

**DREAM IT.
LEARN IT. DO IT.**

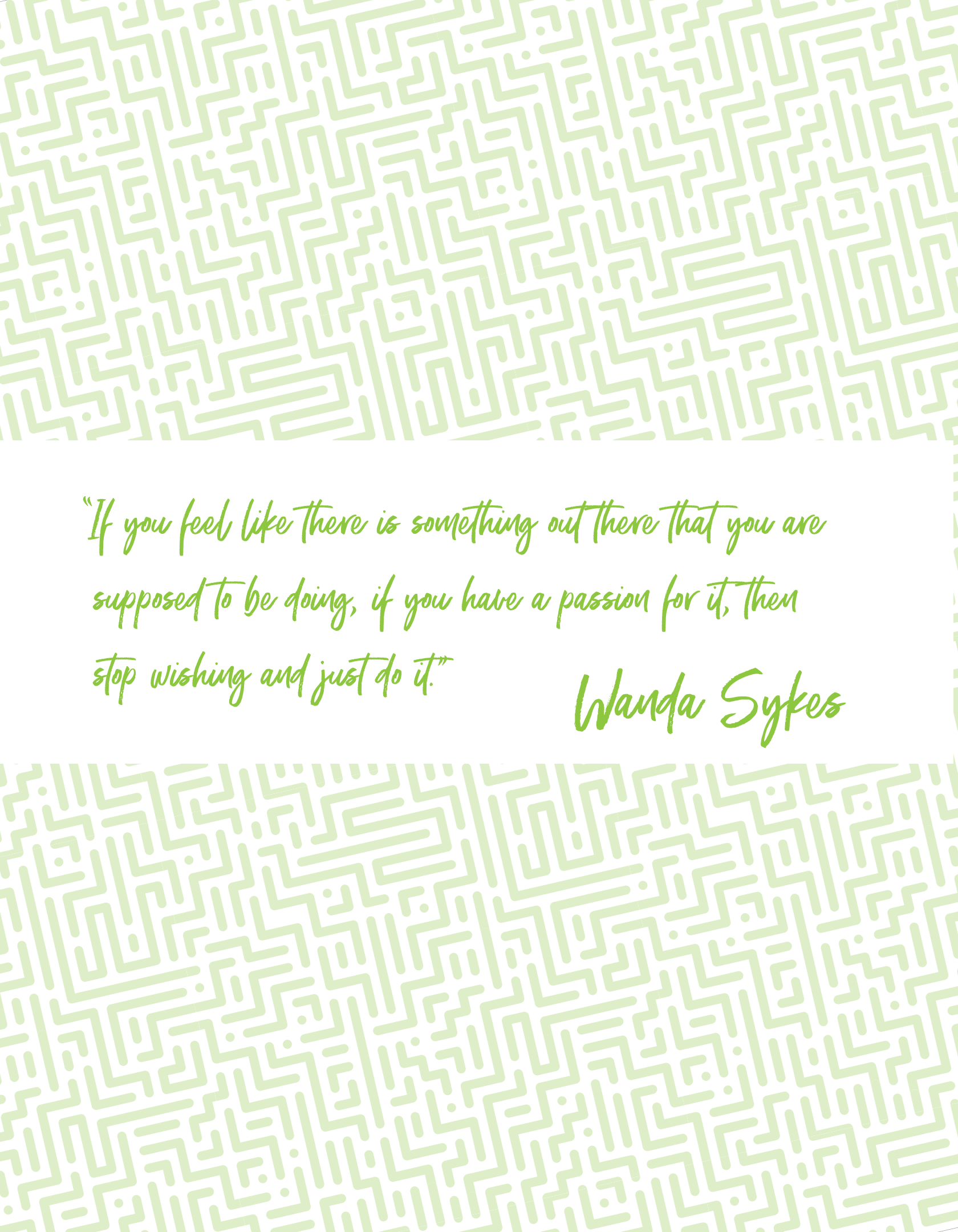
What's your it?

**AN EDUCATION GUIDE FOR
YOUTH CURRENTLY AND
FORMERLY IN FOSTER CARE**



**ARIZONA FRIENDS OF
FOSTER CHILDREN FOUNDATION**

**DIGITAL VERSION AVAILABLE
AT [AFFCF.ORG/RESOURCES](https://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

Hello!

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?

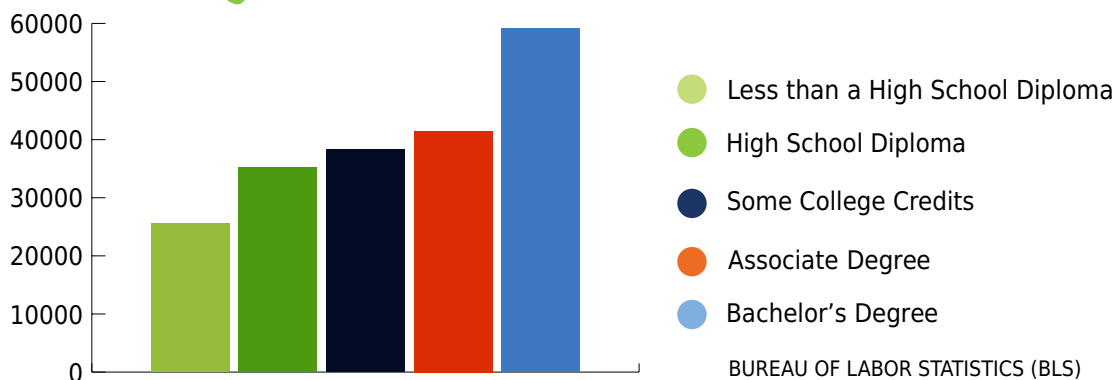
By 2020, economists predict that nearly two-thirds of jobs will require education beyond high school.

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

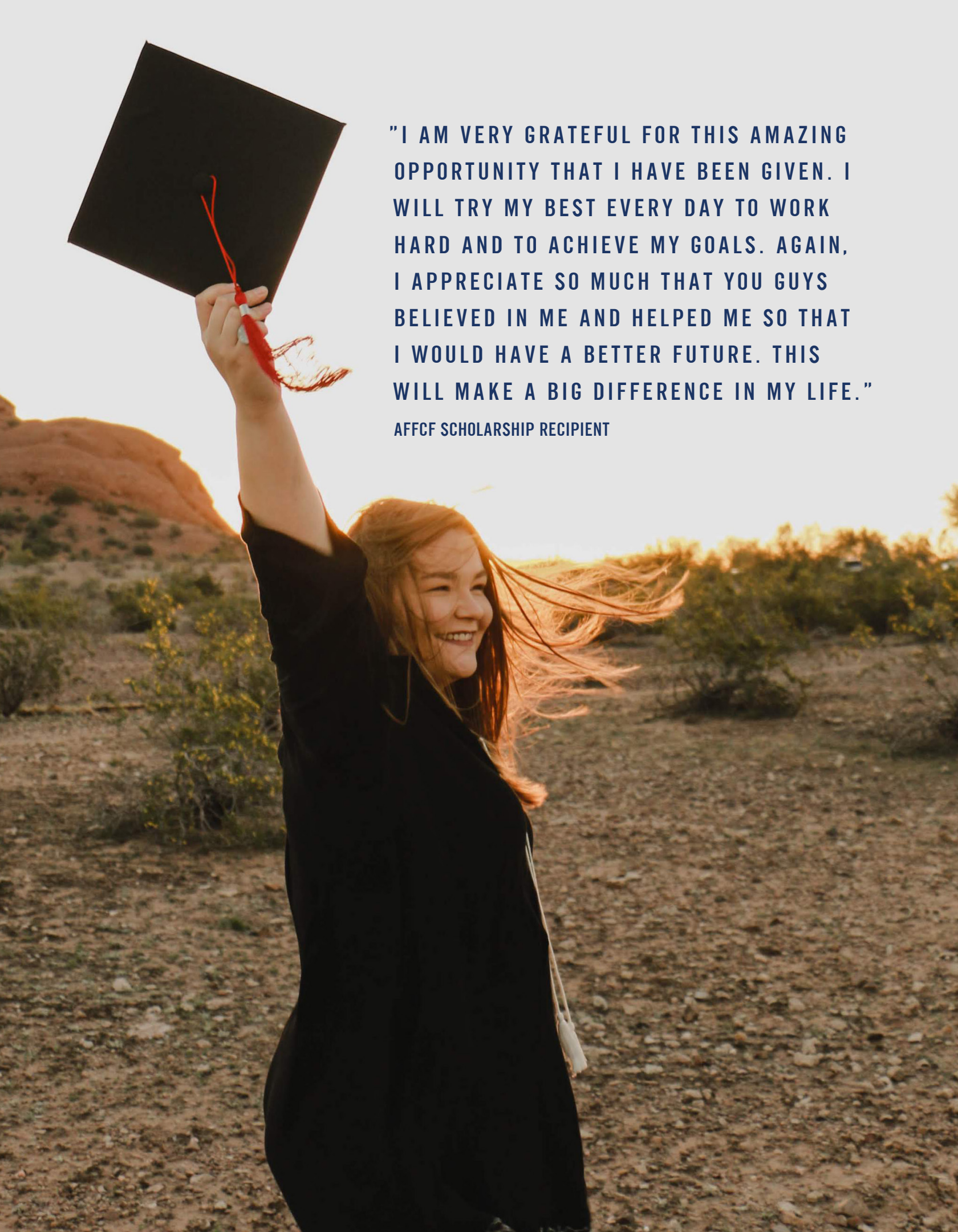
Obtaining a high school diploma or certificate of high school equivalence (GED) is the first step to accessing post-secondary education and a career that pays a sustaining wage.

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

Contents

Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation (AFFCF) hopes that this guide will be useful to you!

If you have any questions, contact information for the resources mentioned is listed throughout this guide. AFFCF is always able to answer any questions you may have or connect you to the right person.

Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation (AFFCF)

Erika Klotz, Post-Secondary Program Coordinator

602.252.9445 / eklotz@affcf.org

SECTION 1: **WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL OR GETTING MY GED?**

What does Post-Secondary mean?	2
Which Post-Secondary option is best for me?	2
What kinds of Post-Secondary programs are available?	3
What about the SAT/ACT?	4
How to apply - Community college	5
Community college checklist	6
How to apply - University	7
University checklist	8

SECTION 2: **HOW WILL I PAY FOR MY EDUCATION?**

Financial resources available to youth who were in foster care	10
What is the difference between a grant and a loan?	11
Which financial resources apply to me?	12
I was in foster care before I turned 13	12
I was in foster care when I was 13, 14, or 15	12
I was in foster care between ages 16 and 18	13
I turned (or will turn) 18 while in foster care	13

SECTION 3: **HOW WILL I PAY FOR MY LIVING COSTS?**

How can I receive additional support until age 21?	16
Budgeting	18
Financial Resources	18

Employment	18
Employment Resources	19
Housing	19
Housing Resources	19

SECTION 4: **WHO CAN I TURN TO FOR SUPPORT?**

Bridging Success (Maricopa Community Colleges)	21
Bridging Success (Arizona State University)	21
Fostering Success (University of Arizona)	21
Blavin Bettin Scholars (Northern Arizona University)	21
Fostering Futures (Grand Arizona University)	21
DCS Education Specialists	22
Parenting Resources	22
LGBTQ Resources	22
Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS)	22
Foster 360	22
Mental Health/Domestic Violence Resources	23

APPENDIX A: HIGH SCHOOL

Credit Recovery	23
General Education Diploma (GED)	23
College Readiness	24

APPENDIX B: SCHOLARSHIPS

APPENDIX C: RESOURCES FOR UNDOCUMENTED AND DACA STUDENTS	25
---	----

APPENDIX D: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	26
---	----

APPENDIX E: PAYMENT RESOURCES	27
--------------------------------------	----

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.

higherred.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

What types of Post-Secondary programs are available?

	Program Length	Admission Requirements	Certificate / Degree Attained	Possible Career Options	Potential Earnings
Certificate Programs (Vocational training)	8 weeks to 2 years Most are short-term training (less than 1 year) leading to immediate employment	MOST REQUIRE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED	Certificate	Medical, Nursing, or Dental Assisting, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Auto body, Welding, Administrative Assistant, EMT, Court Reporter	Varies, depending on career field
Associate Degree (Community College)	2 years (attending full-time) or until earn 60 credit hours	Must meet community college admission requirements	Associate Degree	Dental Hygienist, Physical Therapist Technician, Cardiovascular Technician, Respiratory Therapist, Radiation Therapist, Diagnostic Medical Sonographer, Web Developer, EMT	\$41,496/year (average based on Bureau of Labor Department statistics)
Associate Degree to transfer to a Bachelor's Degree (Community College to 4-year college or university)	2 years (attending full-time) to earn Associate degree followed by 2 years (attending full-time) to earn Bachelor's degree	Must meet community college admission requirements Must complete one of three Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) blocks as part of your Associates degree Passing the AGEC block with a 2.5 GPA guarantees you admission into ASU, UA or NAU.	Bachelor's Degree	Engineer, Nurse (Registered Nurse), Teacher, Certified Public Accountant, Airline pilot, Financial Manager, Sales Manager, Software Developer, Construction Manager, Social Worker, Database Administrators	\$59,124/year (average based on Bureau of Labor Department statistics)
Bachelor's Degree (4-year college or university)	4 years (attending full-time) or until earn at least 120 credit hours	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.	Bachelor's Degree	Engineer, Nurse (Registered Nurse), Teacher, Certified Public Accountant, Airline Pilot, Financial Manager, Sales Manager, Software Developer, Construction Manager, Social Worker, Database Administrators	\$59,124/year (average based on Bureau of Labor Department statistics)

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS (BLS)

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/register-for-the-act.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 22 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/apply/first-year/admission

NAU

SAT/ACT is not required for admission.

nau.edu/admissions/freshman-students/admission-requirements/

UA

SAT/ACT is not required for admission.

arizona.edu/admissions/first-year/apply

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 accessact.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/become-student) — 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/students/course-selection-placement/edready

- 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/advisement. 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.
- For students who are receiving the Pell grant, community college tuition and fees are typically fully covered by the Pell grant.
- 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 a Bridging Success program champion at the college you're interested in. Links to each college's champions can be found at maricopa.edu/students/student-support/foster-youth

Community college enrollment checklist

☐ **1. Apply for scholarships!**

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. 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 at the following website: fosteredservices.org/arizona-etv

☐ **4. Register for classes!**

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.

maricopa.edu/students/financial-aid-resources/book-advances

If you aren't eligible to purchase textbooks using financial aid and reached age 16 as a ward of the state of Arizona and or in tribal foster care, you can apply for assistance via AFFCF's Focus Forward Fund.

affcf.org/focusforward

☐ **6. Determine if you need a laptop or school supplies.**

If you are in Extended Foster Care, you can apply for school supplies assistance via AFFCF's general awards (\$50) at affcf.org.

If you are participating in Extended Foster Care, you can request a laptop by contacting educationPOC@azdcs.gov.

If you are over the age of 21, you can request a laptop from the AFFCF Focus Forward Fund.

affcf.org/focusforward

☐ **7. Connect to your on-campus support organization!**

maricopa.edu/students/student-support/foster-youth

☐ **8. Get to know your professors!**

You can attend office hours (time that professors set aside specifically to talk to students about any issues or to get to know students) or reach out over email.

☐ **9. Get tutoring help if needed!**

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

AFFCF's General Awards — If you are in foster care or Extended Foster Care, you can apply for tutoring assistance via AFFCF's general awards.

affcf.org/guidelines

If you are over age 21, NorthBridge Tutoring services received a grant to provide up to two hours of one-on-one tutoring per week free of charge to students with foster care backgrounds up to age 25. Contact Daylee Burr at dburr@northbridgeaz.org for more information.

How to apply and enroll at a four-year college or university

1. Complete the FAFSA – 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 2025, you would fill out the 2025-2026 FAFSA form in the fall of 2024. If you missed completing it in the fall, it is best to complete 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, GCU, NAU or UA and need assistance with the application process, you can contact on-campus support program staff who work specifically with students with foster care backgrounds. DCS also has three Statewide Education Specialists who can help support students in preparing for attending college. *Please see pages 21 and 22 for detailed contact information and websites.*

University enrollment checklist

☐ 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 or request assistance from AFFCF by submitting a Focus Forward Application (affcf.org/focusforward).

If you have at least \$6,000 in scholarships and grants (not loans) for the fall semester, you can defer the NAU housing rent confirmation fee (\$175) to August to be paid from your financial aid. If you do not qualify, this is a fee you need to plan on paying or request assistance from AFFCF by submitting a Focus Forward Application

(affcf.org/focusforward). 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.**

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 #11).

☐ 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 at the following website: fosteredservices.org/arizona-etv

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.

☐ 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

University enrollment checklist (continued)

NAU: STAR

Based on the student's application/FAFSA, eligible students will receive an offer email to accept or decline their spot in the STAR program. Students need to accept/decline their position by April 1.

nau.edu/first-gen/star

☐ **8. Register for classes!**

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

students.asu.edu/faq/can-i-use-financial-aid-buy-my-books

NAU

bkstr.com/northernarizonastore/incoming-students

UA

bursar.arizona.edu/faq

If you are not eligible to purchase textbooks using financial aid and reached (or will reach) age 16 as a ward of the state of Arizona or in tribal foster care and have not yet turned 27, you can apply for assistance via AFFCF's Focus Forward Fund.

affcf.org/focusforward

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

If you are in foster care or Extended Foster Care, you can make an AFFCF general award school supply request (\$50) at affcf.org.

If you are participating in Extended Foster Care, you can request a laptop by contacting educationPOC@azdcs.gov.

If you are over the age of 21, you can request a laptop from the AFFCF Focus Forward Fund. affcf.org/focusforward

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

ASU: Bridging Success

fosteryouth.asu.edu/bridging-success

NAU: First Generation Programs

nau.edu/first-gen

UA: Fostering Success

fosteringsuccess.arizona.edu

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

You can attend office hours (time that professors set aside specifically to talk to students about any issues or to get to know students) or reach out 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.

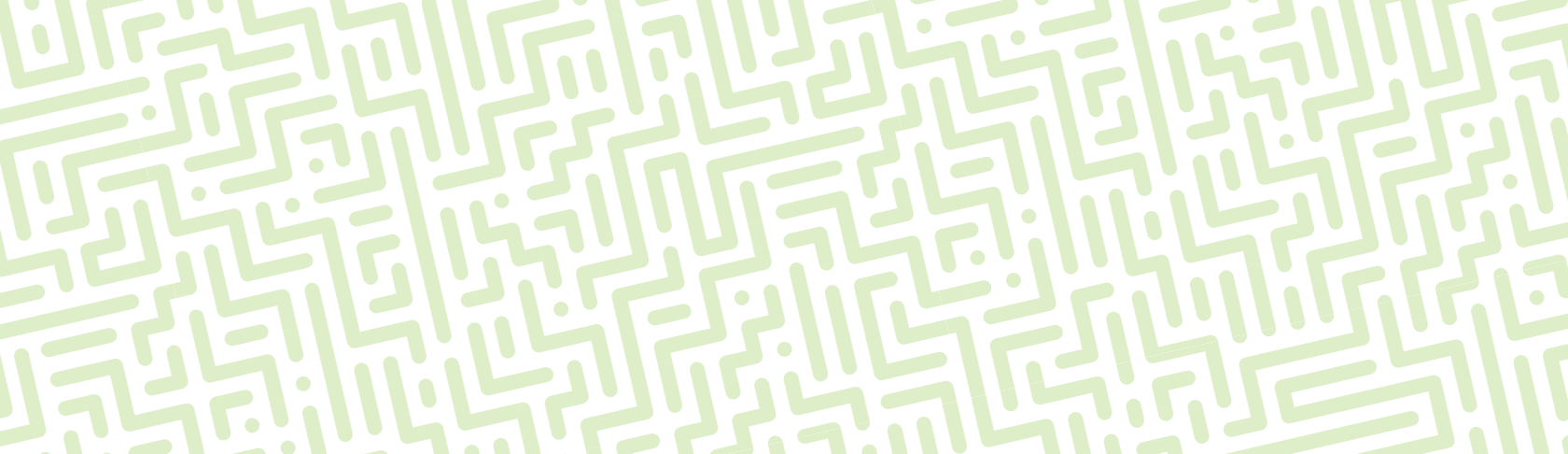
Professors are there to help you succeed! It is always best to reach out to your professors if there is something you don't understand or need help with.

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

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

AFFCF General Awards (Tutoring) — If you are in foster care or extended foster care, you can apply for tutoring assistance via AFFCF's general awards. affcf.org/guidelines.

If you are over age 21, NorthBridge Tutoring services received a grant to provide up to two hours of one-on-one tutoring per week free of charge to students with foster care backgrounds up to age 25. Contact Daylee Burr at dburr@northbridgeaz.org for more information.



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.**



What is the difference between a grant and a loan?

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:

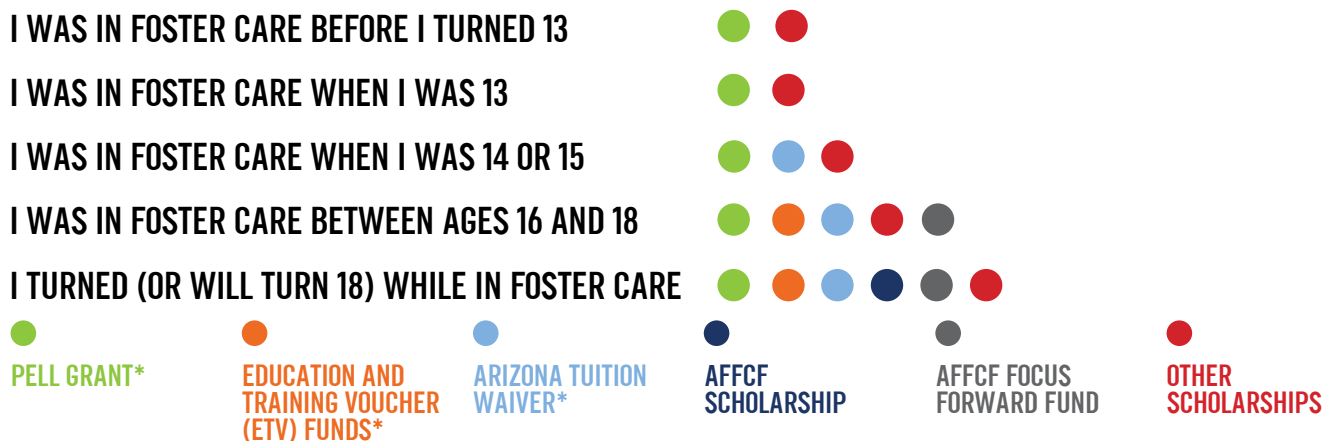
- They do not charge you interest on the amount you borrow while you are in college.
- You do not have to make payments on them until after you graduate.
- They offer flexible repayment plans.
- They have lower interest rates than private loans.

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.



* 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, other financial aid options, and scholarships (please see Appendix B for more information). If you were in foster care at age 14 or 15, you will also likely be eligible for the Arizona Tuition Waiver.

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, plus you will be eligible for the AFFCF Focus Forward Fund. There are also 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 Successful Transition to Adulthood Program (STA). You are also eligible for STA 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.*
- **AFFCF Focus Forward Fund** *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 DCS's Extended Foster Care Success Coaching program up until you turn 21? While you are legally an adult, there will still be a lot of resources available by participating in the Extended Foster Care Success Coaching Program and you will work with a Success Coach from a private agency, not a caseworker.

The best way to take advantage of those resources is to sign a voluntary agreement with DCS to participate in the Extended Foster Care Coaching Success program. 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 Successful Transition to Adulthood Program (STA). *To learn more, please see the Section 3, "How can I receive additional support up until age 21?"*

In terms of financial aid, 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 Focus Forward 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 Focus Forward 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 students who display exceptional financial need and have not earned a Bachelor's Degree or a vocational program certificate. 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 \$7,395 for the 2024-2025 school year (\$3,697.50 per semester). 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 nine 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 academic 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. The ETV website is found below:

fosteredservices.org/arizona-etv/

For further questions about ETV, please contact: Email: **azetv@fosteredservices.org** | Phone: 219.426.2166

● 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 need to apply for the Arizona Tuition Waiver by completing an ETV application on the ETV website (even if you are only eligible for the Arizona Tuition Waiver and not for ETV).

fosteredservices.org/arizona-etv/

● What is the AFFCF Scholarship Program?

If you reach (or will reach) age 18 as a ward of the state of Arizona or in tribal foster care in 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 (or have earned their GED) 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 Focus Forward Fund?

If you turned 16 as a ward of the state of Arizona or in tribal foster care in Arizona and are enrolled in college or a certificate program (vocational training), you are eligible for the Focus Forward Fund up until your 27th birthday.

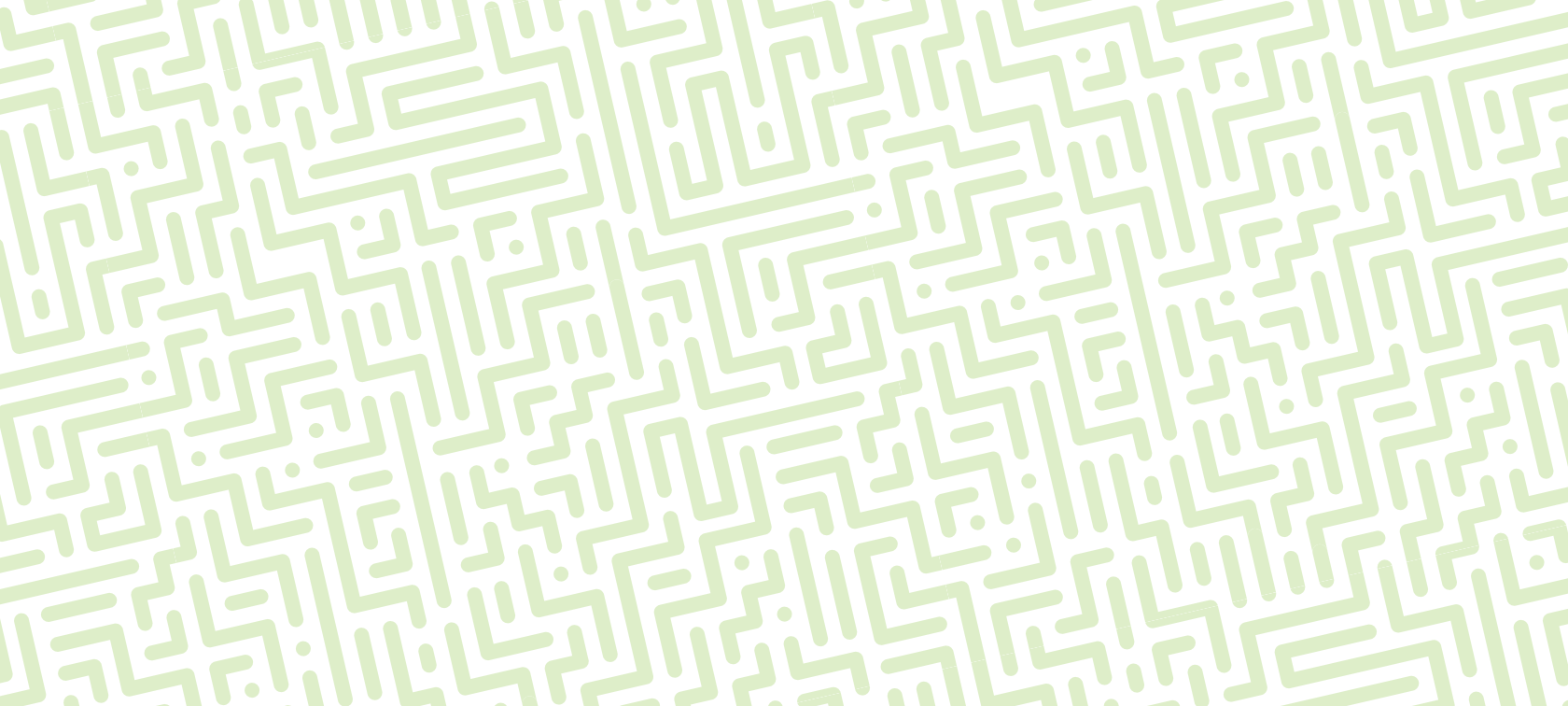
The Focus Forward provides assistance to young adults while they advance their studies. Students can apply to the Focus Forward Fund using the online application form.

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 \$2,500) through the Focus Forward Fund. To review the Focus Forward Fund award categories and guidelines, please visit the below website:

affcf.org/focusforward



SECTION 3: HOW WILL I PAY FOR MY LIVING COSTS?

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 Success Coaching program for young adults ages 18 to 20.

When you turn 18, you are legally an adult and can make your own choices. If you choose to participate in the Extended Foster Care Success Coaching program, there are a lot of resources available to you up until you turn 21.

After signing the voluntary agreement to participate in the Extended Foster Care Success Coaching program, it is different than when you were a ward of the state of Arizona. You will not have to go to court dates and the focus will be on how your Success Coach and the program can support you in your life and educational goals.

What are the benefits of participating in the Extended Foster Care Success Coaching program?

- You can get assigned a Success Coach who will provide support until you turn 21.
- You either continue to live in DCS housing or receive a subsidy of \$1,200/month to go toward living expenses if you are living independently.
- You can receive Education Incentives from DCS for completing educational programs, like earning a certificate or a degree, or earning a certain number of college credits before you turn 21.

Please see Appendix D for more information.

What support can I get if I do not want to participate in the Extended Foster Care Success Coaching program, if I am not eligible to participate because I was in tribal foster care, 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 participate in the Extended Foster Care Success Coaching program when you turn 18, if you are not eligible because you were in tribal foster care, if you exited foster care between the ages of 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 the ages of 16 and 18, you can take advantage of the Successful Transition to Adulthood Program (STA) prior to turning 21.

You will work with a 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 STA program more than once, since you may have different needs at different age.

You can sign up for STA by e-mailing STA_Referral@azdcs.gov. or calling 480.651.3348.

What if I did not want to participate in the Extended Foster Care Success Coaching program, but now realize I should have?

If you realize that you could benefit from participating in the Extended Foster Care Success Coaching program and are still under the age of 21, participating in the STA is the first step toward being able to participate. You must participate in STA prior to having the opportunity to participate in the Extended Foster Care Success Coaching Program.

You can sign up for STA by e-mailing STA_Referral@azdcs.gov. or calling 480.651.3348.

**"I'M TRYING
NOT TO PANIC
BUT I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
ELSE TO DO."**

**FOCUS FORWARD
FUND RECIPIENT**

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 participate in the Extended Foster Care Success Coaching program, 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

Keys to Financial Success

Keys to Financial Success is a financial literacy program component of the AFFCF Keys to Success program. Keys to Success focuses on employment, career development and financial literacy. Youth 16 - 26 years who are Keys to Success participants (available in Maricopa, Pima and Yavapai Counties) can participate in Keys to Financial Success. Those who complete Keys to Financial Success are eligible for a savings match program.

affcf.org/ktfs

Focus Forward Fund

If you turned 16 the foster care system in Arizona and are in school (certificate program or college), you are eligible for the Focus Forward Fund up until your 27th birthday. The Focus Forward 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/focusforward

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 14 in foster care and are under the age of 27, 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. Available in Maricopa, Pima and Yavapai Counties.

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.

oppforyouth.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 participate in the Extended Foster Care Success Coaching Program, your foster family may be able to have their home licensed to care for you, please speak to your caseworker.

Group home or DCS Housing Program

If you participate in the Extended Foster Care Success Coaching program, you could live in a group home after you turn 18. Some group homes or DCS housing programs 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 participate in the Extended Foster Care Success Coaching program, living in an apartment is a housing option. Apartment rents can range from the \$800s to over \$1,400 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 participate in the Extended Foster Care Success Coaching program, after 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

thriveaz.org | 602.544.9547

Housing Assistance:

If you turned 16 in foster care, are studying either a certificate program or are in college, and are under the age of 27, you can apply to the Focus Forward 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 Focus Forward Fund for a one-time security deposit award or on-campus housing (if you are not able to defer the housing deposit to be paid from financial aid) award
affcf.org/focusforward

DCS offers moving and housing assistance:

- If you are moving and are participating in the Extended Foster Care Success Coaching program, you can request "Start Up Funds" of \$715 on two occasions when you move.

If you do not qualify for the Focus Forward 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
602.860.8276
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
flagshelter.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.

Allison Goodwin
Bridging Success Coordinator

allison.goodwin@domail.maricopa.edu
Office: 480.731.8083 | Cell: 480.269.0304

maricopa.edu/students/student-support/foster-youth

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, Program Director
justine.cheung@asu.edu
602.496.0535

Niya Brooks, Resource Navigator
niya.brooks@asu.edu
480.798.2331

fosteryouth.asu.edu/services-support/bridging-success

fosteryouth.asu.edu/services-support/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 Director
danicarrillo@arizona.edu

Anna Vindiola, Fostering Success Coordinator
avindiola@arizona.edu

fosteringsuccess.arizona.edu
newstart.arizona.edu

Blavin Bettin Scholars - Northern Arizona University

The Blavin Bettin Scholars program is a supportive, on-campus scholarship program for students with foster care backgrounds at NAU. Email or call for more information on how to apply. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

blavinbettinscholars@nau.edu
928.523.5815

Fostering Futures Scholarship Program - Grand Canyon University

If a student is a U.S. Citizen or eligible non-citizen who is participating in the DCS Extended Foster Care

Success Coaching program, the student can apply for the Fostering Futures Scholarship program. It provides on-campus support and covers GCU tuition, fees and on-campus living expenses. For more information and to contact the program, please visit:

gcuwelcome.org/fosteringfutures

DCS Education Specialists

There are three statewide DCS Education Specialists who are able to provide additional support when students are deciding where to attend a post-secondary program. If students need assistance in the enrollment or financial aid process, or in other needed areas. For more information, contact:

educationspecialist@azdcs.gov

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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

LGBTQIA+ Resources

When you are looking for a supportive, accepting group, there are many resources available:

Out @ ASU — eoss.asu.edu/cultural-connections/out-at-asu

U of A - lgbtq.arizona.edu

One n Ten — Phoenix community organization — oneten.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



602.256.0528

jfcsaz.org/our-services/family-youth-children/transition-to-adulthood/
jfcsaz.org/our-services/family-youth-children/real-world-job-development/

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
480.969.8601
foster360.org/aged-out

Mental Health / Domestic Violence
Jewish Family and Children’s Service
602.279.7655
jfcsaz.org

Behavioral Health Services, HIV/AIDS Services, Domestic Violence Victim Assistance
Foster360 – Helen’s Hope Chest

Mesa, AZ
480.969.8601
foster360.org/aged-out

Service Navigation, Project Management, Life Coaching, Behavioral Health Services, Young Adult Services

Arizona Children’s Association
Locations statewide
arizonaschildren.org/services/young-adult-services
STA_Referral@azdcs.gov
480.651.3348

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.

There are a lot of resources available to help you study and prepare for the GED tests.
literacyvolunteers-maricopa.org
phoenixpubliclibrary.org/collegedepot/reengage-phoenix
riosalado.edu/start-río/adult-education/ged-prep

If you are currently in foster care or participating in the Extended Foster Care Coaching Success program, 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**](https://affcf.org/guidelines)

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**](https://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**](https://foster-ed.org/arizona-intake-form)

[**foster-ed.org/fostered-arizona-2020-arizona-fostercare-education-toolkit**](https://foster-ed.org/fostered-arizona-2020-arizona-fostercare-education-toolkit)

APPENDIX B: SCHOLARSHIPS

Armstrong Foundation — ASU — The Armstrong Family Foundation Scholarship Program offers up to \$10,000 a year. The scholarship may be renewed annually if the student meets criteria. Deadline: mid-March

[**scholarships.asu.edu/scholarship/1409**](https://scholarships.asu.edu/scholarship/1409)

Arizona Community Foundation — application opens in January — best to apply early.

[**azfoundation.org/scholarship-seekers**](https://azfoundation.org/scholarship-seekers)

Barbara Polk Healthcare Scholarship - Financial aid for undergraduate and/or graduate degree-seeking students studying healthcare fields. Application deadlines: June 30 and November 15

[**affcf.org/polk**](https://affcf.org/polk)

Blavin Bettin Scholars — NAU — Applications accepted on a rolling basis. It is best to apply in April ahead of the fall semester and in October ahead of the spring semester.



[**nau.edu/blavin-bettin-scholars-program/eligibility-application**](https://nau.edu/blavin-bettin-scholars-program/eligibility-application)

Children's Action Alliance

[**azchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Scholarship-Guide.pdf**](https://azchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Scholarship-Guide.pdf)

College Depot

[**phoenixpubliclibrary.org/collegedepot/scholarships**](https://phoenixpubliclibrary.org/collegedepot/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/students**](https://dellscholars.org/students)

Foster Care to Success — specifically for youth who were in foster care at age 16 or older.



fc2success.org/our-programs/information-for-students

Fostering Futures Scholarship Program - GCU - A scholarship in partnership with the DCS that is available to cover all costs at GCU for students who are participating in the Extended Foster Care Success Coaching program.

gcuwelcome.org/fosteringfutures

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.

azhope.com/scholarship-application

Maricopa Community College District Scholarships
maricopa.edu/students/financial-aid-resources/scholarships

Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation Scholarships
maricopa.edu/students/financial-aid-resources/scholarships

Nina Mason Pulliam Scholarship — ASU — specifically for youth who were in foster care. Deadline: March 1. 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.

scholarships.asu.edu/scholarship/571

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

maricopa.edu/students/financial-aid-resources/scholarships/nina-mason-pulliam

NAU First Generation Scholarship
nau.edu/first-gen/first-scholars-eligibility-criteria

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 and list ASU on the FAFSA by a specific date (please refer to website).

students.asu.edu/obama

Pima Community College Scholarships
pima.edu/paying-for-college/scholarships

University of Arizona Scholarships — **financialaid.arizona.edu/types-of-aid/scholarships**

Yavapai College Champions Scholarship — specifically for Yavapai College students with foster care backgrounds who are or were wards of the State of Arizona in Yavapai County. To apply, please contact Kelly O'Brien at **Kelly.Obrien@yc.edu**.

APPENDIX C: RESOURCES FOR UNDOCUMENTED OR DACA STUDENTS

Aliento AZ — Scholarship resource page for undocumented students alientoaz.org/scholarships

Always AZ

Legal/immigration services for women in AZ
602.248.7055 | alwaysaz.org/immigration

AFFCF Focus Forward Fund

Financial support for students in college/vocational studies who turned 16 in Arizona (DCS or tribal) up until they turn 27. affcf.org/focusforward

AFFCF Scholarship Program

Applications accepted for youth who turned 18 in foster care in Arizona (regardless of legal status) in June and December. affcf.org/scholarships

Chicanos por la Causa Scholarships

cplc.org/education/scholarships.php

College Depot

College Depot is a resource in the Phoenix Public Library with information about attending college. They have a scholarship search tool where students can search for their unique circumstances: 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/scholarships

Golden Door

Scholarships for DACA students
goldendoorscholars.org

Immigrants Rising Scholarship Tool

immigrantsrising.org/resource/list-of-scholarships-and-fellowships

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

APPENDIX D: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Empower Training

Empower is an online training program for supportive adults who work with youth who have experienced foster care. The training is self-paced and takes a total of three hours to complete.

courses.cpe.asu.edu/browse/watts-college/courses/cpe-wc-empower-online-training

Savings Match

If a young adult is participating in the Extended Foster Care Success Coaching program, he or she can earn a 2-to-1 match of up to \$1,000.

Education Incentives

Payments for graduating high school, completion of a certificate, attaining college credit. Available to students in foster care and Extended Foster Care.



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*.

	ASU	NAU	UA	COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Application Fee	Can obtain fee waiver	Can obtain fee waiver	Can obtain fee waiver	None
Enrollment Fee	Can defer to financial aid	Can defer to financial aid	Can defer to financial aid	Usually covered by Pell grant
Housing Deposit	Can defer to financial aid	Application cannot be deferred; AFFCF Focus Forward Fund assistance available if needed Can defer rent confirmation fee if eligible; if not AFFCF Focus Forward Fund assistance available if needed	Can defer to financial aid	Do not typically offer housing Yavapai College cannot be deferred; AFFCF Focus Forward assistance available if need
Early Start Program	Can be paid with financial aid	Can be paid with financial aid	Can be paid with financial aid	Not available
Laptop/School Supplies	Laptops available via DCS or the AFFCF Focus Forward Fund School supply funds available through AFFCF General Awards	Laptops available via DCS or the AFFCF Focus Forward Fund School supply funds available through AFFCF General Awards	Laptops available via DCS or the AFFCF Focus Forward Fund School supply funds available through AFFCF General Awards	Laptops available via DCS or the AFFCF Focus Forward Fund School supply funds available through AFFCF General Awards
Books	Pay with financial aid; AFFCF Focus Forward Fund available if needed	Pay with financial aid; AFFCF Focus Forward Fund available if needed	Pay with financial aid; AFFCF Focus Forward Fund available if needed	Must opt in for Pell grant book advance; AFFCF Focus Forward Fund available if needed



360 E CORONADO RD., STE 190 | PHOENIX, AZ 85004
602.252.9445 • AFFCF.ORG • EKLOTZ@AFFCF.ORG

©AZFFCF f t AFFCF