
- [Tuition waiver](#)
- [American Indian Tuition Waiver](#), University of Minnesota Morris
- [Minnesota Indian scholarship](#)
- [Resources for students of color](#)
- [Resources for Undocumented Students](#)
- [Career One Stop scholarship search](#) from the U.S. Department of Labor
- [Minnesota Education and Training Voucher \(ETV\) program](#) for additional resources.

Scholarships specific to foster and adopted youth:

- [Foster Care to Success](#) for students who spent one/more years in foster care
- [Fostering a Future](#) for students adopted from foster care after age 13.

ETV website resources:

- [Pohlad Scholars Program](#) for students who live in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington.
- [Power of You](#) for students graduating from a Minneapolis or St. Paul public high school who plan to attend Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC), Saint Paul College or Metropolitan State University.
- The [Child Welfare Scholars Program](#) for students studying social work who are interested in a career in public child protection or child welfare. Click on “Learning more about scholarships”.

Student loan refinancing:

- [SELF Refi](#): A new student loan refinancing program administered by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education. The program is available to Minnesota residents who completed a postsecondary course of study and meet the credit criteria. SELF Refi could reduce the amount of interest you pay and/or provide a more manageable monthly payment amount.