

## **Foster Youth Resources, Scholarships & Grants:**

- **Foster Care Outreach & Information**

[www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov](http://www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov)

A website for Foster Youth. Ombudsman's Office Free Help Line: 1-877-846-1602

- **California Youth Connection**

[www.calyouthconn.org](http://www.calyouthconn.org)

CYC promotes the participation of foster youth in policy development and legislative change to improve the foster care system, and strives to improve social work practice and child welfare policy. CYC Chapters in counties throughout the state identify local issues and use grassroots and community.

- **California College Pathways Project**

[www.cacollegepathways.org](http://www.cacollegepathways.org)

The goal of the California College Pathways Project is to increase the number of foster youth in California who enter higher education and achieve an academic outcome by expanding access to campus support programs, such as the Guardian Scholars Program, the Renaissance Scholars Program and other successful approaches to supporting former foster youth on campus.

- **Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP)**

[www.alamedacountyilsp.org](http://www.alamedacountyilsp.org)

A program supporting youth transitioning from the foster care or juvenile justice system to independent living. The ILSP scholarship program is open to ILSP seniors who will enroll in college or vocational training post high school. Check with your trainer for an application. Deadlines for scholarship applications can be found on the ILSP Calendar page. Book grants also available.

- **Chafee Grant**

[www.chafee.csac.ca.gov](http://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov)

If you are or were in foster care and have financial need, you may qualify for up to \$5,000 a year for career and technical training or college. You don't have to pay this money back. You may also be able to use your grant to help pay for child care, transportation and rent while you're in school. You can use your Chafee Grant at any eligible California college or university or career or technical school, as well as schools in other states.

- **Guardian Scholars or Renaissance Scholars (contact the EOP offices at each college)**

A comprehensive program with the goal of supporting former foster youth in their efforts to gain a university, community college or trade school education. Guardian Scholars students receive:

- Full Financial Aid Package - grants and scholarship packages cover tuition and living expenses.
- Housing – priority for campus housing and availability of year-round housing, either on or off campus.
- Academic Advisement – assistance with class selection & registration.
- Employment Services, Mentoring and Career Counseling – job placement, shadowing and advising.
- Personal Guidance, Counseling, Tutoring – regular contact with a consistent counselor to develop and monitor an education plan.
- Supplemental Support Services – child care, transportation help, book and supply vouchers etc.

- **The Orphan Foundation of America Scholarships for Youth in Foster Care**

[www.orphan.org](http://www.orphan.org) & [www.casey.org](http://www.casey.org)

The Casey Family Scholars Program has been administered by OFA since 2001. It provides scholarships of up to \$10,000 to young people, under the age of 25, who were in foster care for one consecutive year at the time of their 18th birthday or high school graduation OR were adopted or taken into legal guardianship out of foster care after their 16th birthday. Scholarships are awarded for the pursuit of post-secondary education, including vocational/technical training, and are renewable each year based on satisfactory progress and financial need. In addition to the money, Casey Family Scholars will receive ongoing support through OFA's Mentor program.

- **"Dare to Dream" Academic Scholarship**

[www.fosteradream.org](http://www.fosteradream.org)

Foster a Dream: Our programs provide the important extras the child welfare system is simply unable to provide, things that focus on "social" well-being and opportunity for success.

- **Darko Rapotez Memorial College Scholarship Fund For Aged Out Foster Youth**

[www.loveourchildrenusa.org/scholarship.php](http://www.loveourchildrenusa.org/scholarship.php)

The Darko Rapotez Memorial College Scholarship Fund For Aged Out Foster Youth (an initiative of Love Our Children USA) is a scholarship program that has been established to assist exceptional youths who age out of the foster care system who wish to further their education. Scholarship recipients will receive up to \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year or as much as the fund will allow. Students are encouraged to reapply for each academic year. Scholarships are available to youths between the ages of 18 to 24 years of age who have aged out of the foster care system, and will be awarded to youths on the basis of academic excellence (3.0 gpa) and need.

- **National Foster Parent Association and the University of Phoenix**

[www.nfpainc.org](http://www.nfpainc.org)

The National Foster Parent Association is the only national organization which strives to support foster parents, and remains a consistently strong voice on behalf of all children. The University of Phoenix and NFPA have joined together to offer 50 scholarships to foster youth under the banner of the University's First Chance Scholarship program.