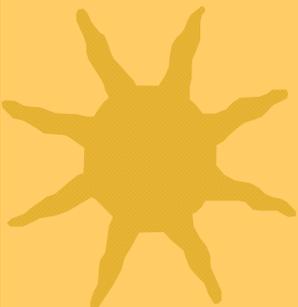


The Maryland Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV)



ETV Program

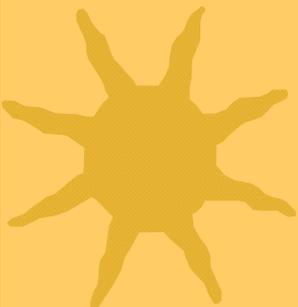
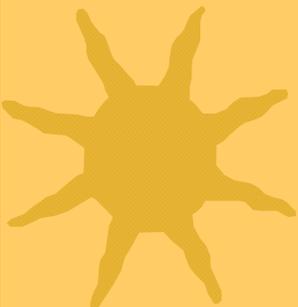
The Federal government made available through an amendment of the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program additional funds for post secondary educational opportunities. The program is known as the Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV).





ETV Program

The program serves current foster care/kinship care youth, former foster care youth and youth who were adopted after the age of 16 to attend post-secondary institutions of higher learning (as defined by the Higher Education Act, section 101,102).

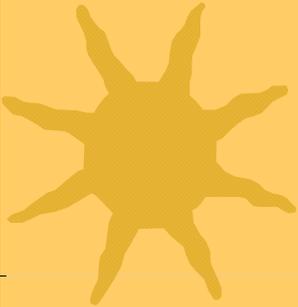




ETV Program

An institution of Higher education;

- ★ Awards a bachelor's degree or not less than a 2 year program that provides credits towards a degree or,
- ★ Provides not less than 1 year of training towards gainful employment or,
- ★ Is a vocational program that provides training for gainful employment and has been in existence for at least two years.





ETV Program

And Must meet all three of the following criteria;

- ★ Admits as regular students only persons with a high school diploma or equivalent or admits as regular students persons who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance.
- ★ Is Public or Non-Profit,
- ★ Is Accredited or pre-accredited and is authorized to operate in that state.



ETV Program



The Federal Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program provides out-of-home placement (Foster/Adoption/Kinship Care) youth within the child welfare system with tuition, books, transportation and other unmet needs related to the cost of attendance as defined in section 472 of the Higher Education Act. The annual grant will not exceed \$5000 per Federal Fiscal year, which is October 1st of the current year until September 30th the following year.

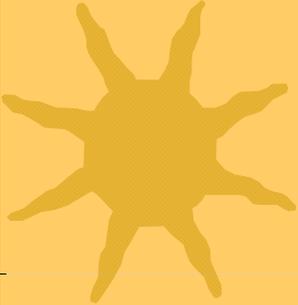


ETV Program

The grant can cover among other things;

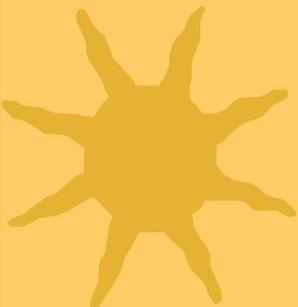
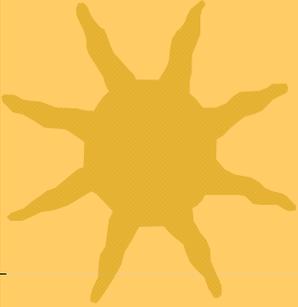
- ★ **Tuition and Fees**
- ★ **Room and Board**
- ★ **Rental or Purchase of required equipment, material or supplies (including a Computer, and dormitory items).**
- ★ **Tutoring**
- ★ **Allowance for books, supplies, transportation**
- ★ **Required residential training**





ETV Program

- ★ **Special study projects**
- ★ **Child Care**
- ★ **Health coverage for youth who are no longer eligible for state Medical Assistance**
- ★ **Other expenses as it is related to the cost of attendance.**



ETV Program

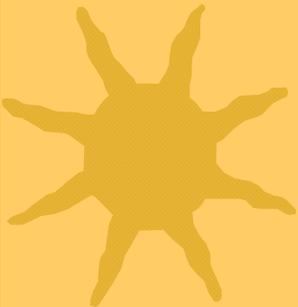
Please note that Chafee flex funds are not to be used to pay for educational needs. The only exception to this, is that the youth has exhausted ETV funding (\$5,000.00) for that federal fiscal year and still has additional educational needs related to the cost of attendance.

Local Department of Social Services are not to purchase computers. This is done through the Orphan Foundation of America when the youth completes the on-line application.



ETV Program Student Award

- ★ **The amount a full-time student may receive during the federal fiscal year shall not exceed \$5000 per year or the total cost of attendance as defined in section 472 of the Higher Education Act.**
- ★ **Part-time students may receive no more that \$2500 (per the federal fiscal year) or the cost of attendance (if a student only takes one course, they will receive funding to pay for this course and any or cost related to attendance).**



Student Award Continued

- ★ **Some examples are transportation and child care during the time the youth is attending school.**

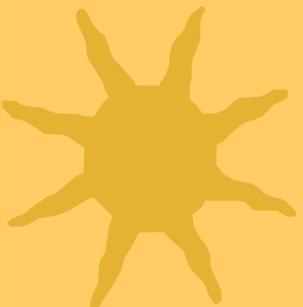
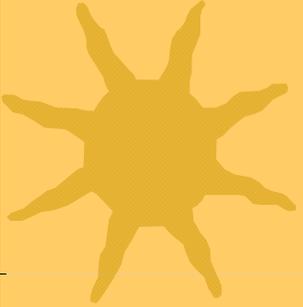


ETV Eligibility Requirements

There are several categories in which a youth may be eligible to receive vouchers under this program:

- ★ Be a current foster/kinship care youth, voluntary placed or committed to the State of Maryland;
- ★ Be a youth adopted from foster care after age 16;
- ★ Be a former foster youth who left care care at age 18 but not yet 21;



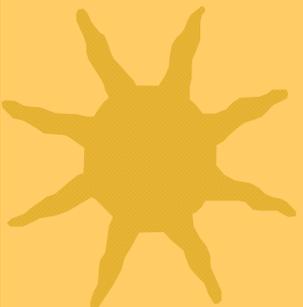
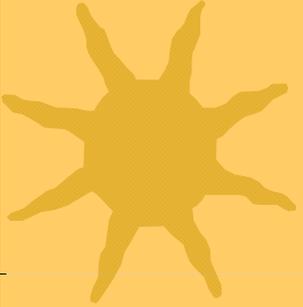


ETV Eligibility Requirements Continued

- ★ Be a high school graduate, or have a General Equivalency Development Examination (GED);**
- ★ Be accepted at a college or university that is accredited or a pre-accredited post high school vocational or trade institution;**



ETV Eligibility Requirements Continued



- ★ *Have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) federal aid package in the year the youth plans to attend and institution of higher learning (in Maryland MARCH 1st is the filing deadline to ensure maximum dollars), youth filing after March 1st date remain eligible.*

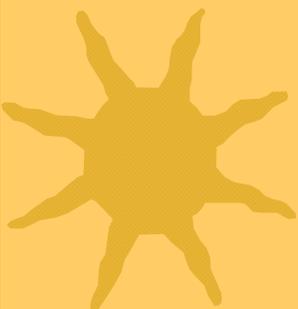
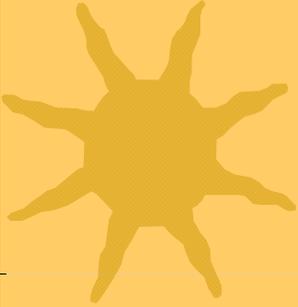


ETV Eligibility Requirements Continued

- ★ Be a returning youth to the (ETV) programs who maintain satisfactory grades (2.0 GPA);
- ★ Be a youth who has been participating in the (ETV) program prior to their 21st birthday and continues to maintain satisfactory progress (2.0 GPA) to remain eligible for funding until their 23rd birthday.



ETV Eligibility Requirements Continued



- ★ **Complete all other forms of financial aid and utilize any financial aid obtained directly through the school or local community;**
- ★ **Youth may not be in default of an educational loan for pervious school years. The youth may have a current loan for the current school year.**
- ★ **SSA determines the youth eligibility using MD Chessie to determine if the youth is a current foster care/kinship/adopted/voluntary placed or a former foster care youth.**



How the youth applies for the on-line ETV application.

The Orphan Foundation of America (OFA) administers Maryland's (ETV) voucher program.

- ★ Youth go to www.statevoucher.org and complete the on-line application.
- ★ The youth must download four (4) pages one is the contract that the youth makes with OFA, the second is a check-off sheet and the two remain forms are critical and they are the **FINANCIAL AID** and **CASHIERS FORMS**;





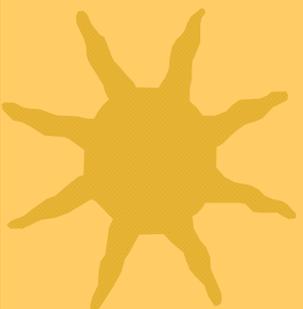
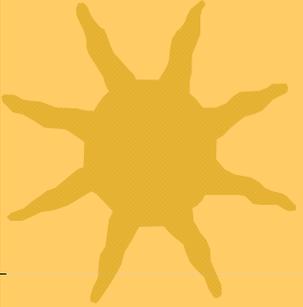
How the youth applies for the on-line ETV application.



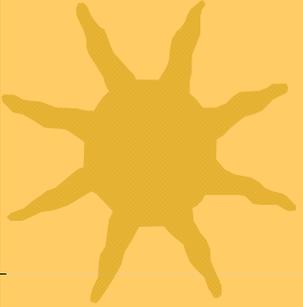
- ★ **The youth must complete the top portions of both of these forms**
- ★ **The youth then takes both of these forms to the school's financial/cashiers office;**
- ★ **These offices then complete the bottom portion of these forms and fax them back to OFA at 1-800-757-0863;**
- ★ **The student should make a copies of these forms for their record;**
- ★ **The student is responsible for reminding the financial/cashiers office to fax these forms;**



How the youth applies for the on-line ETV application.



- ★ **Once, OFA has received both the financial aid and cashiers forms, they will develop a budget for the youth based on the cost of attendance.**
- ★ **This budget is broken down into two (2) semesters.**
- ★ **There will be times when the youth gets monies directly from OFA. This usually for a living allowance or a reimbursement. The remained of the allocated funds go directly to a vendor, (example the school).**



How the youth applies for the on-line ETV application

- ★ **OFA issues checks twice a month and it takes about 4 weeks from the completion date of the application, before funds are disburse.**
- ★ **OFA if needed can write a promissory note to the school.**
- ★ **The youth can check the status/make changes to the on-line application at anytime.**



Other information



- ★ **If a youth fails to maintain a 2.0 (GPA), OFA will put them in an academic success program the next semester giving the youth the opportunity to bring their GPA to a 2.0. If the youth fails the second semester, they are no longer eligible for the ETV program.**
- ★ **The youth must maintain ongoing academic success to remain in the ETV program. Even if this means that the youth must drop a course to bring their GPA up to the 2.0.**



Other information



- ★ Please do some educational planning with the youth to ensure that they are not taking on more than what they can manage.
- ★ Remember to make this a success for the youth.
- ★ Please contact Della Williams at 410-767-7630 or Dwillia5@dhr.state.md.us if you need further assistance.
- ★ SSA is committed to providing additional training up request.
- ★ **EDUCATION IS THE TOOL TO SUCCESS**