

## Foster Youth & Financial Aid, Part 1: Completing the FAFSA

Following are the questions submitted during the web seminar that were not addressed during the Q and A:

1. Does the 30% graduation rate apply to community colleges to receive the Chafee Grant?  
*Answer: The restrictions established by Assembly Bill 2506 are the restrictions that were set in place for the Cal Grant in 2012. As with the Cal Grant, for 2016-17, institutions with more than 40% of students borrowing federal student loans must have more than a 20% graduation rate and no higher than a 10% cohort default rate. While these standards do apply in theory to community colleges, in practice no community college has more than 40% of students borrowing federal loans. The California Student Aid Commission has posted the lists of Eligible Cal Grant Schools and Ineligible Cal Grant Schools on their website – go to [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov) and click on Cal Grant Eligible Schools under the “Colleges” tab on the homepage.*
2. Can a young adult going to a vocational program/online school receive the Chafee?  
*Answer: The Chafee Grant can be used at an online school if the school is participating in the Federal Pell Grant Program, and meets the requirements established by Assembly Bill 2506 outlined in the answer to question 1.*
3. Can a student change Cal Grants in subsequent years if they change educational programs?  
*Answer: No, once they qualify for a certain Cal Grant, they cannot change it.*
4. Do students need to submit a copy of the original high school diploma?  
*Answer: No they do not, unless it is requested by the Department of Education, Admissions and Records or the Financial Aid Office.*
5. Does completing the high school equivalency exam affect financial aid eligibility?  
*Answer: No, a student can substitute their high school diploma with a GED or high school equivalency exam.*
6. For independent students who work, at what income level do they begin to have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) greater than 0 on the FAFSA?  
*Answer: This varies depending on the student’s circumstances. Every answer on the FAFSA contributes to determining the EFC, not only income. Therefore, students are encouraged to apply to determine how much they may be eligible to receive.*
7. What is the definition of court dependency for the purpose of Chafee? If a student reunifies with family and is in Family Maintenance status when they turn 16, are they eligible?  
*Answer: The key determining factor is what the court order says. If there is a court order for out of home placement at any time between 16 and 18, then they would be eligible, regardless of the services they or their family are receiving at the time.*
8. Will this webinar go into best practices to help youth in care maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)?

***Answer:** As this web seminar focused on completing the FAFSA and the process leading up to completing the FAFSA, we did not cover what happens after the FAFSA is submitted. We will try to include some best practices for assisting youth in maintaining SAP, either in the April 2017 web seminar covering the process after the FAFSA is submitted, or the web seminar in January on best practices.*

9. Are foster youth who attend school out of state, eligible for Chafee? Or do they apply for the ETV grant in that state? I work with many non-minor dependents that move out of California and navigating financial aid can be very challenging as they do not qualify for the Cal Grant and I find very distinct responses from state to state to asking about specific foster youth grants.

***Answer:** Youth may use their Chafee Grant at schools outside of California, as long as they are eligible institutions.*