

Missouri Reach Tuition Waiver Program & MO Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV)

Promoting education, training and career success for certain youth who experienced foster care or were adopted from DSS.



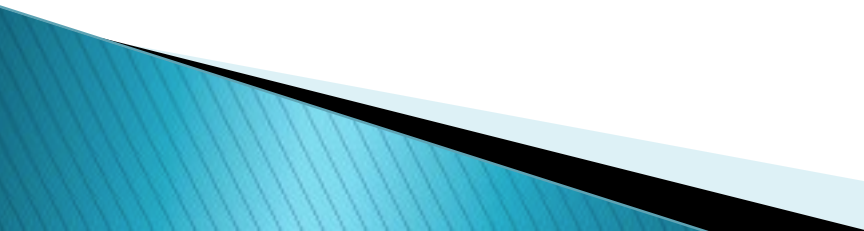
Foster Care to Success

- In late 2011, Orphan Foundation of America, officially changed its name to Foster Care to Success Foundation. (FC2S)
www.fc2success.org
- Since 1981, FC2S has provided moral support, financial assistance, and workforce development coaching to youth involved with the foster care system.
- Annually, FC2S awards \$15 million in scholarships and grants to help young people attend and complete post-secondary education and training programs and successfully enter the workforce.
- FC2S has administered the MO ETV Program since academic year 2006 and MO Reach since the program's inception in 2011.

What is the Missouri Reach Program?

Beginning in the 2011 fall semester, the Missouri Department of Social Services (MO DSS) and the Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE) will offer eligible youth a waiver that may be applied to offset the tuition and fees at Missouri colleges and universities.

Funds will be sent directly to the school each semester. Eligible students remain eligible for other federal and state grants, including ETV.



What is the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program?

- The ETV Program provides grants up to \$5000 per academic year to attend an accredited college or vocational/technical training program.
- Schools can be public or private and they can be in Missouri or out-of-state.
- The program is federally funded and state administered. ETV funding is a separate allocation from the state's Chafee Independent Living award.

ETV funds are for costs related to attending school and are first used for tuition, books and school fees. Once these expenses have been covered, funds may be used for qualified living expenses although it may be used to repay student loans incurred during the current academic year.

Housing;
School Supplies, including a Computer;
Transportation;
School Health Insurance;
Dependent Care Expenses; and
Study Abroad Expenses.

What is the Major Difference between the two programs?

MO Reach - The State funding is limited - 18-25 students will receive funding in 2011-12 for tuition and fees at public colleges.

MO ETV - The federal funds can be used for qualified living expenses after tuition has been paid. Eligible youth can attend a Missouri or out-of-state, public or private institution. Approximately 350 students will receive and ETV grant in academic year 2011-12.

ETV Eligibility

- Youth currently eligible for Chafee services, this would include youth that have exited Children's Division custody at age 17 1/2 or later, up until the age of 21
- Youth adopted or who obtained guardianship from foster care after their 16th birthday
- Youth participating in the ETV program on their 21st birthday shall remain eligible until age 23, provided they are making satisfactory progress as defined by the Children's Division



Tuition Waiver Eligibility

- Legal residents of Missouri, who have been in foster care or other residential care under the Department of Social Services, Children's Division, on or after:
 - The day they graduated from high school or received a GED; or
 - The day before their 18th birthday; or
 - The day of their 14th birthday, if they were eligible for adoption. and
- Students must have graduated from high school or passed the GED examination within the previous three years
- Students must be accepted by or attending a Missouri state college or university, and have earned 60 credits prior to applying for MO Reach
- Students must apply before their 21st birthday

Program Similarities

- FC2S does not determine program eligibility. This is the role of the state.
- The applicant is responsible for completing his/her own Reach and ETV applications. They must provide their own contact information in the Student Contact section.
- Completing the online portion of the application is step one of a two step process.
- To remain eligible for the programs, students must maintain satisfactory progress towards earning a degree or certificate.
- Students in both programs receive ongoing support and guidance from FC2S. Pat Jacob coordinates the day to day services, Lynn Davis, Katie Cranford and Laura Adkins engage with youth.
 - Care Packages,
 - InternAmerica and career coaching
 - Academic Success Coach
 - Parenting Support



Our Contribution

ETV grants can be used to pay for tuition, school fees and some approved living expenses. The funds also may be

ETV = Education for foster youth

The Education Training Voucher (ETV) program awards grants to current and former foster youth to help pay for college or specialized education. ETV grants are funded by the federal government and administered by the states. In most states, eligible students may receive grants of up to \$5,000 per academic year.

Get Started and Apply Now!

The Orphan Foundation of America administers the ETV program for the states listed below. Eligibility requirements and available funding vary by state. To begin your application, click on the name of your state below. If your state is not listed, [CLICK HERE](#) for contact information for your state's ETV program.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| » Alabama | » Indiana | » New York |
| » Arkansas | » Maryland | » North Carolina |
| » Colorado | » Missouri | » Ohio |
| | | » Washington D.C. |

For State Administrators

STEP ONE – Students complete an online application at www.statevoucher.org

The screenshot shows the ETV PROGRAM website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: HOME, FAQs, RESOURCES, CONTACT, PARTNERING, and LOGOUT. Below this is a login section with a Username input field, a Password input field, a Login button, and a Forgot Login link. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains three steps to apply for an ETV: 1. Get a working email account (with an envelope icon), 2. Download Required Paperwork (with a dollar sign icon), and 3. Complete the online application (with a document icon). The right column features a section titled 'Missouri Programs Support Foster and Adopted Youth' with a sub-header 'Missouri Reach, a Tuition Waiver Program'. Below this, there is a paragraph about the program starting in fall 2011, followed by a section titled 'Missouri ETV Program' which describes the program's purpose and funding. At the bottom of the right column is a section titled 'ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS' with a list of five criteria.

ETV PROGRAM

HOME FAQs RESOURCES CONTACT PARTNERING LOGOUT

Username

Follow these THREE steps to apply for an ETV.

Get a working email account

You must have an active email address to begin the application process. An application code will be sent to your email account so that you can complete and track your online application. If you do not have a working email address you can get a free account. Click on the name of one of these free email services to set up an account through [Gmail](#) or [Yahoo](#). Make sure you follow the instructions on this [whitelisting](#) page so that the emails sent from this site make it to your inbox.

Download Required Paperwork

There are two steps to the ETV application. You must complete both parts. Begin by downloading the required paperwork, which includes a Financial Aid Form you sign and give to your school's financial aid office to forward on your behalf. [Click here to download documents.](#)

Complete the online application

In a moment, you will be sent to a page where you will begin your online application. The process takes about 45 minutes to complete. You must complete both the online application and deliver the financial aid forms to your school to apply for an ETV grant.

Missouri Programs Support Foster and Adopted Youth

Missouri Reach, a Tuition Waiver Program

Beginning in fall 2011, a new state program, Missouri Reach, a Tuition Waiver Program administered by the Missouri Dept. of Social Services (DSS) and Missouri Dept. of Higher Education (MDHE) will pay program participants' tuition and fees at Missouri higher-education institutions. **Because of limited funding the Missouri Reach Tuition Waiver Program will work with 10-15 students in academic year 2011-12. Click here for more information and the application. Download MO Reach Packet.**

Missouri ETV Program

The Missouri Education and Training Voucher Program is a federally-funded, state-administered program designed to help youth who were in foster care. Students may receive up to \$5000 a year for qualified school related expenses. Funding is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible students. Applicants must complete the ETV application which includes documentation each semester that is sent directly from the school to ETV confirming enrollment, the cost of attendance (COA) and unmet need.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. You must be a current or former foster student who meets one of the following:
 - is currently eligible for Chafee services. This includes students that have exited Children's Division custody at age 17 and a half or later until the age of 21.
 - was adopted from foster care with the adoption finalized AFTER your 16th birthday.
 - was placed in kinship guardianship from foster care after your 16th birthday.
2. You must be a U.S. citizen or qualified non-citizen.
3. Your personal assets (bank account, car, home, etc.) are worth less than \$10,000.
4. You must be at least 18 but younger than 21 to apply for the first time. You may reapply for ETV funds, if you have a current grant, up to the age of 23.
5. You must have been accepted into or be enrolled in a degree, certificate or other accredited

STEP TWO - Required Form is Completed


Financial Aid Release Form 2011-2012

First Name: _____ **Last Name:** _____
Student ID: _____ **Phone:** _____ **Last 4 digits of SS #:** _____
Student Signature Release:
 I have applied for the federally funded, Education and Training Voucher Program for the current semester. I authorize the Financial Aid Office to release my account information to the ETV program:
Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Must be completed by the Financial Aid Office

School's Name: _____ **Full Payment Address:** _____

Is student (circle): *Full Time* *Part time*
Current Term (circle): *Fall* *Winter* *Spring* *Summer*
Number of credit hours student is taking: _____ **OR** **Clock hours:** _____
Has student applied for FAFSA: *Yes* *No*
Pell Grant Amount Received \$ _____
**If Pell is not available indicate why: EFC too high Academic Suspension Ineligible why: _____*

Financial Information CURRENT SEMESTER ONLY:

Cost of Tuition per term	\$	Unsubsidized Loans <i>Accepted</i> <i>Offered</i>	\$
Does student live in dorms/housing affiliated with your institution? <i>Yes</i> <i>No</i>		Subsidized loans <i>Accepted</i> <i>Offered</i>	\$
		Work Study (accepted only)	\$
Cost Per Term:	\$		

Total Cost of Attendance
(as defined by the Higher Ed Act- tuition, fees, room, board, transportation, supplies etc.)

\$

Other Grants/ Scholarships (current term only):

	Amount
1. _____	\$ _____
2. _____	\$ _____
3. _____	\$ _____

Preparer's Signature: _____ **Print Name:** _____ **Date:** _____
Direct Phone #: _____ **Email Address:** _____

PLEASE FAX FORM TO:
855-773-8302
 Questions ? Email: mo@statevoucher.org or Phone: 800-585-7115
www.statevoucher.org

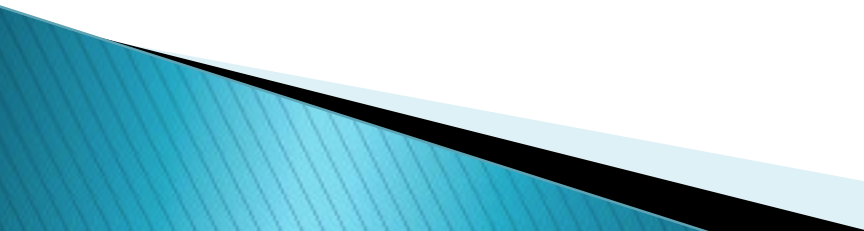
AL 9A-11

How do students submit the required form?

1. Download and print the Application Packet which is first available just before a student applies. Additionally, the forms are attached to the welcome email applicants receive upon completing the online application.
 2. Students complete the top portion of the Financial Aid Form and drops it off in the financial aid office which completes it and sends it to MO ETV via fax. IT'S THAT EASY.
 3. Applicants review the Student Participation Agreement which outlines the program and clearly states what they must do to remain eligible for funding. This form is for reference only, it is not sent to MO ETV.
 4. Student Budget - we do not require that they complete it to be funded, but we urge them to complete it and then we review it with the student on the phone. It is important that students understand what funding is available to them and how to manage those monies.
- 

What is the Student Participation Agreement Form?

The Student Participation Agreement articulates the expectations of the MO ETV Program. Students are expected to:

- Apply online and submit the Financial Aid Release Form each semester
 - Request that an official transcript be sent to MO ETV after each semester
 - Check their personal email account weekly for information from FC2S and ETV
 - Update their contact information online on the Student Contact Form whenever it changes or at the start of a new semester
 - Maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher
 - Comply with other program expectations that relate to them (including participation in the Academic Success Program)
 - Reapply each July for the upcoming academic year.
- 

How are ETV awards determined?

- Funding is awarded based on a student's unmet financial need as per the Higher Education Act.*

Unmet need is calculated by reviewing the school's published cost of attendance less other financial aid the student will receive, such as a Pell grant, work study and scholarships. ETV funds should reduce student loan debt for recipients.

- The maximum ETV award is \$5,000; however, not all students receive the maximum award amount. Financial aid cannot exceed the school/training program's published cost of attendance, less other financial aid. Additionally, funding is allocated to meet the greatest need for those who are academically progressing.

Visit www.ed.gov/policy for more information on the federal definition of "cost of attendance" or to review the Higher Education Act -

Sec. 201 of P.L. 107-133.

ETV Funding is made on a case-by-case basis

Each student's financial need is reviewed, funding may vary from semester to semester.

Students who drop or fail classes may not receive the same funding as those who are passing and meeting graduation requirements.

Students who remain in care, and are not paying for housing may receive less than those who pay rent or have dorm charges.

It is expected that students will contribute to their education. Most college students seek part-time or summer employment or have an on-campus job through the Work-Study program.



ETV Timeline

July 1 – application for the fall semester is available online.

Funding is allocated on a per semester basis. Many factors go into when students receive funding:

Step 1) the online application is step one,

Step 2) the submission of the financial aid form if need a transcript from the previous semester

All students and schools are sent an ETV award letter detailing that semester's grant. Funding sent directly to the school is paid first – tuition, fees and on campus housing.

Book money is sent to students as early as possible in the semester. If a student requests and is eligible for a computer, this is will be sent to them as early as possible in the semester.

Funds for living expenses are spaced out so students receive 2 or 3 checks, mid and late semester.



Encourage Students to Login to their Applications

Students should login to their ETV applications on a regular basis. By doing this, they can:

- Update their contact information
- Check to confirm that their paperwork has been received by MO ETV & Reach
- Obtain information about check disbursements issued to them or to third parties on their behalf



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ETV PROGRAM

HOME FAQs RESOURCES CONTACT PARTNERING LOGOUT

Username Password Login Forgot Login

ETV = Education for foster youth

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Our Contribution

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For State Administrators

Students can check on the status of their paperwork.



Program Status

Please review all of the information in the sections below to be sure that the most recent information has been received by OFA.

Year	Program	Status	DoB	Age
2010_2011	ETV-NY			20



School Info on file with OFA

[Update my School Info Button]

School Name	State	School Level	Enrollment	School GPA	School Credits
community college	NY	Incoming Freshman	Full Time Student		0.0



Transcripts on file with OFA

Year	Semester	OFA has your transcripts	Semester/Qtr GPA	Credits Earned
2010_2011	Spring		?	?
2010_2011	Fall		?	?



Paperwork Status

Don't see your forms but know they were turned in? [Things to know link here.]



Spring 2010 - 2011 1. Grades from previous semester/qtr Since you have received ETV-NY 2010 2011 funding for one or more quarters/semesters the grades from your most recent previously funded semester or quarter must be on file with OFA.



Spring 2010 - 2011 2. Financial Aid Release Form Need the financial aid forms ? [Click here](#) to download your forms.



Spring 2010 - 2011 3. Cashiers Statement Need the Cashiers Forms? [Click here](#) to download your forms.



N/A Fall 2010 - 2011 1. Grades from previous semester/qtr



Fall 2010 - 2011 2. Financial Aid Release Form



Fall 2010 - 2011 3. Cashiers Statement

Students can view check disbursements made to them or a third party.

Please allow at least *30 days* funds to be distributed. This allows time for processing and postal delivery.

Payment History:

Check Number	Check Amount	Date	Check To (Name)	Check To (Address)
16748	\$1,950	10/30/2006	Jane Doe	708 College Lane Bethesda, Maryland 21030

Purpose:	Amount:
Living Expenses	\$ 1,950.00

Check Number	Check Amount	Date	Check To (Name)	Check To (Address)
16748	\$ 950	10/30/2006	University of Maryland	University of Maryland College Park, MD 20742

Purpose:	Amount:
Tuition	\$ 950.00

Many MO Students Can Graduate Without Incurring Debt - loans may not be needed:

- ▶ Students attending a **community college** who remain in care and pay no rent should NOT take out student loans. Between the Pell Grant (up to \$5,500 annually), ETV funding and part-time work the student has sufficient funds to cover the estimated \$4,000 needed for community college tuition, books, and fees. Any remaining funds should be used for approved living expenses such as transportation, food, etc.
 - ▶ Students who remain in care but live in a dorm may need to take a student loan to pay for housing if the county or agency does not pay for on-campus housing. Students who pay for their own housing often need additional funds beyond the Pell & ETV.
 - ▶ Mo Reach recipients will not borrow any money because their tuition will be covered and the Pell Grant and ETV funding will cover their Cost of Attendance.
- 

Graduate Without Incurring Debt

Students attending a **private college** should receive grant funding from the college in lieu of student loans. If the school does not offer sufficient grant funding the student should **meet with the financial aid officer BEFORE ENROLLING** to discuss their financial aid needs. If the student is expected to borrow heavily to attend the school, help the youth consider the pros & cons of attending a private college and assuming considerable debt for an undergraduate degree.

Just 'going to school, any school' is not in a young person's long term best interest.

Public -State Schools

Private - Harvard, William Woods University,

For-Profit - Sanford Brown, Phoenix University, Trade Schools



For-Profit Schools

(ex: Phoenix Univ., SANFORD BROWN COLLEGE, STEVENS INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS & ARTS and EVEREST UNIVERSITY-ONLINE) market themselves as a quick and easy path to a career. They are always much more expensive than the local community college and few have a good reputation with employers.

- 1) Credits from for-profits are not transferable.
- 2) The school will not offer work-study or donor or institutional grants or scholarships.
- 3) Students require the maximum in student loans to cover the tuition and fees.
- 4) Too often, these programs do not require a placement test to determine readiness for college level course work. Youth are registering for programs such as nursing, IT and education without the critical reading, writing or math skills necessary to do basic college level work. -- This is selling point many ETV applicants cite as the reason they chose a for-profit school.

For-Profit Schools

Because youth are over 18 they can register &/or sign a contract for a program and sign loan documents obligating them to pay for the complete program.

Unlike the community college which is a pay as you go (semester to semester) many for-profit schools offer 9, 18 or 24 month programs, attendees are obligated for the full program regardless of whether they complete the courses or clock hours.

If you or your client would like to discuss the pros and cons of a particular school or program please call us. FC2S will help the young person sort out fact from fiction and find an affordable, positive path that can lead to success and career opportunities.

To Contact FC2S Staff:

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mo@statevoucher.org

Lynn Davis, ldavis@fc2success.org
InternAmerica & Community Outreach

Laura Adkins, ladkins@fc2success.org
Student and FC2S staff support

571 -203-0270
www.statevoucher.org

