



COLLEGE WITHIN REACH

Tuition grants are available for students who were in foster care, custody of social services and special needs adoptees at time of graduation or GED.

TUITION GRANTS

WHAT IS THE PROGRAM?

In 2000, legislation passed that created the Tuition Grant program to provide tuition and fees at any Virginia community college for high school graduates or GED completers in foster care or the custody of a social services agency, or considered a special needs adoption. This legislation was revised in 2009. See below for provisions.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Anyone certified to be in foster care, in the custody of a social service agency or a special needs adoption at the time they received their high school diploma or GED, or was formerly in foster care when turning 18 and subsequently received a high school diploma or GED is eligible as long as he or she:

- Enrolls in and maintains at least half-time enrollment (with a minimum of six credits) in an eligible program of at least one academic year in length
- Is a bona-fide domiciliary resident of Virginia according to Section 23-7.4 of Code of Virginia
- Meets the satisfactory academic standards of the college for federal student financial aid programs
- Has not been previously enrolled full-time in a post-secondary institution more than five years and does not have a prior bachelor's degree
- Demonstrates financial need

HOW DO STUDENTS APPLY?

Potential students who fall in one of the three categories listed above must:

- Complete and submit to the U.S. Department of Education the Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- Complete and submit an application for admission to the community college of your choice
- Submit documentation from the Department of Social Services regarding dates in foster care, or assistance received for a special needs adoption to the college's financial aid office

HOW MUCH IS THE AWARD?

Awards will be provided to eligible applicants who are not already receiving sufficient grant funds to pay for their tuition and fees. Students who are already receiving grant funds that cover tuition and fees are not eligible for these awards.

DOES THE GRANT HAVE TO BE REPAID?

If a student's enrollment level drops below six credits, eligibility for the grant is lost, and therefore, needs to be repaid.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information on finding a Great Expectations coach to help you visit: www.greatexpectations.vccs.edu For information from social services, visit:

www.dss.state.va.us

