DREAM IT.
LEARN IT. DO IT.

What’s your it?

AN EDUCATION GUIDE FOR YOUTH CURRENTLY AND FORMERLY IN FOSTER CARE

DIGITAL VERSION AVAILABLE AT AFFCF.ORG/RESOURCES
“If you feel like there is something out there that you are supposed to be doing, if you have a passion for it, then stop wishing and just do it.”

Wanda Sykes
Whether you are currently in foster care, were in foster care, have aged out of foster care, or are someone who works with youth in foster care, this education guide will provide information about the resources that are available to help young adults reach their educational goals.

WHY IS EDUCATION IMPORTANT?

By 2020, economists predict that nearly two-thirds of jobs will require education beyond high school.

Higher levels of educational attainment are associated with increased earnings and lower rates of unemployment.

Obtaining a high school diploma or certificate of high school equivalence (GED) is the first step to accessing post-secondary education and a career that pays a sustaining wage.

Education after high school is an important step toward supporting yourself.

Average Salaries

Think about this THE AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME FOR ARIZONA IS $63,877.
"I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR THIS AMAZING OPPORTUNITY THAT I HAVE BEEN GIVEN. I WILL TRY MY BEST EVERY DAY TO WORK HARD AND TO ACHIEVE MY GOALS. AGAIN, I APPRECIATE SO MUCH THAT YOU GUYS BELIEVED IN ME AND HELPED ME SO THAT I WOULD HAVE A BETTER FUTURE. THIS WILL MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN MY LIFE."

AFFCF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
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SECTION 1: WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL OR GETTING MY GED?

What does Post-Secondary education mean?
Post-secondary education refers to any education that you pursue after completing high school or earning your GED. It means that you are further educating yourself to prepare yourself for a career. Post-secondary education can be as short as eight weeks if you pursue a certificate program or up to several years in length if you pursue a degree; it depends on what you study. This guide will help explain the differences between different post-secondary programs.

Which Post-Secondary option is best for me?
There are a lot of factors to consider in choosing which Post-Secondary option would be best for you.

1) What interests you?
2) Do you enjoy being in school and learning?
3) How much time do you want to invest in your post-secondary education?
4) Do you want to earn a college degree?
5) What kind of income would you like to earn for your future financial stability?

The below website has a College and Career Guide available to download, which has a lot of information about different careers. It can be useful to help you match up the type of career you may be interested in with the type of education it requires.

[highered.az.gov/college-career-guide](http://highered.az.gov/college-career-guide)

The Bureau of Labor and Statistics website can also help you see what types of careers exist and the type of education they require.

[bls.gov/ooh/home.htm](http://bls.gov/ooh/home.htm)
What types of Post-Secondary programs are available?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Length</th>
<th>Admission Requirements</th>
<th>Certificate / Degree Attained</th>
<th>Possible Career Options</th>
<th>Potential Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate Programs</td>
<td>Most require high school diploma or GED</td>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>Medical, Nursing, or Dental Assisting, Air Conditioning &amp; Refrigeration, Auto Body, Welding, Administrative Assistant, EMT, Court Reporter</td>
<td>Varies, depending on career field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Vocational training)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Degree</td>
<td>Must meet community college admission requirements</td>
<td>Associate Degree</td>
<td>Dental Hygienist, Physical Therapist Technician, Cardiovascular Technician, Respiratory Therapist, Radiation Therapist, Diagnostic Medical Sonographer, Web Developer, EMT</td>
<td>$41,496/year (average based on Bureau of Labor Department statistics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Community College)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Degree to</td>
<td>Must meet community college admission requirements</td>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>Engineer, Nurse (Registered Nurse), Teacher, Certified Public Accountant, Airline Pilot, Financial Manager, Sales Manager, Software Developer, Construction Manager, Social Worker, Database Administrators</td>
<td>$59,124/year (average based on Bureau of Labor Department statistics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>transfer to a Bachelor’s Degree (Community College to 4-year college or university)</td>
<td>Must complete one of three Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) blocks as part of your Associates degree</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
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<tr>
<td>(4-year college or university)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Arizona public universities require students to take 4 years of math, 4 years of English, 3 years of lab sciences, 2 years of social sciences, 2 years of the same foreign language and 1 year of fine arts or career and technical education (CTE) in high school.

If you are an Arizona resident, complete the required classes in high school, and graduate in the top 25% of your class, it is likely that you will be admitted to ASU, UA, and/or NAU.

**More information**

PREPARING TO ATTEND ASU, UA, OR NAU: startnow.arizona.edu

TRANSFERRING FROM A COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY: aztransfer.com
What about the SAT/ACT?

Is it too late to take the SAT or ACT?
Both the SAT and ACT are scheduled several times throughout the year. To check registration and test dates, please visit their respective websites.

SAT — collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat
ACT — act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html

Is the SAT or ACT required for admission?

ASU
The SAT/ACT is not required if the student has earned a 3.0 GPA in competency courses or graduated in the top 25% of his or her class. A student must score 1120 on the SAT or 24 on the ACT if he or she does not meet the competency courses GPA or graduate in the top 25% of class.
admission.asu.edu/first-year/apply#:~:text=Aptitude%20requirements-,To%20be%20admitted%20to%20ASU%2C%20you,need%20one%20of%20the%20following%3A&text=ACT%3A%2022%20(24%20nonresidents),SAT%3A%201120%20(1180%20nonresidents)

NAU
SAT/ACT is required for admission, excluding the written portions.
nau.edu/admission/freshman-admission-requirements/

UA
SAT/ACT is not required for admission.
admissions.arizona.edu/how-to-apply/test-scores

What is the cost for taking the SAT/ACT for 11th and 12th graders?
Fee waivers are available for students who are wards of the state, who reside in a foster home, or who are homeless. A guidance counselor can submit a SAT/ACT fee waiver on a student’s behalf.
If a student is not currently enrolled at a high school, but is still interested in taking the SAT/ACT, the student should contact his or her local high school to provide a guidance counselor with proof of being a ward of the state. Once proof is provided, the guidance counselor can request a fee waiver on the student’s behalf.

What the SAT fee waiver covers:
• Two free SAT tests, with or without the essay
• Six free SAT subject tests
• Two free Question and Answer Service (QAS) or Student Answer Service (SAS) reports
• Unlimited score reports to send to colleges
• Waived application fees at participating colleges
• Free CSS profile applications to apply for financial aid from participating schools collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/fees/fee-waivers

What the ACT fee waiver costs:
• Up to four ACT tests, with or without the optional writing test
• Ability to send score reports to up to 20 colleges for free
• Ability to request waiver or deferral of college admission application fees (to have college application fee waived, you must submit your fee waiver directly to the college to which you are applying, not ACT)
• Free access to Kaplan’s ACT test prep course - On demand tutorials
  - 30 short, self-paced video lessons
  - Access to 2,000+ ACT test questions and answers
  - Five full-length ACT practice tests
  - Six months of access act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration/fees/fee-waivers.html

What about college application fees?
As seen above, students who receive SAT/ACT fee waivers are also eligible for college application waivers. Additionally, a guidance counselor can assist a student in submitting an application fee waiver form if a student did not receive an SAT/ACT waiver.
How to apply and enroll in a community college

The below steps are for enrolling in the Maricopa Community Colleges; however, other community colleges have similar processes.

1. **Complete the FAFSA – fafsa.gov**
   - Please see more information about the FAFSA on page 7 and in Section 2, "How will I pay for my education?"

2. **Apply online or in person**
   - Create MEID account and apply for admission (maricopa.edu/admissions) — do not lose your login information or you will not be able to enroll!
   - Submit proof of identification to the college where you have applied (must be a government-issued ID).
   - Submit official education transcript (if applicable), i.e., high school and/or college/university. Get these BEFORE summer break begins.

3. **Take the placement test – maricopa.edu/testing**
   - The placement test is untimed and FREE.
   - Bring your government-issued photo ID on the day of testing.

4. **Seek academic advisement**
   - Advisers will help identify courses and create an educational plan to meet your academic goals.
   - Schedule an advisement session at maricopa.edu/advise. Individual or group advisement may vary from college to college. Check your college for details.
   - Ask your adviser about college success classes, associate degrees, certificates, transfer options, resources, and services.

5. **Register for classes**
   - You can register for classes at: maricopa.edu/register

6. **Attend New Student Orientation.**

7. **Pay Tuition and Fees**
   - Monitor your student center for current balance and pay on or before due date.
   - Explore payment options at maricopa.edu/paying-for-college.

Questions? Consult with your community college academic adviser or, if you are applying to a Maricopa Community College, contact Sam Garman with the Bridging Success program.

**Sam Garman**
Bridging Success Project Coordinator
sam.garman@domain.maricopa.edu
480.731.8093
Community college enrollment checklist

☐ 1. Apply for scholarships!
   There are many additional scholarships for which you can apply. See Appendix B for more information.

☐ 2. Double check for emails from your school's financial aid office.
   It may be possible that your FAFSA has been selected for verification. Your financial aid and some scholarships depend on you verifying your FAFSA in a timely manner. If you need assistance, reach out to your on-campus support organization (see #7).

☐ 3. Determine if you are eligible for the Arizona Tuition Waiver and/or Education and Training Voucher (ETV) funds (see pages 12 -13)
   If you are a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen and were in foster care at age 14 or older, complete an application on or after July 1 at the following website: fc2sprograms.org/Arizona
   You likely will not need to have tuition waived via the Arizona Tuition Waiver (since it's covered by the Pell Grant), however, you likely will receive ETV funds, if eligible.

☐ 4. Register for classes!
   You want to keep an eye on your email or your school's website to find out when class registration opens. It is best to register as soon as registration opens so that you can get into your desired classes.

☐ 5. Purchase your textbooks!
   Maricopa Community College students can opt in to receive a Pell Grant book advance prior to each semester to use a portion of anticipated financial aid to purchase textbooks and supplies from any business. The book advance funds are issued through the Maricopa Student Refund Program (MSRP) and will be issued no earlier than nine business days before the start of semester.
   my.maricopa.edu/financial-aid/book-advances
   If you are not eligible to purchase textbooks using financial aid and reached (or will reach) age 18 as a ward of the state of Arizona and have not yet turned 21, you can apply for assistance via AFFCF’s Penson Fund.
   affcf.org/penson

☐ 6. Determine if you need a laptop or school supplies.
   When you apply for ETV funds, specify that you are requesting funds ($750) for a laptop. It is best to apply in July so your application is processed and you receive the funds prior to the start of classes.
   fc2sprograms.org/Arizona
   If you qualify, you can make requests for school supplies through the Penson Fund.
   affcf.org/penson

☐ 7. Connect to your on-campus support organization!
   my.maricopa.edu/support/foster-youth

☐ 8. Get to know your professors!
   This can be done either by attending office hours (time that professors set aside specifically to talk to students about any issues or to get to know students) or over email.
   If you ever have a problem, it will make it easier to bring it up to your professor if you have already been in communication.
   Professors are there to help you succeed! It is always best to reach out to your professor if there is something you don't understand or need help with.

☐ 9. Get tutoring help if needed!
   Many campuses offer free tutoring. There are also additional resources:
   Step Up Tutoring — Free tutoring offered by ASU and UA students to any student
   stepupguidance.weebly.com/application-for-services.html
   AFFCF’s General Awards - Tutoring — If you have an open case with DCS, you can apply for tutoring assistance via AFFCF's general awards. affcf.org/guidelines
1. **Complete the FAFSA – [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov)**
   - The FAFSA opens on October 1 each year.
   - The best time to complete it is the fall of your senior year or the fall before earning your GED. Even though you may not have applied to colleges yet, it is best to complete the FAFSA by November 1, since some schools have priority FAFSA deadlines in November.
   - On the FAFSA, you can choose all of the colleges that you want your financial information to be sent to (all of the colleges you are thinking of applying to).
   - Example: If you are planning on starting college in fall 2021, you would fill out the 2021-2022 FAFSA form in the fall of 2020. If you haven’t completed it yet, it is best to do it as soon as possible.
   - If you were in foster care any time after you turned 13, you should answer the questions on the FAFSA about having been in foster care, which will classify you as an independent student. This means that no one else’s financial information will be counted, just yours.
   - For more information about financial aid, please see “Section 2: How will I pay for my education?”

2. **Complete college applications (usually done online)**
   - Complete applications to all of the colleges you are interested in attending.
   - You will typically need two letters of reference from previous teachers — request those BEFORE you start the application. College applications are typically due in November or December of your senior year, so it is best to request letters of reference at the beginning of your senior year.
   - Have your high school and/or college transcripts on hand when doing the application.
   - Allow at least 30 minutes to complete an application.
   - During the application process, you will create an account — save your login information because this will be needed to go through the admissions process.

3. **Follow through with these next steps**
   - Complete applications for scholarships
   - Be accepted to college(s).
   - Compare financial aid offers.
   - Decide which school you will attend.
   - Register for orientation.
   - Pay your enrollment deposit (this can be deferred and paid out of financial aid funds when school starts, if need be).
   - Submit your immunization records.
   - Sign up for campus housing, if you plan to live on campus (important to think about the cost).
   - Continue to check your email and log in to your student account for updates.

Questions? If you are planning on attending ASU or UA and need assistance with the application process, you can contact either the Bridging Success Program (support for youth who were in foster care at ASU) or the Fostering Success Program (support for youth who were in foster care at UA).

**Justine Cheung**  
Bridging Success Program Coordinator  
bridgingsuccess@asu.edu  
602.496.0054

**Dani Carrillo**  
Fostering Success Program Coordinator  
danicarrillo@email.Arizona.edu  
520.626.5710
1. **Apply for scholarships!**

There are many additional scholarships for which you can apply. See Appendix B for more information.

2. **Set up/sign into your student portal**

Once you have been accepted and made your decision, there are still a number of tasks for you to do. Check your email frequently for updates and tasks to complete.

3. **Secure your spot by paying or deferring your enrollment deposit.**

   *What if I can't afford the enrollment deposit?*
   
   If you qualify for the Pell Grant (see page 12) through financial aid, you can defer your enrollment to be paid from your financial aid at ASU, NAU and UA. By selecting that option, it means you have secured your spot at the university and the enrollment deposit will be paid from your financial aid in the fall.

4. **Secure your campus housing by paying (or deferring if possible) your housing deposit.**

   *What if I can't afford the housing deposit?*
   
   If you qualify for the Pell Grant (see page 12) through financial aid, you can defer paying your enrollment deposit to be paid from your financial aid at ASU and UA. This will allow you to select your campus housing.

   If you are attending NAU, you will need to pay the housing application fee ($100) within 10 - 15 days of submitting your NAU housing application. **This is a fee you need to plan on paying.** If you have at least $6,000 in scholarships and grants (not loans) for the fall semester, you can also defer the NAU housing rent confirmation fee ($175) to August to be paid from your financial aid. If you do not qualify to defer the payment, **this is a fee you need to plan on paying.** If you have questions about your eligibility, call University Housing and Residence Life at 928.523.3978.

5. **Double check for emails from your school's financial aid office.**

6. **Determine if you are eligible for the Arizona Tuition Waiver and/or Education and Training Voucher (ETV) funds (see pages 12 -13).**

   If you are a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen and were in foster care at age 14 or older, complete an application on or after July 1 at the following website: fc2sprograms.org/Arizona

   The Arizona Tuition Waiver will be helpful for university students, as it waives any remaining tuition or mandatory fees after the Pell Grant and institutional aid are applied. University students typically receive ETV funds that either go directly toward university housing/meal costs or are received by the student for off-campus living expenses. If you plan to start in the summer semester, you can apply prior to July 1, but you will need to apply again on or after July 1 for the fall semester.

7. **Enroll in an early start program!**

   Did you know there are early start programs specifically for students with foster care backgrounds? These programs will be covered by your financial aid and will allow you to familiarize yourself with campus early, get to know your peers, and in some programs, even get a head start on earning college credits!

   **ASU: Bridging Success Early Start**
   
   Application deadline: July (see website for details)
   
   fosteryouth.asu.edu/early-start

   **UA: New Start**
   
   Application deadline: May (see website for details)
   
   newstart.arizona.edu
8. **Register for classes!**

You want to keep an eye on your email or your school’s website to find out when class registration opens. It is best to register as soon as registration opens so that you can get into your desired classes.

9. **Purchase your textbooks!**

This can be done using financial aid if textbooks are purchased well in advance of the start of the semester.

**ASU**

Books need to be purchased two - three weeks prior to the start of the semester. Call the bookstore one month prior to the start of the semester to verify dates, as the website is not always updated.

[students.asu.edu/faq/can-i-use-financial-aid-buy-my-books](students.asu.edu/faq/can-i-use-financial-aid-buy-my-books)

**NAU**

If financial aid is available, it usually can be used in-store or online.

[bkstr.com/northernarizonastore/incoming-students](bkstr.com/northernarizonastore/incoming-students)

**UA**

Students can charge bookstore purchases to their Bursar accounts prior to financial aid being processed (prior to 10 days before the start of the semester) for books to be paid out of financial aid.

[bursar.Arizona.edu/faq](bursar.Arizona.edu/faq)

If you are not eligible to purchase textbooks using financial aid and reached (or will reach) age 18 as a ward of the state of Arizona and have not yet turned 21, you can apply for assistance via AFFCF’s Penson Fund.

[affcf.org/penson](affcf.org/penson)

10. **Determine if you need a laptop or school supplies.**

If you are a university student who qualifies, you can make requests for a laptop and school supplies through the Penson Fund.

[affcf.org/penson](affcf.org/penson)

11. **Connect to your on-campus support organization!**

**ASU: Bridging Success**

[fosteryouth.asu.edu/bridging-success](fosteryouth.asu.edu/bridging-success)

**NAU: First Generation Programs**

[nau.edu/first-gen](nau.edu/first-gen)

**UA: Fostering Success**

[fostersuccess.arizona.edu](fostersuccess.arizona.edu)

12. **Get to know your professors!**

This can be done either by attending office hours (time that professors set aside specifically to talk to students about any issues or to get to know students) or over email.

If you ever have a problem, it will be easier to bring it up to your professor if you have already been in communication.

Professors are there to help you succeed! It is always best to reach out to your professors if there is something you don’t understand or need help with.

13. **Get tutoring help if needed!**

Many campuses offer free tutoring. There are also additional resources:

**Step Up Tutoring** — Free tutoring offered by ASU and UA students to any student.

[stepupguidance.weebly.com/application-for-services.html](stepupguidance.weebly.com/application-for-services.html)

**AFFCF General Awards (Tutoring)** — If you have an open case with DCS, you can apply for tutoring assistance via AFFCF’s General Awards.

[affcf.org/guidelines](affcf.org/guidelines)
SECTION 2: HOW WILL I PAY FOR MY EDUCATION?

Financial resources for youth who were in foster care

All youth who were in foster care and are eligible for federal funding should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students who are not eligible for federal funding, please see pages 12 - 13 and Appendix C of this guide.

The FAFSA is an application form that allows you to send your financial information to the colleges that you are interested in attending. The FAFSA allows colleges to have your information, so if you apply and are accepted, they can make you a financial aid offer based on your needs.

Listed below are great organizations that can help you complete the FAFSA, provide you with information about colleges, and give you resources about applying, scholarships, and more!

College Depot — Phoenix Public Library — 1221 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85004 — 602.261.8847
Regional College Access Center — 930 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85719 — 520.670.0055
Northern Arizona College Resource Center — 1124 S. Knoles Dr., Flagstaff, AZ 86001 — 928.523.1803

Completing the FAFSA determines if you are eligible for the different types of federal student aid. When you complete the FAFSA, you send your financial information to all of the schools that you are interested in applying to. Schools can also determine if you meet their criteria for aid that they offer. If you are accepted, the school’s Financial Aid office will offer you a Financial Aid package, based on the information you submitted on the FAFSA.

The Financial Aid package can offer any or all of the following:

1) Federal grants — based on need, such as the Pell Grant
2) Institutional aid — grants or scholarships offered to you by the college/university
3) Federal work-study offer — a federally funded job offer on or near campus
4) Federal student loans offers — offers to borrow money from the federal government

You choose what financial aid you want to accept and what you do not. You are under no obligation to accept a loan if you do not want or need it.
A grant is “free money,” money that you do not typically have to pay back. The only reason why you may need to repay a grant is if you are not making Substantial Academic Progress (SAP) or drop out.

A loan is money that you borrow with the expectation that you will pay it back. Not only do you have to pay the money back, you are also charged interest on the money, so you have to pay it back plus a certain percent more in interest.

Student loans may be necessary to help finance part of your education, depending on where you study and what the costs are. If you absolutely need to take out a loan, federal subsidized student loans are the best kind to have to take out, for the following reasons:

• They do not charge you interest on the amount you borrow while you are in college.
• You do not have to make payments on them until after you graduate.
• They offer flexible repayment plans.
• They have lower interest rates than private loans.

Private student loans often have higher interest rates, and those rates may not be fixed. That means that the rates could increase, making it cost even more to pay the loan back. Always be wary of an institution (such as a bank or a credit card company) that is trying to pressure you into taking out a loan. They are trying to make money off you, not help you!

The biggest thing to remember about loans is that you have to pay them back and with interest. This means that if, for example, you take out $5,500 in a student loan, you may actually end up paying more than $8,000 by the time you pay it all back. Loans are serious responsibilities, and you want to make sure you earn your certificate or degree so you can have a job that pays well after you graduate. That will make it easier to pay the loan and interest back over time.
Which financial resources apply to me?

There are different resources available depending on what age you were in foster care. The following pages will provide you with more details about the resources available to you based on the age you were in foster care and a description of each resource. Depending on the information you provided on the FAFSA and your course of study, your school may also offer you other federal grants in addition to the Pell Grant and/or a work-study job.

I WAS IN FOSTER CARE BEFORE I TURNED 13

I WAS IN FOSTER CARE WHEN I WAS 13

I WAS IN FOSTER CARE WHEN I WAS 14 OR 15

I WAS IN FOSTER CARE BETWEEN AGES 16 AND 18

I TURNED (OR WILL TURN 18) WHILE IN FOSTER CARE

Pell Grant

- Those who had a legal guardian appointed and those who are eligible based on family income. Please see page 14 for more details.

- Other scholarships Please see Appendix B for more details.

* The Pell Grant, Education and Training Voucher (ETV) funds, and the Arizona Tuition Waiver are only awarded to students who were in foster care at the above ages, who are residents of Arizona (ETV funds and Arizona Tuition Waiver), and who are U.S. Citizens or qualified non-citizens. For more resources for undocumented and DACA students, please see Appendix C.

I was in foster care before I turned 13:

If you were in foster care before age 13 and had a legal guardian appointed to you who is still appointed to you at the time you complete the FAFSA or was appointed to you up until you turned age 18, you are considered an "independent student." This means that you will likely be eligible for the Pell grant. Please see page 14 for more details.

If you were in foster care before age 13 and were either reunified with your biological family or adopted, you are considered a "dependent student." Your parents' financial information will be considered when you complete the FAFSA and the type of financial aid you will be eligible for will be based on your parents’ income and your family size. You may still be eligible for the Pell Grant and/or other federal financial aid.

There are several scholarships that students who were in foster care can apply for that are not restricted to the age at which they were in foster care. Please see Appendix B for more information.

Financial resources available:

- Pell grant Those who had a legal guardian appointed and those who are eligible based on family income. Please see page 14 for more details.

- Other scholarships Please see Appendix B for more details.

I was in foster care when I was 13, 14, or 15:

If you were in foster care when you were 13, 14, or 15, you are considered an independent student. That means that, if you were reunified with your biological family, adopted, or had a guardian appointed to you when you were 13, 14, or 15, your parents’ or guardians’ financial information will not be considered when you complete
the FAFSA. Because of this, you will likely be eligible for the Pell Grant and other financial aid.

There are several scholarships that youth who were in foster care can apply for that are not restricted to the age at which they were in foster care. Please see Appendix B for more information.

**Financial resources available:**
- Pell Grant *Please see page 14 for more details.*
- Arizona Tuition Waiver* 14 and 15 year olds. Please see page 15 for more details.*
- Other scholarships *Please see Appendix B for more details.*

**I was in foster care between ages 16 and 18:**

If you were in foster care between the ages of 16 and 18, you are considered an independent student.

That means that, if you were reunified with your biological family, adopted, or had a guardian appointed to you when you were between the ages of 16 and 18, your parents’ or guardians’ financial information will not be considered when you complete the FAFSA. Because of this, you will likely be eligible for the Pell Grant and other financial aid options.

You will also be likely eligible for ETV funds and the Arizona Tuition Waiver. There are several scholarships that youth who were in foster care can apply for that are not restricted to the age at which they were in foster care. *Please see Appendix B for more information.*

If you were reunified with your biological family, were adopted, or had a guardian appointed to you, another resource that you can take advantage of while you are 18, 19, or 20 is the Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP). You are also eligible for TILP in Arizona if you were in foster care in another state between the ages of 16 and 18. *To learn more, please see the Section 3, “How can I receive additional support up until age 21?”*

**Financial resources available:**
- Pell Grant *Please see page 14 for more details.*
- Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Funds *Please see page 14 for more details.*
- Arizona Tuition Waiver *Please see page 15 for more details.*
- Other scholarships *Please see Appendix B for more details.*

**I turned (or will turn) 18 while in foster care:**

Turning 18 may seem scary. Did you know that in Arizona, you can voluntarily choose to keep your case open with the Department of Child Safety (DCS) up until you turn 21? While you are legally an adult, there are still a lot of resources available to you up until you turn 21, if you keep your case open.

The best way to take advantage of those resources is to sign a voluntary agreement with DCS. To learn more, please see the next section “How can I receive additional support until age 21?”

If you do not wish to keep your case open with DCS after turning 18, one resource that you can take advantage of while you are 18, 19, or 20 is the Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP). *To learn more, please see the Section 3, “How can I receive additional support up until age 21?”*

You will be considered an independent student. That means that your parents’ or guardians’ financial information will not be taken into consideration when you complete the FAFSA. Because of this, you will be eligible for the Pell Grant and other financial aid options.
You will also likely be eligible for ETV funds, the Arizona Tuition Waiver, the AFFCF Scholarship and the Penson Fund. There are several scholarships that youth who were in foster care can apply for that are not restricted to the age at which they were in foster care. Please see Appendix B for more information.

**Financial resources available:**
- **Pell Grant** Please see page 14 for more details.
- **Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Funds** Please see page 14 for more details.
- **Arizona Tuition Waiver** Please see page 15 for more details.
- **AFFCF Scholarship** Please see page 15 for more details.
- **AFFCF Penson Fund** Please see page 15 for more details.
- **Other scholarships** Please see Appendix B for more details.

**What is the Pell grant?**
Federal Pell Grants usually are awarded only to undergraduate students who display exceptional financial need and have not earned a Bachelor’s Degree. A Federal Pell Grant, unlike a loan, does not have to be repaid, except under certain circumstances, such as a student not making Substantial Academic Progress (SAP). It is very likely that a student who was in foster care after turning 13 and is a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen will qualify for a Pell grant.

Amounts for the Pell Grant change yearly. The maximum Federal Pell Grant award (for full-time students) is $6,345 for the 2020-2021 school year ($3,172.50 per semester). The amount of the Pell Grant increases each year. Full-time students are eligible for the maximum amount of the Pell Grant. A full-time student means that you take at least 12 credit hours (usually four classes each worth three credits).

Part-time students can still receive the Pell grant; the amount awarded depends on the number of credits they take. Since the Pell grant is only available for a total of 12 semesters (or until earning a Bachelor’s degree), you may need to do some financial planning if you do not plan to attend full time.

It may be the case that you have to work while you are in school. If you need to work and are a part-time student, if you are able to take 9 credit hours and still do well in your classes, that would be better than taking fewer credits. As time goes on, you may reach a point when you still have classes to take toward your degree, but no longer have the support of the Pell grant if you have already received it for 12 semesters.

Please find more information in Section 3: “How will I pay for my living costs?”

**What are Education and Training Voucher (ETV) funds?**
If you were in foster care in Arizona when you were age 16 or older, ETV funds are additional funds available to assist with education and living expenses up until your 26th birthday (ETV funds are available for five years, consecutive or intermittent). You can receive the funds while attending an accredited college, university or vocational program.

If you are a U.S. citizen or qualified non-citizen and do not have personal assets over $10,000, you are likely to be eligible for Education and Training Voucher (ETV) funds. These are federal funds of up to $5,000 per year ($2,500/semester) to pay for qualified school-related expenses.

You will need to apply for ETV funds July 1 (or shortly after) before you start school and reapply every July 1 (or shortly after) while you are studying. The ETV portal is found at: fc2sprograms.org/arizona

There are three ETV coordinators for Arizona, one of whom you will be assigned to once you apply for ETV funds.
What is the Arizona Tuition Waiver?

If you were in foster care in Arizona when you were age 14 or older, meet the asset and residency requirements for ETV, and are attending one of Arizona’s public colleges or universities, you may be eligible for the Arizona Tuition Waiver up until your 23rd birthday. This means that if you still have a tuition balance after the Pell Grant and any other institutional scholarships are applied, it will be waived by the Arizona Tuition Waiver.

The Arizona Tuition Waiver only covers the cost of tuition, not room and board (housing and meal plan costs). The Arizona Tuition Waiver applies mostly to students who are studying at ASU, UA, or NAU. Typically, community college tuition is fully covered by the Pell Grant, so the Arizona Tuition Waiver is not needed.

You will still need to apply for the Arizona Tuition Waiver July 1 (or shortly after) before you start school and reapply every July (or shortly after) while you are studying. The Arizona Tuition Waiver portal (which is the same as the ETV portal) is found at fc2sprograms.org/arizona

What is the AFFCF Scholarship Program?

If you reach (or will reach) age 18 as wards of the state of Arizona, you may qualify for the AFFCF Scholarship Program. Students can apply as long as they remain under the age of 25, have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 and take a minimum of six credit hours per semester.

Applications are accepted every June and November (prior to the fall and spring semesters). The initial application process includes submitting three personal essays (minimum 250 words each) and at least one letter of recommendation (personal or academic; academic is preferred).

Scholarships are awarded for two semesters. Scholarships are eligible to be renewed for an additional two semesters after the first two semesters, however renewal is not guaranteed. The maximum number of semesters a student may receive the scholarship, if consistently selected for renewal, is 10 semesters of undergraduate study.

The scholarship is $2,500/semester for students at the university level (minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5), $1,000/semester for university students with cumulative GPAs between 2.0 and 2.5, and $1,000/semester for community college students with minimum cumulative GPAs of 2.0.

For more information, please visit: affcf.org/scholarships

What is the Penson Fund?

If you turned 18 in foster care in Arizona and are enrolled in college or a certificate program (vocational training), you are eligible for the Penson Fund up until your 21st birthday.

The Penson fund is an emergency fund for youth that provides assistance while they continue to advance their studies. Students can apply to the Penson Fund using the online application form.

There are several categories that are especially helpful to students:

- Laptop, books, school supplies, auto repairs

If a student is enrolled in a certificate (vocational) program and needs tuition assistance, he or she can apply for tuition assistance (up to $1,000) through the Penson Fund.

To review the Penson Fund award categories and guidelines, please visit the below website: affcf.org/penson
How can I receive additional support until age 21?

If you turn 18 while in foster care, you may think that you have to leave foster care when you turn 18. However, in Arizona, the Department of Child Safety (DCS) offers a voluntary extended foster care program for young adults from age 18 up to age 21.

When you turn 18, you are legally an adult and can make your own choices. If you choose to keep your case open with DCS, there are a lot of resources available to you up until you turn 21. You can decide if you want to keep your case open with DCS and for how long.

If you would like to keep your case open and take advantage of additional resources, you will work on a new case plan with your caseworker when you get close to turning 18. This is called the voluntary agreement.

Signing the voluntary agreement means that you will continue to have an open case with DCS and continue to work with a caseworker. You and your caseworker will develop goals every six months and you will work toward those goals, usually education or employment-related. It is OK if your goals change, you can work with your case worker to update your plan so that you can continue to have the support you need to be successful.

After signing the voluntary agreement, even though your case is still open with DCS, it is different than when you were a ward of the state. You will not have to go to court dates.

What are the benefits of signing the voluntary agreement?

- You can get continued support from your caseworker and DCS until you turn 21.
- You can receive Education Incentives from DCS for completing educational programs, earning a degree, or earning a certain number of college credits before you turn 21.

Please see Appendix D for more information.
• You can still live in a group home or foster home, should you choose to, until you are ready to move to a more independent setting, like an apartment. Some group homes are set up more like apartments than a house. This type of group home is specifically focused on providing older youth with stable housing until they are ready to transition to independence.

• You can receive financial assistance if you choose to live on your own, which is referred to as the “Independent Living Subsidy Program (ILSP)”.
  • You have to be participating in an approved schedule of activities that you develop with your caseworker in your case plan to be eligible for the ILSP.
  • The ILSP starts at $715/month and decreases by $50 every six months until you turn 21.
  • You can receive “Start Up Funds” twice from DCS to help you with moving costs if you move.

More information at:
 fosteringadvocatesarizona.org

What support can I get if I do not want to sign the voluntary agreement, I exited foster care before I turned 18, or I was in foster care before I turned 18 in another state?

If you choose not to sign the voluntary agreement when you turn 18, if you exited foster care between ages 16 and 18 (were reunited with your biological family, were appointed a guardian, or were adopted), or if you were in foster care in a state other than Arizona between ages 16 and 18, you can take advantage of the Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP) prior to turning 21.

You will work with an Arizona’s Children Association Independent Living Specialist to get advice and assistance on life decisions. Some financial help may be available for school-related expenses, job searches and housing costs. You can work with the TILP program more than once, since you may have different needs at different ages.

You can sign up for TILP by calling Arizona’s Children Association at 480.247.1413 or by e-mailing YAS@arizonaschildren.org

More information at:
 fosteringadvocatesarizona.org

What if I did not sign the voluntary agreement, but now realize I should have?

If you realize that you could benefit from the voluntary agreement and are still under the age of 21, participating in TILP is the first step toward being able to sign the voluntary agreement to re-open your case with DCS. You must participate with TILP prior to having the opportunity to sign the voluntary agreement if you did not sign it when you turned 18.

You can sign up for TILP, by calling Arizona’s Children Association at 480.247.1413 or by e-mailing YAS@arizonaschildren.org

fosteringadvocatesarizona.org
BUDGETING

Once you turn 18, a lot of changes will happen, but one of the biggest ones is the you may be budgeting for yourself for the first time.

If you sign a voluntary agreement with DCS, one housing option that you may want to consider is a group home to help you transition to independence. Your rent and food would be paid for by DCS, which means that you would not have to worry about something happening and being unable to pay rent and risk not having stable housing.

If you choose to live in non-DCS housing, there are three very important things to remember:

1) **Being stable financially and having stable housing will help you focus on your future.**

2) **Make a budget and stick to it.**

You only have a certain amount of money that you are able to spend. That is called your income. You will have a lot of things to pay for, which are called your expenses. Your income should be greater than your expenses. When students have financial difficulties, it is usually for one of two reasons:

- Their expenses are more than their income.
- They had a loss of income, like losing a job, which makes it harder to pay their expenses.

3) **If you get into trouble financially, work to make things right as soon as possible!**

You may get into a financial difficulty, but the important thing is to address it right away before late fees and other consequences make a difficult situation even worse.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

**Opportunity Passport**

The Opportunity Passport program is a series of financial literacy classes for those who were in foster care after age 14. If you live in Maricopa County, you can take part in Opportunity Passport anytime between the ages of 14 up to when you turn 26. Once you complete the classes, you are eligible to participate in a matched savings program. fosteringadvocatesarizona.org/about-opp-passport

**Financial literacy classes**

Arizonans for Children arizonansforchildren.org
Advocacy, Support, and Assistance asanow.org

**Penson Fund**

If you turned 18 the foster care system in Arizona and are in school (certificate program or college), you are eligible for the Penson Fund up until your 21st birthday. The Penson Fund is designed to help address a financial difficulty right when you experience it so it does not become a bigger problem and negatively affect you or your education. There are also supports for helping pay for things that you need to help your education go right. Please see the below website for the guidelines and more information: affcf.org/penson

**EMPLOYMENT**

Whether you go to school full time or part time, depending on your circumstances and your expenses, you will likely have to work at least part time while you are in school.

Your expenses can vary greatly depending on where you live, if you are paying for a car and insurance, or if you have other expenses. For people ages 18 to 25, car payments and car insurance are very expensive! Depending on your expenses, you can decide which option for employment is best for you.

**Work-study**

When you complete the FAFSA, it is a good idea to answer “yes” to the question about being considered for a work-study job. If you are eligible for work-study, based on your FAFSA, it means that you can be offered a job on campus or near campus.

Work-study jobs are ideal for students because your employer knows that you have a school schedule to work around and you will be working on or close to your school’s campus. Work-study jobs typically pay less than regular jobs, since they are part of financial aid.

Take a look at your budget and other income sources to determine whether having a work-study job will provide enough income for you to meet your needs. If you do not want to accept a work-study job when it
is offered to you on your financial aid package, you do not have to.

**Part-time or full-time work**

If you have a greater need for income while you are in school, based on your expenses, you can pursue a part-time or even full-time job. Either way, make sure your employer knows that you are in college.

If you need a job to help pay for your expenses and stay stable, it is also important that you are committed to your job. Arrive on time, try to call in sick only when absolutely necessary, and be sure you know what the sick policy is. You do not want an unexpected illness to cost you your job and put you at risk financially.

If you are in a position where you are able to save money from your employment after you pay all of your expenses, it would be best to participate in the Opportunity Passport program to work to save money and have it matched toward future life needs.

**EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES**

**AFFCF Keys to Success Program**

If you are in foster care and are at least 16 years old or turned 18 in foster care and are under the age of 21, you can apply to AFFCF’s Keys to Success program. The Keys to Success program focuses both on your short-term employment and education goals and your long-term career goals. Currently available in Maricopa County and western Yavapai County.

affcf.org/keys

**Arizona at Work**

Arizona at Work is a workforce development program and offers a lot of resources for finding employment.

arizonaatwork.com

**Arizona Center for Youth Resources**

Arizona Center for Youth Resources is a workforce development program for youth ages 16 to 24.

acyraz.org

**Chicanos por la Causa Engagement Center**

Chicanos por la Causa hosts job fairs and provides resources for applying for jobs.

Desert Sky Mall
3710 W. Camelback Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85019

More information about Chicanos por la Causa

Workforce solutions:
cplcworkforce.org

Facebook/Instagram: @clpcworks - they frequently post job opportunities

workforce@cplc.org

602.527.8451

**Opportunities for Youth**

Helps youth ages 16 to 24 in Maricopa County who are neither working nor in school reengage in employment or education.

opforyouth.org

**HOUSING**

One decision that you will need to make is about where you will live while you are going to school. It depends on your comfort level, circumstances, and amount you are able to work. There are several housing options available.

**Foster home**

If you sign a voluntary agreement with DCS, your foster family may be able to have their home licensed to care for you, please speak to your caseworker.

**Group home**

If you sign a voluntary agreement with DCS, you could live in a group home after you turn 18. Some group homes are set up more like apartments than a house. This type of group home is specifically focused on providing older youth with stable housing until they are ready to transition to independence.

**Apartment**

Whether or not you sign a voluntary agreement with DCS, living in an apartment is a housing option. Apartment rents can range from the $500s to over $1,000 per month, so make sure you pick a place you will be able to afford. If you know a reliable, financially stable person with whom you get along, it may make financial sense to have a roommate to share the costs. In addition to rent, you will also have costs such as utilities, food, internet, etc.
On campus
You may want the experience of living in the dorm your first semester or first year at college. Whether or not you sign a voluntary agreement with DCS prior to turning 18, living on-campus is a housing option. However, on-campus housing can be very expensive, so it is important to know how much it will be and how you will pay for it before you sign up to live on campus. You may be able to pool financial aid resources to pay for living costs or may need to work more to afford living on campus. Loans should be an absolute last resort. (See page 11)

HOUSING RESOURCES

Dorm/Apartment set up:
If you are either in foster care or turned 18 in foster care and are under 21, you can apply to AFFCF for assistance with a dorm/apartment setup. The setup does not include furniture or electronics. Please see AFFCF’s website for more details.
affcf.org/guidelines

If you turned 18 in foster care and need furniture for your apartment, you can contact Thrive AZ.

Thrive AZ
602.281.6192
thriveaz.org

Housing Assistance:
If you turned 18 in foster care, are studying either a certificate program or are in college, and are under the age of 21, you can apply to the Penson Fund for several housing-related items.

• If you find yourself in a financial difficulty, rent assistance is only available once in a 12-month period. It is meant to address an emergency financial situation.
• You can apply to the Penson Fund for a one-time security deposit award. If you signed a voluntary agreement with DCS, you need to use your DCS “Start Up Funds” toward the security deposit first.
affc.org/penson

DCS also offers housing assistance.
• If you are moving and have signed the voluntary agreement with DCS, you can request “Start Up Funds” of $715 on two occasions when you move.
• DCS has a housing voucher program for young adults between the ages of 18 - 24 who were in foster care at age 16 or older.
dcs.az.gov/housing-voucher-application-request

If you do not qualify for the Penson Fund for assistance, other organizations may be able to help you:
Foster Your Future (employment required)
602.478.5850
fosteryourfuture.org

If you turned 18 in foster care, Thrive AZ offers stable, affordable housing provided in a Christian environment. Applicants must commit to residing at Thrive AZ for one year. To apply, call and ask about their Aged Out housing.
Thrive AZ
602.478.5850
thriveaz.org

If you are experiencing homelessness, please contact these organizations:

UMOM New Day Centers / Teen Resource Center
Phoenix, AZ
Phone: 602.275.7852
umom.org

Our Family Services
Tucson, AZ
520.323.1708
ourfamilyservices.org

Gospel Rescue Mission
Tucson, AZ
520.740.1501
grmtucson.com/shelter.html

Youth On Their Own (YOTO) – for youth in high school
Tucson, AZ
520.352.1059
yoto.org

Flagstaff Shelter Services, Inc.
928.225.2533
flagshter.org
SECTION 4: WHO CAN I TURN TO FOR SUPPORT?

COLLEGE RESOURCES

Bridging Success – Maricopa Community Colleges
If you are a student at one of the Maricopa Community Colleges, the Bridging Success organization is there to support youth who were formerly in foster care.
Sam Garman
Bridging Success Project Coordinator
sam.garman@domail.maricopa.edu
480.731.8093
my.maricopa.edu/support/foster-youth
my.maricopa.edu/support/foster-youth/champions

Bridging Success – Arizona State University
The Bridging Success program also operates at Arizona State University and has an early start program for incoming freshmen and transfer students.
Justine Cheung
Bridging Success Program Coordinator
bridgingsuccess@asu.edu
602.496.0054
fosteryouth.asu.edu
students.asu.edu/foster-youth/bridging-success
students.asu.edu/foster-youth/bridging-success/early-start

Fostering Success – University of Arizona
University of Arizona students who have experienced foster care or homelessness are eligible to participate in Fostering Success. The program offers peer mentoring and a community of support. Incoming freshmen can sign up for the New Start summer program where they will take two classes and get ahead before the fall semester begins.
Dani Carrillo
Fostering Success Program Coordinator
danicarrillo@email.arizona.edu
520.626.5710
fosteringsuccess.arizona.edu
newstart.arizona.edu

Blavin Scholars – Northern Arizona University
The Blavin Scholars program is designed to support youth who were in foster care at NAU. There is also a Blavin Scholarship program.
Caitlin Absher
Blavin Scholars Program Coordinator
Caitlin.Absher@nau.edu
928.523.9080
nau.edu/blavin-scholars-program
COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Fostering Advocates Arizona
Fostering Advocates Arizona is for anyone who is thinking about life after they leave foster care, preparing to leave foster care, exploring programs and services in order to reach goals, or regrouping after exiting foster care. Their website is a great resource: fosteringadvocatesarizona.org

Parenting Resources
It is possible to go to school and be a parent at the same time! The Fostering Advocates website has a great section on parenting resources, including several 24 hour hotlines. fosteringadvocatesarizona.org/parenting-resources

Arizona’s Children Association has an Empowered Young Parents program for parents between the ages of 16 - 20 who are currently or formerly in foster care. YAS@arizonaschildren.org arizonaschildren.org/young-parents-program

LGBTQ Resources
When you are looking for a supportive, accepting group, there are many resources available:
Out @ ASU — eoss.asu.edu/student-and-cultural-engagement/out-at-asu
U of A - lgbtq.arizona.edu
One n Ten — Phoenix community organization — onenten.org
NAU - in.nau.edu/lgbtia-commission/campusresources
If you attend a community college, please check for your campus’ specific organization.

Jewish Family and Children’s Service (JFCS)
JFCS offers services for youth who are in foster care or who were in foster care (ages 16 to 24):
• GED and online education support
• Paid internships
• Life skills training
• Work readiness and job training
• Case management
• Referrals to other departments or agencies

Jewish Family and Children’s Service
602.279.0084

Foster 360
A program of Mesa United Way and Helen’s Hope Chest, Foster 360 is a program designed to promote the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of youth who age out of the foster care system. Their five areas of work are mental and behavioral health, personal empowerment, professional development, educational assistance, and daily life.
Foster360 - Helen’s Hope Chest
412.259.0003
APPENDIX A: HIGH SCHOOL

Credit Recovery
Credit recovery courses may be available online or in alternative settings and can be scheduled at different times to suit the needs of the student. Speak to your guidance counselor about credit recovery options offered at your high school.

High School Dropout Recovery Program (DRP)
A drop out recovery program is typically a 1 to 2 year program (depending on credits needed) that helps students earn their high school diploma in an alternative setting. There are many schools and organizations that offer drop out recovery programs in person. Please contact Erika Klotz at AFFCF (eklotz@affcf.org) for more information.

There is also an online drop out recovery program, called Grad Solutions: iwantmydiploma.com

General Education Diploma (GED)
The General Education Diploma (GED) can be earned by those 16 and older. It is also known as the High School Equivalency (HSE) degree. For students who are at least 16 years old and lacking credits, earning your GED may be a faster option than earning your high school diploma. Please contact Erika Klotz at AFFCF (eklotz@affcf.org) for more information.

There are a lot of resources available to help you study and prepare for the GED tests. If you are currently in foster care or participating in a voluntary agreement with DCS, you can apply to AFFCF for financial assistance to pay for your GED test costs. Please apply at least two weeks prior to the date you anticipate needing to make payment for the GED test. affcf.org/guidelines

Mental Health / Domestic Violence
Jewish Family and Children’s Service
602.279.0084 in Phoenix / 520.795.0300 in Tucson  
jfcsaz.org

Behavioral Health Services, HIV/AIDS Services, Domestic Violence Victim Assistance
Foster360 – Helen’s Hope Chest  
Mesa, AZ  
412.259.0003  
helenshopechest.org/foster360

Service Navigation, Project Management, Life Coaching, Behavioral Health Services, Young Adult Services
Arizona Children’s Association
Locations statewide  
arizonaschildren.org
**College Readiness**
First Star is a national program that helps students in foster care prepare for college while they are in high school. If you are in 8th, 9th, 10th, or 11th grade, you can apply online. First Star takes place at Arizona State University (ASU), but it prepares students for college no matter where they want to attend. [eoss.asu.edu/access/first-star-academy](eoss.asu.edu/access/first-star-academy)

If you reside in Maricopa County, Pima County or Yavapai County, and need support in reaching your education goals, talk to your DCS specialist about completing a FosterEd referral on your behalf. Once you are referred, FosterEd can support you in school-related issues, connect you to resources and help you get to where you want to be! [foster-ed.org/arizona-intake-form](foster-ed.org/arizona-intake-form) [foster-ed.org/fostered-arizona-2020-arizona-foster-care-education-toolkit](foster-ed.org/fostered-arizona-2020-arizona-foster-care-education-toolkit)

**APPENDIX B: SCHOLARSHIPS**

Armstrong Foundation — ASU — The Armstrong Family Foundation Scholarship Program offers up to $8,000 a year. The scholarship may be renewed annually if the student meets criteria. Deadline: mid-March [scholarships.asu.edu/scholarship/1409](scholarships.asu.edu/scholarship/1409)


Blavin Scholars — NAU — Deadline: April [nau.edu/blavin-scholars-program](nau.edu/blavin-scholars-program)


College Depot [phoenixpubliclibrary.org/collegedepot/scholarships](phoenixpubliclibrary.org/collegedepot/scholarships)

College Success Arizona — for incoming freshmen. Students have to be recommended by a College Success Arizona partner organization. Deadline: early March. [collegesuccessarizona.org/college-success-services/our-scholarships](collegesuccessarizona.org/college-success-services/our-scholarships)

Dell Scholars Program - If you participated in a college readiness program in 11th and 12th grades of high school (GEARUP, Upward Bound or other approved programs), you can apply. Application period: Oct. 1 - Dec. 1 [dellscholars.org/scholarship](dellscholars.org/scholarship)

Foster Care to Success — specifically for youth who were in foster care at age 16 or older. Application period: January 1-March 31 [fc2success.org/our-programs/information-for-students](fc2success.org/our-programs/information-for-students)

Hope and A Future Scholarship — specifically for youth who were in foster care and who participated in Hope and A Future’s camps or classes.
The Nina Scholars Program provides financial support toward the cost of attendance for up to 6 years at the participating universities and for up to 4 years at the participating community colleges, as well as scholar support and mentoring.

[link]

Nina Mason Pulliam Scholarship — Maricopa Community Colleges - Deadline: March 1.

[link]

NAU First Generation Scholarship

[link]

Obama Scholarship — eligibility determined at time of application to ASU — for incoming freshmen who start college the fall immediately after graduating from high school in the spring. Students must submit their FAFSA application by January 1.

[link]

Pima Community College Scholarships

[link]

University of Arizona Scholarships — [link]

APPENDIX C: RESOURCES FOR UNDOCUMENTED OR DACA STUDENTS

Always AZ
Legal/immigration services for women in AZ
602.248.7055
[link]

AFFCF Penson Fund
Financial support for students in college/vocational studies who turned 18 in Arizona up until they turn 21.
[link]

AFFCF Scholarship Program
Applications accepted for youth who turned 18 in foster care in Arizona (regardless of legal status) in June and December
[link]
Chicanos por la Causa Scholarships
cplc.org/education/scholarships.php

College Depot
College Depot is a place with information about different colleges/costs. They have a guide for scholarships for undocumented students, which can be found at the below link:
phoenixpubliclibrary.org/collegedepot/scholarships

Dream Zone
An ASU resource for undocumented students, information on DACA and scholarships:
eoss.asu.edu/access/dreamzone
eoss.asu.edu/access/dreamzone/resources/scholarships

Golden Door
Scholarships for DACA students
goldendoorscholars.org

Immigrants Rising Scholarship Tool
immigrantsrising.org/resource/applying-for-scholarships

Maldef
maldef.org/resources/scholarship-resources

Scholarships AZ
scholarshipsaz.org/scholarships

The Dream US
Scholarships available for Dreamers at 70 partner schools, including ASU, GCU and Benedictine University in Mesa.
thedream.us

My Undocumented Life
mydocumentedlife.org

IMMIGRANT SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

Aliento AZ — alientoaz.org/scholarships

Lucha — luchaaz.org

Puente AZ — puenteaz.org

APPENDIX D: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Empower Training
Empower is an online training program for supportive adults who work with youth who have experienced foster care. Supportive adults can be foster parents, relatives, case managers, school counselors, teachers, mentors, CASAs (Court Appointed Special Advocates) or anyone else who has a supportive relationship with a youth who has experienced foster care. The training is self-paced and takes a total of three hours to complete.
courses.cpe.asu.edu/browse/university-college/courses/cpe-ccw-empower-online-training

Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) Independent Living Program Savings Match
If a young adult is participating in DCS’s Independent Living program, he or she can ask their caseworker to sign a savings match agreement. If the young adult shows consistent savings for three months prior to turning age 21 or case closure, DCS will provide a 2-to-1 match of up to $1,000.

Arizona Department of Child Safety Education Incentives ($100 to $1,500)
If a young adult participating in DCS’s Independent Living program reaches certain education milestones prior to turning age 21 or case closure, he or she can request education incentive payments from DCS. There are payments for graduating high school, completion of a certificate/licensing program, attaining an Associate degree, attaining 72 credit hours toward a Bachelor’s degree and attaining a Bachelor’s degree. Students must provide evidence of educational attainment to their caseworker to receive education incentives.
## APPENDIX E: COLLEGE PAYMENT RESOURCES

For detailed information, please refer to page 6 — *Enrollment Checklist for Community College Students* and/or page 8 — *Enrollment Checklist for University Students*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ASU</th>
<th>NAU</th>
<th>UA</th>
<th>COMMUNITY COLLEGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Application Fee</strong></td>
<td>Can obtain fee waiver</td>
<td>Can obtain fee waiver</td>
<td>Can obtain fee waiver</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enrollment Fee</strong></td>
<td>Can defer to financial aid</td>
<td>Can defer to financial aid</td>
<td>Can defer to financial aid</td>
<td>Usually covered by Pell grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Housing Deposit</strong></td>
<td>Can defer to financial aid</td>
<td>Application cannot be deferred</td>
<td>Can defer rent confirmation fee if eligible</td>
<td>Do not typically offer housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yavapai College cannot be deferred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early Start Program</strong></td>
<td>Can be paid with financial aid</td>
<td>Can be paid with financial aid</td>
<td>Can be paid with financial aid</td>
<td>Not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Laptop/School Supplies</strong></td>
<td>Funds available through AFFCF Penson Fund*</td>
<td>Funds available through AFFCF Penson Fund*</td>
<td>Funds available through AFFCF Penson Fund*</td>
<td>Laptop funds available via ETV**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>School supply funds available through AFFCF Penson Fund*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Books</strong></td>
<td>Pay with financial aid</td>
<td>Pay with financial aid</td>
<td>Pay with financial aid</td>
<td>Must opt in for Pell grant book advance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If students qualify for the Penson Fund (reach age 18 as a ward of the state of Arizona under the age of 21)*  
** If students qualify for ETV (reach age 16 as a ward of the state of Arizona, under age of 26)