



Education funds available to youth who were in out-of-home placement

Federal funds for post-secondary education are available to youth who have been in out-of-home placement, such as foster care. Each year the Minnesota Department of Human Services will issue Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs) to as many as 200 highly motivated youth formerly in placement.

Eligibility

Youth up to 23 years of age who have been in a county or tribal court approved out-of-home placement after the age of 14, or adopted at age 16 or older, are eligible to apply for an ETV. Youth must be accepted in a post-secondary school or program before applying for an ETV; must have maintained a grade point average of 2.0 or higher in high school; and must be 18 to 21 years of age at the time they begin the post-secondary program. Youth do not currently need to be working with a county social worker to apply.

The deadline for ETV applications is June 1 of each year.



Funding

Youth may use ETVs to attend higher education programs that include accredited universities, colleges, community colleges, vocational technical colleges, and other programs that prepare students for employment. If selected, youth who are full time students may use ETVs to pay for tuition, books, fees and other expenses, including:

- Computer rental or purchase
- Room and board, either on or off campus
- Transportation
- Child care.

An ETV cannot exceed \$5,000 per year, and must be coordinated with other sources of financial aid. Youth can re-apply each academic year.

Expectations

Students who are awarded an ETV will be expected to stay in communication with an assigned mentor, submit transcripts for each semester and maintain a 2.0 or higher grade point average.

Contact Information

For more information:

Greater Minnesota, contact the Minnesota Department of Human Services, (651) 431-4312
Hennepin County youth, contact Hennepin County Human Services, (612) 543-0542
Ramsey County youth contact Ramsey County Human Services, (651) 266-4075.

Federal funds for post-secondary education are now available to young people who have been in out-of-home placement, such as foster care, after age 14. Detailed information about these Education and Training Vouchers and an application form are available online at: www.dhs.state.mn.us. Click on “Children” and “Adolescent services” in the left navigation bar. “Education/training vouchers is in the drop down menu.”

This information is available in other forms to people with disabilities by contacting us at (651) 431-4671 (voice). TTY/TDD users can call the Minnesota Relay at 711 or (800) 627-3529. For the Speech-to-Speech Relay, call (877) 627-3848.

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