

In the SFY16 legislative session, additional funding was provided to assist youth in obtaining postsecondary education beyond the high school level. A new program to support youth with successful transition – the Missouri Reach Credential Completion and Employment Financial Assistance Program (CCE) - is now available in addition to the Educational Training Voucher (ETV) and Missouri Reach Tuition Waiver.

The CCE program is administered by Foster Care to Success, the ETV and Missouri Reach manager, as an extension of Missouri Reach. All three programs use the same application, which is found at: <http://www.fc2sprograms.org/missouri/>.

The CCE is a program to help youth successfully pursue an education or training pathway that leads to a recognized credential and entry into the workforce. In addition to ETV, there are now two components of MO Reach, which are distinct but complementary:

- 1) The Reach Tuition Waiver, which is a full tuition waiver program available since 2011-12, and
- 2) Credential Completion and Employment (CCE), launching in fall 2016, which is a short-term, targeted assistance program to help youth earn a recognized certificate and/or specialized training that leads to employment

Missouri Reach CCE:

- Eligible youth are currently in care, exited care after age 17½, or obtained legal guardianship or adoption after age 14.
- Youth ages 19-25 are eligible (the credential must be earned by 26th birthday).
- Program participation is limited to 12 months – including pre- and post-training time – of comprehensive support and funding that leads to credential completion.
- The credential must be earned in less than 9 months.
- The maximum amount award amount is \$8,000 over a 12-month period.
- **CCE participants are not simultaneously** receiving:
 - postsecondary funding from ETV or the Missouri Reach Tuition Waiver, or
 - other (specific) public education and training funding (i.e., a workforce stipend). Exceptions may be approved by the Older Youth Program Development Specialist or Older Youth Transition Specialist in cases of documented need or extenuating circumstances.
- Participants may be in a no-cost Workforce Program but need living assistance – 3rd party rent payments, gas cards, etc. (Less than 25% of program funding will be given directly to participants.)
- If a youth needs 15 credits or less to earn an AA or BA and has expended all federal and state higher education funding (such as Pell & ETV), MO CCE funds may be used to pay tuition, fees and buy books.
- Participants must complete a skills and abilities aptitude test, phone-meet weekly with their FC2S navigator, and build an online success profile to record personal and training goals and accomplishments.
- All applicants will be screened to determine if they are in default of federal student loans and coached to enter into a loan repayment plan. This is a program requirement for participants.