Arizona Foster Care Tuition Waiver

New Tuition Waiver Program for
Current and Former Arizona Foster Youth!
Check below for eligibility requirements

Who is eligible for the Tuition Waiver?

1. Resident of Arizona
2. Is a U.S. Citizen or is a Non-Citizen lawfully present in the U.S.
3. Is currently in foster care in Arizona, and is at least 16 years old
4. Was in foster care in Arizona when they were at least 16 years old
5. Was adopted from Arizona’s foster care system after the person was 16 years old
6. Is under 21 years of age when the first Tuition Waiver is awarded
7. Has completed and submitted a FAFSA before each school year
8. Has total personal assets that are worth less than $10,000 (assets do NOT include scholarships)

Requirements for maintaining eligibility for the new Tuition Waiver program:

1. If the Student has previously been awarded the Tuition Waiver (applicable after the initial January 2014 roll-out) and is making satisfactory progress toward a Bachelor’s or Associate’s Degree, or Certificate Program at the time the student reaches 21 years of age, the person may continue to be awarded a tuition waiver scholarships until the person reaches 23 years of age, is accepted into or enrolled in a degree, certificate or other accredited program at a university under the jurisdiction of the Arizona Board of Regents or a Community College continuous progress toward a degree or certificate in order to remain eligible for a Tuition waiver.

2. After the first academic year a Student received a Tuition Waiver, each Student must complete a minimum of 30 hours of volunteer service before the next academic year starts

3. Each Student must remain in good academic standing
**TUITION WAIVER CONTINUED...**

Calculation of Tuition Waivers & Other Grants and Scholarships:

1. Tuition Waivers *only* cover tuition and mandatory fees
2. Tuition Waivers will only be applied *after* a Student’s University of Community College first applies monies from the Federal Pell Grant Program
3. Private grants and scholarships will *not* be calculated against the Tuition Waiver

Prospective students who might be eligible for ETV or the Tuition Waiver can visit the FC2S website and apply directly on-line. If a student has already applied for ETV but not the Tuition Waiver, they can log into their student portal and check the “Tuition Waiver” box to see about program eligibility.

You can also reach out to the FC2S website:

http://www.fc2success.org/

FC2S AZ Coordinator: Blair Fogarty
Phone: 855-220-8200
Email: az@statevoucher.org

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**HOPE & A FUTURE’S “JOHN S. BREWER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND”**

Current and former Foster youth that have participated in one of Hope & A Future’s Programs (e.g. “Royal Family Kids Camp”; “Teen Reach Adventure Camp (TRAC)”; or “Life 360”) are eligible to apply for funds for high school tutoring, vocational training, college tuition or housing assistance while in college.

Application for a Hope & A Future’s scholarship is virtually identical to AFFCF’s Scholarship Program Application. It is not necessary to complete two different applications. (AFFCF will accept a completed Hope & A Future Scholarship Application for its own program.) Please contact Hope & A Future for further details: www.azhope.com or (602) 258-5860.
NEW Qualified Foster Care Charitable Tax Credit

There is a NEW Arizona Tax CREDIT for Arizona taxpayers who make a contribution to “Qualifying Foster Care Charitable Organizations,” including the Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation. The Foster Care Charitable Organization Tax Credit is easy to claim, repays you for your generosity, and makes a real difference in the life of a child in foster care. No need to itemize. (If you do itemize, there may be additional federal tax benefits.)

Earn a dollar-for-dollar tax credit up to $400 for individuals and up to $800 for those filing jointly. Any amount helps a child!

Give NOW / THROUGHOUT THE YEAR / BUT ON or before December 31st.

Visit www.fosterfriendaz.org to find out more.

BE A FRIEND TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE!
Study: dropouts cost state, city billions in economic losses

By Allison Hurtado, Ahwatukee Foothills News

High school dropouts are costing the state of Arizona billions, according to a new report by the Arizona Mayors Education Roundtable.

The more than 18,000 Arizona students who dropped out of high school this year will produce $7.6 billion less economic activity over their lifetimes than those who did graduate, the report says. In Phoenix alone, 3,070 students did not graduate in 2012. That amounts to $1.4 billion in lifetime economic losses for the state and city.

One in five Arizona youth did not graduate, according to the report. Each Phoenix student that does not graduate results in a $463,500 loss in economic activity over his or her lifetime due to decreased earnings and increased public and private spending on health, crime and welfare.

According to the report, youth who do not graduate are less likely to find a job and earn a living wage, and more likely to have poor health, engage in criminal behavior and require public assistance.

“This report should be a wake-up call to everyone in our state about why it is so important that we work together to get every student to graduate high school,” said Mayor Greg Stanton in a statement. “It’s important for us to have city-level data so every elected official understands that if we sit idly by and leave this problem for others to solve, we do so at our own peril.”

Of the $1.4 billion in losses from Phoenix students, $193 million represents fiscal losses to state and local governments, the report said. Reducing the amount of dropouts by half would generate more than $711 million in lifetime economic benefit for the city and state.

“We’ve all known that dropouts have a cost to our society, but this report displays it in a startling way,” remarked Todd Sanders, president and CEO of the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, in a statement. “We at the Greater Phoenix Chamber commend the Arizona Mayors Education Roundtable for illuminating the stark reality of the economic burden of dropouts in our cities and state, and we look forward to working collaboratively with the mayors and the community to seek educational reforms and provide programs that will ease the economic burden of dropouts and improve our future economy.”

Stanton said Phoenix is working to make sure kids read by third grade and is opening an online high school to make going back to school easier for those who have dropped out.

“Beyond the profound consequences to individuals and their families, we are now able to quantify the impact of school dropouts on Arizona’s economy,” said Paul H. Koehler, director of WestEd’s Policy Center and coordinator of the Mayors Roundtable. “This report should serve as a clarion call to action for state educators, policy makers, and all Arizonans.”

The full report can be found at AZmayors.org.
Information from our FRIENDS at…

For young adults who have experienced foster care, access to affordable health care is critical to their future success. Starting January 1, 2014, young adults who aged out of foster care in Arizona at age 18 and are under age 26, may qualify for a special health insurance program called Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI). YATI health insurance is provided through Arizona's Medicaid program known as AHCCCS. This insurance gives young people access to low or no-cost medical checkups, prescription medicines, medical specialist, and doctors visits when they are sick.

For youths who were in foster care, access to health services and preventative care is crucial in their successful transition to adulthood. Having insurance means young adults can receive important and consistent health services even after they turn 18.

In an effort to help community providers and outreach workers ensure young adults who have aged out of foster care in Arizona are aware of the healthcare benefits available to them, Children's Action Alliance has developed a Health Care Toolkit. The Toolkit contains a Fact Sheet, Frequently Asked Questions, Brochure, and a Handout Card, all available in a downloadable PDF.

Outreach efforts will be very important to assure that young adults who qualify for this coverage can take advantage of it. Young people who left foster care may be eligible, but not aware of this important benefit or how to access it. Enrollment is open year-round and qualified young adults are eligible regardless of income. Please feel free to post the Health Care Toolkit on your website or distribute to your membership or colleagues. Hard copies of the Toolkit are available to pick up, contact Meghan Arrigo at marrigo@azchildren.org or 602-266-0707 x211 for more information.

- Young adults should contact the DES/Family Assistance Office at 1-855-HEA-PLUS to find their nearest office to apply in person.
- To be eligible, young adults must have been in Arizona foster care at the age of 18 and meet citizenship or qualified resident requirements.
- Eligible young adults can begin to enroll now and may apply any time before they reach the age of 26.
- Once enrolled in YATI, young adults will continue to be eligible for AHCCCS health insurance through age 26 as long as they live in Arizona.
- If a young adult is already enrolled in YATI, they do not need to take any further action; the change will occur administratively and eligibility is maintained until the age of 26.
Arizona State Assistance For Single Mothers

No matter what your situation, raising kids on your own is a challenge. Whether you are new to the life of a single mom or are a seasoned veteran, sometimes you need a little assistance. These resources will help you find the programs available in the state of Arizona.

Financial Assistance for Single Mothers in Arizona

**Childcare** – The DES (Department of Economic Security) offers childcare assistance to parents who are getting a degree or GED, are actively employed, or are fulfilling other eligible training requirements and cannot afford to pay for childcare for their kids. For more information visit this link [https://www.azdes.gov/](https://www.azdes.gov/) or call 1-800-308-9000. If you do not qualify for the DES program, consider swapping childcare services with another single mom or finding affordable childcare through a home daycare or church setting.

**Healthcare** – Ensuring that your children are healthy is your primary concern as a parent, and the state of Arizona offers help if you cannot get private healthcare for your kids. Arizona’s KidsCare program is available to kids from low-income families in Arizona. It provides coverage for dental care, medical care, eye care, and emergency care. To see if you qualify, visit [http://www.azahcccs.gov/](http://www.azahcccs.gov/). If you also need health insurance for yourself, check out Arizona’s Medicaid program, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), to see if you qualify.

**Government Assistance**

**Food and Supplies** – A healthy, balanced diet is essential for your children to grow and thrive. Arizona’s WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program offers parents of children younger than five food vouchers to buy healthy foods like milk, bread and cheese. Find out if you qualify at [http://www.azwic.gov/](http://www.azwic.gov/). The DES offers the Nutrition Assistance Program to low-income families. Food pantries and banks are another option for low-cost food and pantry supplies.

Continued on page 7
**Transportation** – Take advantage of the Arizona Transit Association’s many public transportation options if you are struggling to find a way to get to and from your job.

**Housing Help is Available too!**

**Rent Assistance** – Arizona offers two options for moms looking for help to provide housing for their families. The first is the Arizona HUD Subsidized Apartment Program, which helps pay some of the rent for families who live in subsidized apartments. The other is the Public Housing and Housing Choice Vouchers Section 8 housing program, which helps low-income families with their housing needs in these cities: [http://www.hud.gov/](http://www.hud.gov/) or homeless shelter and emergency housing, check out [http://www.hud.gov/local/az/homeless/shelters.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/local/az/homeless/shelters.cfm). These include many shelters and other places with excellent amenities to help temporarily getting single mothers and their families back on their feet.

**Programs for Single Mothers in Arizona**

**Educational Grants** – If you find that you have reached a ceiling in your current employment situation, finishing or starting your degree may be the answer. To get help paying for school, file the FAFSA to search for federal aid. Then consider state aid programs. To find out about the ones you may qualify for, talk to the financial aid department at your chosen school. Also be sure to research school scholarships for more financial assistance options.

**Helping Yourself**

As a single mom in Arizona, you probably get a good laugh when someone mentions anything about a savings plan. You probably feel like you are doing good to get your current bills paid, much less try to get ahead or have some kind of a savings plan. However, you would be surprised at how just a little bit of savings can add up. The Individual Development Account (IDA) was created for people just like you. It’s more than a savings account; it’s a life lesson. This savings account will be your funding for a down payment on a home, car, college costs, and other things you may need to get ahead. Learn how it works below. To begin with, you will attend brief classes in Arizona that will give you some insight into money management. You will learn about budgeting, managing your funds, interest rates and how to calculate them, and a whole list of other things that will help you better manage your personal finances.

Once the class is complete, a savings account will be opened in your name. You simply put a bit in there every week or every month. In turn, your funds will be matched. Federal and state funds provide some of the matching funds. Local businesses in Arizona can also contribute to the savings plan. The more contributors are and the more funds there are, the more your money will be matched. You may receive up to three dollars in addition to the dollar you put in.
AFFCF Career and Employment
Development Services

Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation is offering youth currently in foster care the chance to work one-on-one with a Career Development Specialist who will help identify the career that best fits their individual interests, skills, and personality.

These young adults will also be taught how to conduct a successful job search, be connected to entry level jobs or work experience that will get career plans launched, and mentored during their first few months of employment.

To find out how to participate, please contact Career Development Specialist Diane Daily at daily_d@msn.com or at (919) 413-3468.

Or AFFCF at (602) 252-9445.

Thank you!
August 2014

Elementos Esenciales de Ayuda Financiera
Martes, 12 de agosto, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Este taller compartirá ideas sobre cómo pagar la universidad, aceptando ayuda financiera, y buscando becas.

Financial Aid Essentials
Thursday, August 14, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Discover how to pay for college with financial aid options, scholarships and work-study.

Finding Your College Fit
Wednesday, August 20, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
There are several important factors to consider when choosing a college. Learn tips to help you evaluate the college that is the best match for you.

College Zone (Grades 9-12)
Thursday, August 21, 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Join us for this informal teens-only gathering to talk about college while enjoying snacks, games, and activities.

Essay Essentials
Saturday, August 23, 2:00-3:15 p.m.
Review techniques for writing college application and scholarship essays that stand out.

College Application Tips + Hands-on Assistance
Thursday, August 28, 5:30-6:45 p.m.
Learn to successfully complete a college application and put what you learn to the test in a hands-on computer session.

September 2014

Financial Aid Essentials
Wednesday, September 3, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Discover how to pay for college with financial aid options, scholarships and work-study.

Scholarship Essentials + Hands-on Assistance
Thursday, September 11, 5:30-6:45 p.m.
Review tips on searches, essays, and letters of recommendation followed by hands-on assistance in our computer lab.

Essay Essentials
Wednesday, September 17, 5:30-6:45 p.m.
Review techniques for writing college application and scholarship essays that stand out.

College Zone (Grades 9-12)
Thursday, September 18, 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Join us for this informal teens-only gathering to talk about college while enjoying snacks, games, and activities.

College Application Tips + Hands-on Assistance
Tuesday, September 23, 5:00-6:15 p.m.
Learn to successfully complete a college application and put what you learn to the test in a hands-on computer session.

Elementos Esenciales de Ayuda Financiera
Sabado, 27 de septiembre, 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Este taller compartirá ideas sobre cómo pagar la universidad, aceptando ayuda financiera, y buscando becas.

To register, visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org/collegedepot
Questions? Call 602-261-8847

COLLEGEdepot
at phoenix public library

Burton Barr Central Library 1221 N. Central Ave., 2nd Floor
Starbucks College Achievement Plan

Introducing the Starbucks college achievement plan, that makes it possible for thousands of part-time and full-time U.S. partners to complete a college degree. In a first of its kind collaboration with Arizona State University, they are offering partners the opportunity to finish their bachelor’s degree with full tuition reimbursement.

All benefits-eligible partners who are based in the US working in Starbucks support centers, plants or at any of the company-operated stores (including Teavana, La Boulange, Evolution Fresh and Seattle’s Best Coffee stores), and do not yet have a bachelor’s degree can apply. Partners admitted as a junior or senior, according to ASU’s admission requirements, will earn full tuition reimbursement for each year of coursework they complete towards a bachelor’s degree. Freshmen and sophomores will receive a partial scholarship and need-based financial aid toward the foundational work of completing their degrees.

The program also ensures that partners receive a personal level of support, custom-built for each partner, including a dedicated enrollment coach, financial aid counselor and academic advisor.

P.O. Box 6363
Dover, DE 19905-6363
Phone (800-782-7282)
http://www.starbucks.com/careers/college-plan
Desaray was one of AFFCF’s very own Scholarship Recipients. Throughout her undergraduate studies, she graduated with her Bachelor’s in Social Work from Arizona State University in May 2014. In addition to being an AFFCF/Blavin Scholar, Desaray was a recipient of the Nina Mason Pulliam Legacy Scholarship. While attending ASU, Desaray interned at Florence Crittenton where she worked closely with at-risk adolescent girls. Desaray recently began interning at Southwest Key programs where she will be working with immigrant youth and families, while pursuing her graduate work in Social Work at ASU. Desaray is a recipient of the DCS Child Welfare Scholarship which will fund her Master’s Program. She is also a part of the Arizona Youth Opportunity Initiatives board, which helps shape policies and programs for foster care youth. AFFCF is proud to have been part of Desaray’s life and success.

CONGRATULATIONS!
Please join us in congratulating Elizabeth, another AFFCF/Blavin Scholar, who graduated in December, 2013 with a Bachelor’s degree in Special Education. AFFCF has been privileged to be a FRIEND to Elizabeth (“Liz”) since she aged out of foster care. Elizabeth graduated with a 3.8 GPA from Arizona State University! AFFCF is thrilled to have had a front row seat to all that Liz has accomplished!

CONGRATULATIONS!
Hello Current & Former Foster Youth,

AYOI is recruiting young adults for the Youth Partnership Board. Youth receive a stipend for their participation and will also be able to participate in a match-savings program, Opportunity Passport™.

If yes, the Arizona Youth Partnership Board could be for You!

The Arizona Youth Partnership Board is made up of a select group of former and current foster youth between the ages of 16 and 26. The Board works in partnership with the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative to ensure young adults have a say in shaping policies, programs, and services for a successful transition to adulthood.

If you want to SHARE your story, BUILD a youth network, DESIGN trainings and events and DEVELOP an advocacy agenda, complete an application on-line at www.azchildren.org or contact Meghan Arrigo at 602-266-0707 x211 or marrigo@azchildren.org.

The Arizona Youth Partnership Board is part of the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative (AYOI); a project of Children's Action Alliance.
Each of our student-applicants has a unique history that is considered in the approval process.

1. AFFCF’s primary criterion is that the student-applicant had been a ward of the State of Arizona when they turned 18 years of age, that is, that they had not been adopted or awarded permanent guardianship, or reunited with their biological parents prior to “aging-out” of Child Protective Services’ care. Prospective students who have signed a voluntary with CPS upon their 18th birthday are also eligible.

2. AFFCF will not consider first time applicants who are older than 24 years of age.

3. Greater consideration is given to those applicants who have spent more than two years in Arizona’s foster care, and meet the primary criteria outlined in #1, above.

4. Scholarships are available for a total commitment of 10 semesters. This requirement is reviewable on a case-by-case basis.

5. University applicants are eligible to receive awards up to $5000 per academic year, funded over two semesters, or $2500 per semester. Students eligible for the maximum university award are: new high school graduates who finished with a GPA of 2.5, or who are in the top 25% of their high school graduating class; or current university students who are maintaining a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5.

6. Community College and Vocational and Trade School awards are provided for the duration of the specific program, not to exceed five years. Maximum award for these programs is $1000 per semester. AFFCF funds two semesters in an academic year, for a total of $2000 per academic year.

7. Eligibility for scholarships is ongoing for the commitment of 10 semesters, unless a student takes a hiatus from coursework, not to exceed more than two semesters. Each continuing recipient must provide specific documents each semester before AFFCF will disburse their scholarship award. A student who has more than two consecutive semesters of academic inactivity will automatically be dropped from eligibility.

8. AFFCF will not fund “retakes” of failed or withdrawn coursework.

9. Students who have a chronic history of failing or withdrawing from courses will be put on a “probationary status” for a period of two semesters; scholarship eligibility will be reviewed at the beginning of each semester.

10. Consideration of an application is not a guarantee of approval.
DID YOU KNOW… AFFCF Provides a comprehensive listing of Scholarship, Financial Aid, and Resource Sites for current and former foster youth interested in pursuing education and/or training after high school or GED.

Check it out at http://www.affcf.org/scholarships/resources/

Contact AFFCF

Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation
1645 E. Missouri Suite 220
Phoenix, Arizona 85006

Phone: (602) 252-9445

www.affcf.org

Get involved.
Give what you can.
Get an immeasurable award of personal satisfaction knowing you did all you could to be a responsible steward for our state’s foster youth.

Be a friend!

www.fosterfriendsaz.org
THANK YOU!
From the AFFCF Board of Directors
“Class of 2014!”