

Chafee Education and Training Grant Program Frequently Asked Question - Youth

1. How do I know if I'm eligible for the Chafee Education and Training Grant (ETG)?

If you were in a foster home, group home, institution or juvenile probation placement after age 16 or adopted from care after age 16, and are less than age 21, you are probably eligible. If you're not sure and are seriously considering entering an education or training program, you should apply.

Youth enrolled or participating in the ETG program and turning age 21 can reapply for continued ETG monies until age 23 provided they are making satisfactory progress.

2. Do I need to participate in my county's children and youth Independent Living program to apply or get an ETG award?

No, youth are not required to participate in a county children and youth independent living program to receive this benefit.

3. What must I do to apply for ETG money?

To apply you must complete and send the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and ETG applications.

4. Where can I get an application for the ETG and where do I send it after I fill it out?

The ETG grant application is available through your local children and youth agency, or online at www.ilp.pitt.edu; www.independentlivingpa.org; or www.pheaa.org.

5. Will I get the money or will it go to my school?

ETG monies will be sent directly to the educational institution by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA.) Funds will not be sent to youth.

6. How will I know whether I got an award or not?

Notification of awards or denials will be mailed to you by PHEAA.

7. Where do I get a copy of the FAFSA?

The FAFSA application is available online at www.pheaa.org.

8. Can I attend a school or program in another state?

Yes. Pennsylvania residents can elect to attend out-of-state institutions. However, there is no guarantee that the institution will cooperate with Pennsylvania's program.

9. I was in foster care in another state but am living in Pennsylvania, what state do I apply to?

If you are a Pennsylvania resident now, you simply must complete the Pennsylvania application.

10. Must I attend on a full-time basis?

No. Youth can receive the ETG benefit as long as they are enrolled at least half-time and making satisfactory progress.

11. If I was adopted before age 16, can I apply?

No. Youth adopted before their 16th birthday are not eligible to apply.

12. If I was adopted at 16 and was from another state, can I apply?

Yes.

13. Does it matter if my name or social security number changed after adoption?

Yes, change of name or Social Security number requires that you complete the information on the ETG application. However, you remain eligible.

14. Where can I go for help?

Help through this process can be found at your county children and youth office, guidance counselor, or financial aid advisor.

15. I don't have money and I don't want a student loan. Will I be able to go to school or a training program without having to pay?

The ETG program provides up to \$5,000 (not to exceed your cost of attendance). It may be necessary for you to take on a student loan, as do most students. You should view this as investing in your future earning potential.

16. Why didn't I get \$5,000 like it said I could?

ETG awards are based on your actual cost of attendance and the amount of funds available in the state. Also, awards are given on a "first-come, first-served" basis. When PHEAA reaches its limit of funding, no more awards can be given to youth.

17. Can I get the money in future years? Must I reapply?

The ETG program funds are expected to be available for future years. Applicants must reapply when the next year's application is available (probably January.)

18. I am 21 years old now, am I able to apply?

No. To be eligible you must be under age 21. If you are in the ETG program and turn age 21, you can reapply annually until age 23.

19. Does my parent's (foster, adoptive, caretaker, etc.) income reduce my ETG award?

No. The ETG award is not affected by caretaker's income. This does not apply to other aid.

20. Can I, or should I, apply for other scholarships?

Yes. Youth applying for the ETG should apply for other financial aid and scholarships.

21. Must I repay the ETG money if I withdraw from my education program?

Yes. If a student withdraws from his/her education program and was awarded ETG monies, he/she is responsible to return any unused funds. In most cases, the educational institution will refund PHEAA.