

California Chafee Grant



Free Money for Foster Youth for College or Technical and Career Training

What is a California Chafee Grant?

The California Chafee Grant is free money for current or former California foster youth to help pay for college or career and technical training. Chafee Grants don't have to be paid back. You may also use your grant to pay for child care, rent and transportation while you're in school. A Chafee Grant is a federal and state funded grant subject to yearly availability of funds.

How do I qualify?

To qualify, you must:

- Be a current or former foster youth*
- Not have reached your 22nd birthday as of July 1 of the award year
- Have financial need

**To qualify, foster youth dependency of the court must have been established between the ages of 16 and 18. KinGap youth who are or were eligible to receive Independent Living Program services, guardian placements and voluntary placements may not be eligible for the California Chafee Grant unless court dependency was established between the ages of 16 and 18.*

How do I apply?

You must submit the California Chafee Grant Program Application, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and your school submits the Chafee Needs Analysis Report (NAR).*

- Submit the California Chafee Grant Program Application online at www.chafee.csac.ca.gov, or contact the Commission to have a paper form sent to you.
- Submit the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov or download a PDF at www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov and mail it.
- You may also call toll free 800.433.3243 to have the paper FAFSA sent to you.
- Have your school submit the Chafee Need Analysis Report (NAR) electronically or download the PDF version at www.chafee.csac.ca.gov.

**Note: Forms are year-specific. Be sure to complete the applications that correspond with the academic year you will be attending school.*

Where can I use my Chafee Grant?

You can use your Chafee Grant at any eligible California college as well as colleges in other states. In California, you can attend:

- Career and technical schools
- California Community Colleges
- California State University campuses
- University of California campuses
- Independent and private colleges

What happens after I apply?

- The Commission will review your FAFSA and Chafee Grant application
- The California Department of Social Services will verify your foster status
- Your school's financial aid office will determine your financial aid eligibility
- Once all of the above is completed, the Commission will send you a letter if you are selected for an award
- The school will verify payment eligibility and disburse the check to you

What is required to receive your Chafee funds?

You must:

- Enroll in an eligible public or private college or university or technical school
- Be enrolled at least half time
- Enroll in a program at least one academic year long
- Attend class regularly and get good grades or you may lose your Chafee Grant funds.

Don't Have a Social Security Number?

You need a Social Security number to submit the FAFSA and the Chafee Grant application online. If you are an undocumented foster youth, contact your school or the Commission for assistance.

How do I renew my Chafee Grant?

If you receive a Chafee Grant, it may be renewed through your 23rd birthday. You do not need to reapply for your Chafee Grant each year; however, you must submit a FAFSA and your school must submit a NAR yearly to determine if you are still eligible.

The Commission may contact you for updated information. Be sure to respond to e-mails, letters or forms that you may receive.

Where can I find out more about the Chafee Grant and other services for foster youth?

For more information, contact your:

- High school counselor
- College academic advisor
- College financial aid office
- Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI) liaison
- County Independent Living Coordinator
- One-Stop Career Center
- Social worker or probation officer

You can also visit the following websites:

- www.chafee.csac.ca.gov
- www.communitycollege.org
- www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov
- www.fosterclub.com
- www.childsworld.ca.gov
- www.cacollege.pathways.org
- www.cccco.edu/
- www.calyouthconn.org

How Can I Contact the California Student Aid Commission?

If you have questions about the Chafee Grant:



Visit the Commission's Chafee Grant Web site at www.chafee.csac.ca.gov



E-mail your questions to chafee@csac.ca.gov
(enter "Attn: Chafee" in the subject line)



Call toll free 1.888.224.7268
Monday through Friday from
10:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (PST)



Write or mail:
California Student Aid Commission
Specialized Programs Operations Branch
California Chafee Grant Program
P.O. Box 419029
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9029

Keep in Touch With "WebGrants4Students"

Log on to www.csac.ca.gov and click on
"WebGrants for Students"
to set up your account to access information 24
hours a day, seven days a week.