

FAQs for Education and Training Voucher and FosterEd

Question	What does ETV stand for?
Answer	Education and Training Voucher. Please see this fact sheet for more information.

Question	What is FosterEd?
Answer	FosterEd is a program that assists students who have experienced foster care with postsecondary education costs. Please see this fact sheet for more information.

Question	What is the definition of “Foster care” according to C.R.S. 19-1-103?
Answer	"Foster care" means the placement of a child into the legal custody or legal authority of a county department of social services for physical placement of the child in a kinship care placement or certified or licensed facility or the physical placement of a juvenile committed to the custody of the state department of human services into a community placement.

Question	How is “Colorado Resident” defined?
Answer	Please see this website for details on the Colorado residency process.

Question	What is the difference between ETV and FosterEd?
-----------------	---

Answer	Please see our website for specific details of ETV and FosterEd.
---------------	--

Question	Is there an application for ETV and, if so, where can I find it?
Answer	Yes. You can find the application here: ETV application . This application is for the 2022-2023 school year and will close on May 15, 2023.

Question	Is there an application deadline for ETV, if so, when is the deadline?
Answer	Yes. Please submit your application for the 2022-2023 school year by May 15, 2023. The application for the 2023-2024 school year will open on July 15, 2023.

Question	Is there an application for FosterEd and, if so, where can I find it?
Answer	Currently, there is not an application for FosterEd. Please click here to see how you access FosterEd: FosterEd website .

Question	How do I know if my ETV application has been successfully submitted?
Answer	You will receive a confirmation email shortly after you submit your ETV application.

Question	If a student is not ETV eligible, are they also ineligible to receive funds through FosterEd?
Answer	No. ETV eligibility is NOT an automatic disqualifier from the program. Those who are eligible must complete the ETV application prior to program acceptance. Those who are not eligible for ETV but are eligible for

	FosterEd, do not need to fill out the ETV application.
--	--

Question	Are Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Students eligible for ETV and FosterEd?
Answer	Yes, URM students are eligible for ETV and FosterEd.

Question	Can undocumented students receive ETV and FosterEd?
Answer	Undocumented students are eligible to receive FosterEd, but not ETV.

Question	Can you receive FosterEd funds if you've already completed 132 semester credit hours or 198 quarter credit hours?
Answer	These funds are only distributed for the first 132 credit hours/198 quarter credit hours. After you have completed 132 credits hours/198 quarter credit hours, you are no longer eligible to receive FosterEd funds.

Question	When do credit hours begin to count towards the 132 semester credit hours or 198 quarter credit hour limit?
Answer	Previously earned credits do count towards the 132 semester credit hours/198 quarter credit hour limit, even if they were not in the program when those credits were earned.

Question	Are students eligible for funding for summer classes?
Answer	Yes. If the student is under 132 semester credit hours/198 quarter credit hours, they are eligible for funding during all semesters throughout the year.

Question	Are graduate students eligible for funding?
Answer	Yes. If they have not completed 132 credit hours/198 quarter credit hours (i.e. 120 semester credit hours in undergrad, but only 3 semester credit hours in grad school, = 123) they'd be eligible to receive funding for the credits they take before hitting 132 semester credit hours/198 quarter credit hours.

Question	If a student has already paid for their room and board, can they get a reimbursement through FosterEd funds?
Answer	They may be able to. The student needs to go to their financial aid office and speak to them about this.

Question	Will I be able to use ETV funds for off campus housing instead of tuition?
Answer	These funds will be added as a grant into your financial aid package and, if you're eligible for a refund, you will receive a refund from your school. Once you get the refund, you'll be able to do whatever you'd like with it, and it can be used for off campus housing.

Question	Does a student need to pay back the funds if they withdraw for the semester?
Answer	At this time, no. We feel that would be too detrimental to the student, and go against the nature of the program. However, if this happens, please let us know so that we can note it in the student's database file. If it becomes a pattern for a student, we may need to reconsider this.

Question	If a student owes money to the school that they must pay before they can go back, can FosterEd funds be used to pay the school?
Answer	Unfortunately, no, because the FosterEd legislation reads that a student must be enrolled/registered in a school and in good academic standing to receive FosterEd funds.

Question	Are institutions of higher education required to assist with the gap between financial aid and cost of attendance to include housing?
Answer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FosterEd applies to all public in-state institutions and includes a student’s total cost of attendance. Most financial aid awards are determined by the total Cost of Attendance (COA) rather than just the cost of tuition, meaning typically a student’s financial aid package is based on the COA estimate. Depending on the student’s individual situation the COA could include tuition and fees; on-campus room and board, housing, and food allowance for off-campus students; allowances for books, supplies, transportation, a computer; and, if applicable, childcare. • SB 22-008 bill reads “The act requires all public higher education institutions (institutions) in Colorado to provide to Colorado resident students...financial assistance for the remaining balance of the student's total cost of attendance in excess of the amount of any private, state, or federal financial assistance received by the student (remaining balance financial assistance). Subject to available appropriations, the act requires the Colorado commission on higher

	education to provide to an institution money to cover 50 percent of the remaining balance financial assistance provided by the institution to qualifying students.”
--	---

Question	Is a student required to apply for financial aid and take out loans to mitigate the gap?
Answer	Students (who are eligible for FosterEd) are required to apply for financial aid (FAFSA, CASFA, ETV, etc.), <u>but not necessarily take out loans</u> because the school and state will cover whatever remaining balance is not covered by financial aid awards. FosterEd covers the remaining balance <u>after</u> the other financial aid awards have been applied to the student’s account. That’s why we require students to apply for the ETV before FosterEd, and not the other way around.

Question	Are Department of Youth Services (DYS) committed youth considered foster care youth?
Answer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It depends on the student’s situation and placement. • For ETV, it outlines a student qualifies if they were “In the Division of Youth Services community placement on or after their 14th birthday”. • “Community placement” means the placement of a child for whom the state department of human services or a county department has placement and care responsibility pursuant to article 2 or 3 of this title in any licensed or certified twenty-four-hour, non-secure, care and treatment facility away from the child's parent or guardian.

	<p>“Community placement” includes, but is not limited to, placement in a foster care home, group home, residential childcare facility, or residential treatment facility. Colorado Children’s Code- article 3 of title 19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For FosterEd, we base this on the foster care definition outlined in Colorado Children’s Code- article 3 of title 19. In our conversations/planning with DHS and DYS, we determined that if a student is/was placed in a residential community placement they will qualify. If they are/were placed in a detention facility, they do not qualify. • “Foster care” means the placement of a child into the legal custody or legal authority of a county department of human or social services for physical placement of the child in a kinship care placement or certified or licensed facility or the physical placement of a juvenile committed to the custody of the state department of human services into a community placement.
--	---

Question	Are students who were considered “wards of the court” eligible for funding?
Answer	<p>According to the Department of Human Services, yes, depending on what type of ward of court. Here is the official definition per state statute: “Colorado Revised Statutes C.R.S. 19-1-103 = (51.3) "Foster care" means the placement of a child into the legal custody or legal authority of a county department of social services for physical placement of the child in a kinship care</p>

	placement or certified or licensed facility or the physical placement of a juvenile committed to the custody of the state department of human services into a community placement."
--	---

Question	If a student is not able to apply for Federal financial aid due to a conviction, can the student still apply for FosterEd?
-----------------	---

Answer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must first complete their FAFSA or CAFSA before receiving FosterEd funds. However, drug convictions no longer affect federal student aid eligibility. See below for more details. • This information is directly from the FAFSA website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is it true that drug convictions might affect my ability to get federal student aid? No; your eligibility won't be suspended. Drug convictions no longer affect federal student aid eligibility. When you complete the FAFSA form, you will be asked whether you had a drug conviction for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid. If the answer is yes, you will be provided with a worksheet. Please answer the questions on the worksheet; however, your answers won't affect your federal student aid eligibility. ○ What other convictions might affect my aid? If you have been convicted of a forcible or nonforcible sexual offense,
---------------	--

	<p>and you are subject to an involuntary civil commitment upon completion of a period of incarceration for that offense, you cannot receive a Federal Pell Grant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Federal Student Aid for Students in Adult Correctional and Juvenile Justice Facilities
--	--

Question	If a student is a Colorado resident, but is attending an out of state school, would they be eligible for ETV?
Answer	Yes. A student applies for ETV in their home state.

Question	Are students eligible to receive ETV and/or FosterEd if they are placed in Colorado but are in the legal custody of a different state?
Answer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regarding ETV- For a youth in foster care, the state with placement and care responsibility is responsible for providing such an eligible youth with a voucher. This provision, however, does not apply to a former foster care youth who already is receiving a voucher and moves to another state for the sole purpose of attending an institution of higher education. In that instance, we expect that the youth’s original state of residence will continue to provide a voucher to the youth for as long as the youth remains eligible for the program. ● Regarding FosterEd- A student would not qualify for FosterEd. The legislation identifies that the youth must be in the custody of a Colorado child welfare agency. The student

	may be eligible for the other state's ETV program.
--	--

Question	<p>Will ETV and/or FosterEd funds be taken into consideration as income by supplemental programs that a student may be on, specifically the Section 8 emergency housing voucher program, but TANF and SNAP as well?</p> <p>Will Section 8 impact a student's rent based on the federal wages provided by ETV and/or FosterEd?</p>
Answer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding ETV- ETV will not affect any supplement programs. • Regarding FosterEd- TBD.

Question	In addition to ETV and FosterEd, are there any other resources for funding sources?
Answer	<p>Please email us and we'll be happy to share other resources with you!</p> <p>fcnavigator@dhe.state.co.us</p>

Question	Who can I contact if I still have other questions or need further assistance?
Answer	<p>Please email us and we'll be happy to assist you! fcnavigator@dhe.state.co.us</p>