

## Foster Youth Student Success Completion Grant FAQ

The 2023/2024 budget bill included increased funding for financial aid for foster youth through the Student Success Completion Grant. Language governing this funding was included in SB 117, the higher education budget trailer bill.

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### 1. HOW DOES THE STUDENT SUCCESS COMPLETION GRANT WORK?

Each California Community College receives funding through this program, which is then distributed by the college to students. The program provides grants to students that are enrolled in 12 or more units, receive the [Cal Grant B or C](#)\* and are California residents or meet the requirements for a non-resident tuition exemption. Students must also meet [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) (SAP) standards.

Non-foster students receive \$1,298 per semester, or quarterly equivalent, if enrolled in 12-14 units and \$4,000 per semester, or quarterly equivalent, if enrolled in 15 units.

### 2. WHAT CHANGES WERE MADE TO THE STUDENT SUCCESS COMPLETION GRANT FOR FOSTER YOUTH?

SB 117 increased the grant amount for current and former foster youth enrolled in 12 or more units to \$5,250 per semester, or quarterly equivalent.

### 3. HOW IS “FOSTER YOUTH” DEFINED?

Current and former foster youth are defined as those whose dependency was established or continued on or after the age of 13.

### 4. IS THERE AN AGE CAP TO RECEIVE THIS FUNDING?

No, there is no age cap.

### 5. HOW IS ELIGIBILITY DETERMINED?

Each college must identify eligible students and is encouraged to utilize a variety of approaches to identifying eligible students. Financial aid offices should collaborate with their campus' NextUp program and other former foster youth programs to ensure that all eligible students receive this financial aid. Financial aid offices can automatically award students who otherwise qualify and have verified their eligibility for NextUp, a Chafee grant, a Cal Grant foster youth award, or independent FAFSA/CADAA status as a foster youth.

### 6. IS THERE AN ADDITIONAL APPLICATION REQUIRED?

No, students must only complete a [FAFSA](#) or a [California Dream Act Application](#) (if they are undocumented). As described in Question #5, it is up to each college to identify and verify eligible students. Since eligibility is not an automated process, students may be required to provide documentation to verify their foster youth status. To receive a foster youth verification letter, commonly referred to as a “ward of the court” or

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\* To qualify for a Cal Grant B a student must be low-income, have a 2.0 high school GPA and submit a FAFSA/CADAA by September 2. To qualify for a [Cal Grant C](#) a student must be low-income and enrolled in a qualified occupational or technical program.

“dependency” letter, current foster youth should contact their social worker, probation officer or Independent Living Program (ILP or ILSP) Coordinator. Former foster youth can contact their county child welfare agency/probation department, local Independent Living Program or the Office of the California Foster Care Ombudsperson at: 877-846-1602.

**7. WHEN DOES THIS FUNDING GO INTO EFFECT?**

Funding goes into effect starting in the 2023-24 academic school year. Each college received their funding allocation in August 2023.

**8. HAS THERE BEEN ANY FORMAL GUIDANCE ISSUED REGARDING THE PROGRAM?**

Yes, the California Community College Chancellor’s Office issued this memo [HERE](#).