



FAFSA Challenge Toolkit
Academic Year 2018-19

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Welcome

Thank you for joining the California Foster Youth FAFSA Challenge!

The California Department of Education is delighted to partner with John Burton Advocates for Youth and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office on the *second year* of the Foster Youth FAFSA Challenge.

We are thrilled that most of California's 58 counties are taking the Challenge! These counties represent the vast majority of foster youth in the state. This exciting project aims to increase the number of high school seniors in foster care who are prepared for college success by ensuring they access all available financial aid.

Only half of all foster youth who enrolled at community colleges last year entered with a federal Pell grant, despite the fact that nearly all of them were qualified to receive one. With the support of JBAY, participating County Offices of Education Foster Youth Services Coordinating Programs are leading the local efforts to boost those numbers in collaboration with partners in schools and districts, community-based organizations, child welfare agencies, Independent Living Programs, and nearby colleges.

The California Foster Youth FAFSA Challenge is designed specifically to support high school seniors in foster care to access financial aid by providing the resources and information foster youth need to accurately complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or California Dream Act Application.

Here's to meeting the Challenge!

Sincerely,

Jackie Wong
Statewide Coordinator for FYSCP
California Department of Education



About John Burton Advocates for Youth

John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY) is a statewide non-profit organization based in San Francisco working to improve the quality of life for California's foster, former foster, and homeless youth. It was founded in 2005 by progressive champion John Burton, a former member of Congress, the California State Assembly and President Pro Tem of the California State Senate. John Burton Advocates for Youth works in three areas: education, housing, and health.

About the California Foster Youth FAFSA Challenge

The California Foster Youth FAFSA Challenge is a statewide campaign launched by John Burton Advocates for Youth in partnership with the California Department of Education and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. This Challenge is designed specifically to support high school seniors in foster care to access financial aid by providing their high school counselors and others with the specific information foster youth need to accurately complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the California Dream Act Application (CADAA).

Research has shown that only half of foster youth who recently enrolled in community colleges received a federal Pell Grant, though nearly all of them would have qualified. The goal of the 2018/19 California Foster Youth FAFSA Challenge is that at least 60 percent of foster youth who are high school seniors complete a financial aid application.

A Community Effort

County Office of Education (COE) Foster Youth Services Coordinating Programs (FYSCP) register for the Challenge on behalf of their counties and lead the local efforts in collaboration with community partners. Schools, districts, Independent Living Programs, foster family agencies, resource parents, child welfare agencies, CASAs, and community-based organizations play a key role by working directly with students to complete the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application. The California Foster Youth FAFSA Challenge resources, including this toolkit, are designed to help participating FYSCPs and their partners meet the challenge.

How the Challenge Works

Upon registering for the Challenge, FYSCPs provide JBAY the number of high school seniors in foster care attending school in their counties. Using the WebGrants system, an online portal available on the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) website, FYSCPs will determine

which of these students have completed the FAFSA or Dream Act Application. Coordinating with their community partners, FYSCPs will then work to ensure that students who have not yet completed one of these applications do so as soon as possible, ideally by the March 2nd priority deadline. FAFSA or Dream Act Applications completed by May 30, 2019 will count toward the 60 percent goal of the Challenge.

For complete details about how the Challenge works, see the Policies and Procedures document on the California Foster Youth [FAFSA Challenge web page](#).

Awards

Four participating counties with the highest rates of FAFSA completion among counties of comparable size will be awarded unrestricted grants of up to \$1000 to promote foster youth success in matriculating from high school to post-secondary education. The county with the highest rate of FAFSA completion in each category will receive the award. **Two sets of awards** will be given: one set for the highest completion rates as of the March 2 priority deadline and one set for the highest completion rates at the close of the campaign in June 2019. The first set of awards will be announced during the Foster Youth Education Summit in April 2019. The second set of awards will be announced no later than June 28, 2019. If more than one FYSCP has the same highest rate, a winner will be selected at random from among those with the highest rates. In addition, an award of \$500 will be given to the county showing the largest improvement in FAFSA completion rate from the year prior.

Why It Matters

Successful completion of the FAFSA or California Dream Act is the single most important step in ensuring foster youth receive financial aid and subsequently enroll and persist in college, including career and technical education programs provided by California's 114 community colleges. Data shows that 90 percent of high school seniors who complete the FAFSA go on to enroll in college within 12 months as compared to just 45 percent of high school seniors who do not complete the FAFSA.

Although surveys show 85 percent of California's foster youth aspire to complete college, just 8 percent of foster youth have obtained an associate or bachelor's degree by age 26 as compared with 46 percent of the non-foster youth population. With education a key driver toward financial stability in adulthood, receipt of financial aid is crucial to enrolling and persisting in college for youth from low-income backgrounds. Foster youth need and deserve to have the same access to financial aid as their peers.

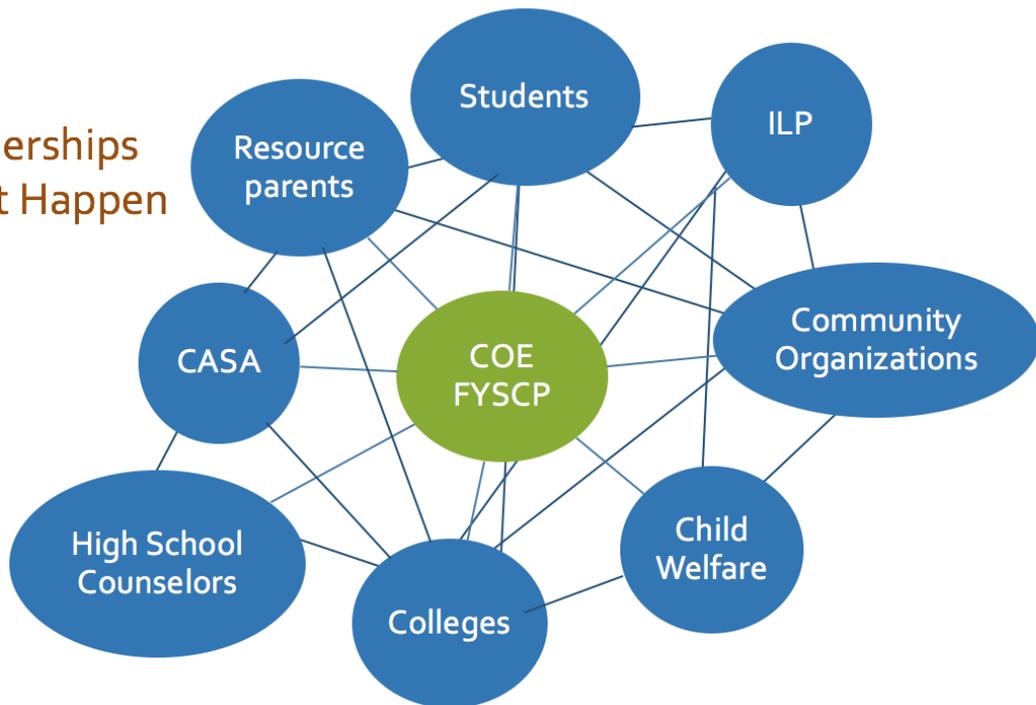
Strategies

Making Connections

The Foster Youth FAFSA Challenge is a county-wide community effort.

It is not expected that Foster Youth Services Coordinators will work with every student in completing a FAFSA or CADAA. Rather, by serving as the coordinating entity, FYSCP coordinators can make sure that high school seniors in foster care in their county are connected with individuals and organizations that can support them in completing the FAFSA or CADAA. The role of the FYSCPs also includes ensuring that these individuals and organizations —as well as the students — have the information that students in foster care need in order to accurately complete these applications and access the maximum aid.

Partnerships
Make it Happen



While attending a FAFSA workshop may be adequate for a youth with a caregiver or other supportive adult in their life who is providing assistance, most foster youth will require one-on-one help to accurately complete the FAFSA. Some examples of ways that various community partners can play a role in this effort include:

- In counties with **school district based foster youth programs or liaisons**, FYSCP Coordinators can work with those liaisons to provide materials, access to trainings on the FAFSA, and other supports to develop procedures and events to connect students with opportunities to complete the FAFSA.
- In counties *without* high school foster youth programs, FYSCP Coordinators can work with **lead counselors** at local high schools to support the school counselors to identify foster youth students and assist them in reaching the students, including providing any needed technical information on completing the FAFSA.
- FYSCP Coordinators can work with **local colleges** by contacting the Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI) liaison and/or the foster youth program coordinator, where applicable, to set up workshops and/or individual appointments to help students complete their applications. More information about how to identify college contacts is included at the end of this toolkit.
- The FYSCP Coordinator can work with their local **Independent Living Program (ILP)** manager to ensure that high school seniors are connected to FAFSA workshops or other FAFSA completion opportunities available through the ILP. Where such workshops are not already planned, FYSCPs can collaborate with ILPs to offer these workshops, provide materials, and support students to attend.
- Connecting with the local **child welfare agency** can help **social workers** connect students with FAFSA completion opportunities. The ILP program might be a good way to do that in your county, or contact the child welfare agency directly, in particular if the agency has an educational liaison position.
- **Schools and school districts** have access to WebGrants, enabling them to track which foster youth have completed an application and which have not as well as whether the GPA verification needed for CalGrant eligibility has been uploaded and matched to a FAFSA. FYSCPs can provide assistance with utilizing WebGrants, or refer to the WebGrants Guide on the [FAFSA Challenge web page](#).
- **Resource parents and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)** can work with their youth to make sure the school counselors know who they are and can help make sure the student has the information they need to complete a FAFSA, such as their social security number. They can also help with FAFSA completion. [The Financial Aid Guide for California Foster Youth](#) can be offered as a tool to assist with FAFSA completion.

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- FYSCP coordinators can help **nonprofit community-based organizations** that serve foster youth support students individually by providing resources and training regarding FAFSA completion and can work together to bring students to FAFSA events.
 - FYSCPs and other partners can engage **youth** directly in these efforts. If your county has a chapter of **California Youth Connection**, reach out to the chapter to see if they would like to be a partner in the effort.
 - The FAFSA Challenge can be an exciting and specific project to focus on to create a **county-wide council** that focuses on improving foster youth access to post-secondary education. This council can bring local partners together regularly to strengthen connections between organizations that play a role in increasing the number of students who enroll and persist in college and to help to create FAFSA events that connect youth, high schools, colleges, and community partners. If your community already has such an effort in place, use this group as a resource to develop a county-wide FAFSA outreach plan.

Workshops and Events

There may already be a number of FAFSA completion events happening at schools and community colleges in your county. FYSCPs can make sure the seniors in foster care are accessing these events and have the information they need for successful completion. Check the [California Student Aid Commission website](#) for free Cash for College events in your area. These general events, however, often do not address the specific issues that are relevant to foster youth when completing the FAFSA. County Independent Living Programs (ILP) or local college-based foster youth support programs may also host FAFSA workshops and events specifically for students in foster care. If no such events are currently planned in your community, this may be a strategy that you want to consider implementing. FYSCPs can work with ILPs or colleges to identify high school seniors in foster care, assist with transportation and ensure that workshop hosts have the [Financial Aid Guide](#) for California Foster Youth, the [Visual FAFSA Guide](#) and other resources available on the Challenge web page, including stickers that can be provided to students who successfully complete the FAFSA at the workshop.

The National College Access Network's Form Your Future Initiative has an excellent toolkit for FAFSA completion events at www.formyourfuture.org. Check it out for invitation templates, flyers, handouts, and more. The Office of Federal Student Aid also has an online [guide for hosting FAFSA events](#), as well as many other free tools and resources.

Note that most of these online templates are aimed at "students and parents" so they will need to be edited to address seniors in foster care and the individuals who support them. While JBay will be providing flyers and other promotional materials designed specifically to reach students in foster care during the Challenge, these other online resources offer many great ideas as well.

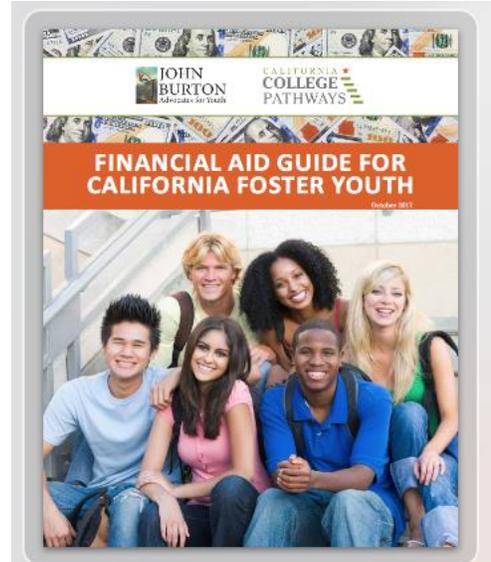
A few tips for successful FAFSA events:

- Let students know it won't take all day! Completing the FAFSA takes just 30-60 minutes so 90 minutes should be plenty of time for an event.
- Make sure that students have transportation to the event.
- Have copies of JBAY's Financial Aid Guide for California Foster Youth on hand.
- Promote your event through direct outreach to students: calls, texts, and letters to them as well as other organizations serving them and caregivers.
- In promoting your event, stress the importance of applying early to get maximum aid.
- Host your event in a computer lab or library with strong wifi and/or use desktops with ethernet cables to avoid connectivity issues.
- Provide refreshments. 😊
- Make sure students come with the information they will need to finish the application: their social security number (n/a for CADAA), the address that their high school has on record for them, and any tax records if they had to file a tax return (though not likely) or information about any other income they may have had during the applicable year (2017 if completing the FAFSA for fall of 2019).
- Provide 'Password Keeper Cards' (see the sample at the end of this ToolKit) so students have an easy way to keep track of important information like passwords.
- Give students FAFSA completion stickers (provided by JBAY) for a job well done.

Remember that the FAFSA can be intimidating, and students may want to put it off or avoid it altogether. Develop a strong, fun, engaging outreach plan to help motivate them to get it done early and accurately so they maximize the amount of financial aid they receive.

FAFSA Completion Tips

BIG Tip: Check out JBAY's [Financial Aid Guide for California Foster Youth!](#) Pages 6-10 tell you exactly what to do to complete the FAFSA and the CADAA. For a step-by-step manual, see the guide's companion [FAFSA Visual Guide](#) which walks you through the form.



Checklist: What students need to file a FAFSA

- Name, exactly as it appears on their Social Security Card
- Social Security Number OR Alien Registration Number
- Email address they can check regularly
- List of up to 10 schools they want to apply to
- Tax information, if they filed a tax return, or information about the income they earned or received for the requested year (2017 if completing the FAFSA for fall of 2019)

Tip: Remember it is a FREE application. Avoid websites that ask applicants to pay money.

Tip: When asked what degree or certificate the student will be working on when they begin the school year, it is important to **NOT** select "other/undecided" as it will limit the grants they can receive.

Tip: Students who were in care on or after age 13 should not select "with parent" as their housing plan if they plan to live with a foster parent, relative caregiver, or legal guardian. Instead, they should select "Off Campus." This is crucial for getting all the money that is available to them to pay for their living expenses.

Q: How does a student know their FAFSA is complete?

A: When they receive their EFC (Expected Family Contribution) by email or see the EFC in WebGrants.

Tip: Students should write down these items somewhere safe so they don't forget:

- FSA ID Username & Password
- Email Address & Password
- Save Key

See the Password Keeper template in the back of this ToolKit.

Tip: Students will need to create a "Save Key" in case they need to save their application and finish it later. They can return within 45 days to complete and submit the application. Make sure they write down their Save Key somewhere safe so they don't forget.

IRS Verification of Non-Filing Letter

As part of the new verification process for financial aid, the Department of Education requires that people who do not file taxes to submit an IRS letter of nonfiling status to the college or university. An IRS Verification of Nonfiling Letter provides proof from the IRS that there is no record of a filed tax form (1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ) for the requested year.

Remember that the FAFSA uses “prior-prior” year tax data, so for FAFSAs being completed during the 2018/2019 school year for the 2019/2020 award year, 2017 taxes would be used. The Verification of Nonfiling Letter is not an indication that the person is not required to file a return, just that they did not file one.

To obtain an IRS Verification of NonFiling Letter, the student will need to request an IRS Tax Return Transcript. This can be a complicated process and many students will need assistance.

1. A student can request their transcript online at www.irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript. The student can either have their transcript sent to them online or via mail.
 - To obtain a transcript online, the student must satisfy certain security requirements such as owning a cell phone with their name on the account and having a credit card, auto loan or mortgage in their name. These requirements may be difficult for many students to satisfy and therefore they may need to request their transcript be sent to them via mail.
 - To have the transcript mailed via the online tool, it will take 5-10 days to receive the tax transcript. Generally, there will be no address on file with the IRS if the student has never filed taxes. In this case, the letter will be mailed to the current address they provide. However, the IRS may already have the student’s address in their system, such as from W-2 or 1099 statements or a prior tax return. In this case, the mailing address on the form must match the address on file with the IRS. If the student’s current mailing address does not match the address on file with the IRS, the student should first file IRS Form 8822 to change their address, which will take approximately 10 days.
 - Students may also call the IRS automated phone transcript service at 800-908-9946 to order a tax return or tax account transcript to be sent by mail.
2. Alternately, the student can complete [IRS Form 4506-T](#) on paper, check box 7 and send this form by mail or fax. On line 5 of IRS Form 4506-T the student can specify that the Verification of Nonfiling Letter be sent to a third-party address. In most cases the student should have it sent to themselves, not directly to the college. However, it is best to ask each college what they prefer. If a student submits this paper form by mail, it will take 7-14 days to be processed.

Note that there is no fee for obtaining the Verification of Nonfiling Letter or a tax transcript. It is important to ensure that the form used is IRS Form **4506-T**, not IRS Form 4506 (which requires a \$50 fee).

Did You Know...

CalGrant Eligibility Changes

On July 1, 2018, California adopted new, expanded eligibility requirements for the State's largest financial aid program, the Cal Grant, to make the program more accessible to foster youth. These policy changes were included in [Assembly Bill 1809](#), which was signed by Governor Brown on June 27 and went into effect on July 1, 2018.

WHAT ARE THE CHANGES TO THE CAL GRANT?

1. **Application window:** The first provision extends the time to apply for an entitlement Cal Grant. Instead of having to apply within a year after high school graduation, foster youth are able to apply for an entitlement Cal Grant if they meet other eligibility criteria and have not reached their 26th birthday as of July 1 of the award year.
2. **Time limit:** The second provision extends the maximum length of time a foster youth is eligible for a Cal Grant from 4 years to 8 years of full-time status enrollment.
3. **Application deadline:** The third provision extends the deadline for the Cal Grant entitlement application from March 2nd to September 2nd for foster youth attending community college.

WHAT DOES A CAL GRANT PAY FOR?

A Cal Grant can be used at a California Community College, California State University (CSU) or University of California (UC) campus or at certain qualifying private institutions in California.

The Cal Grant award amount has been set to pay up to full tuition costs at a CSU (\$5,742) or UC (\$12,630) and up to \$9,084 for tuition at a private non-profit university. The grant also provides up to \$1,672 for non-tuition costs for students attending community college or a four-year university.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE NEW ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA?

Students must otherwise meet the criteria to qualify for a **Cal Grant B** including:

- ✓ Submitting a FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application
- ✓ Being a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen or meeting AB540 eligibility criteria
- ✓ Being a California resident
- ✓ Qualifying as low-income and having financial need
- ✓ Enrolling at least half time

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- ✓ Meeting certain GPA requirements – either a 2.0 high school GPA if entering college for the first time or a 2.4 GPA if already enrolled at community college or transferring.

Consult <https://www.csac.ca.gov> for complete information regarding Cal Grant B eligibility.

- The law defines foster youth as students who were in foster care any time at or after age 13. This aligns with the question asked on the FAFSA form: “At any time, since you turned age 13, were both parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?”

WHEN WILL THE NEW PROVISIONS TAKE EFFECT?

The California Student Aid Commission administers the Cal Grant and will oversee the implementation of this new policy. It is expected that students who apply for a Cal Grant during the 2018/2019 FAFSA cycle will be considered based on the new eligibility criteria.

It is also expected that students who have utilized their four-year maximum will be eligible to renew their Cal Grant for additional years beginning in 2018/2019. This timeline may be subject to change.

Independent Status

Students with “Independent Status” are not required to provide income information for parents on the FAFSA. Their financial aid eligibility is instead determined solely based on the student’s own income, which means that they are much more likely to qualify for the maximum amount of available financial aid.

- Current or former foster youth may qualify for “Independent Status” on the FAFSA if they can answer “Yes” to any part of either of the two questions below:
 - “At any time since you turned age 13, were both of your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?” OR
 - “Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of residence?”
- Neither legal guardians nor foster parents are considered parents when completing the FAFSA. If a student is in legal guardianship, they can qualify for “Independent Status” on the FAFSA.
- Even students who were in foster care, or were a dependent or ward of the court, for JUST ONE DAY after they turned 13, qualify for “Independent Status.”
- Once students have answered the question determining them to be “Independent Status” students, they can answer “No” to the question at the end of the section asking

if they want to answer questions about their parents. Answering “No” will not prevent them from getting financial aid.

Financial Aid

- Pell grants can be used not only for four- and two-year degree programs, but also for career technical training at California’s community colleges.
- Some financial aid can pay for more than just books and tuition, including rent, food, and even transportation.
- Some financial aid is available ONLY to students who have experienced foster care. In addition to completing the FAFSA, students should complete an application for the [Chafee Education and Training Voucher](#) program to qualify for up to \$5000 in additional money.

Motivational Messages

- People with a college degree or certificate can make TWICE as much money or more than people without one.
- Today, having a high school diploma is just not enough. The **fastest growing job sectors** right now all require some college, so education matters now more than ever.

Options for Students Without Diplomas

In some cases, students may not successfully graduate high school with a diploma or equivalent. While most forms of federal financial aid require a diploma or equivalent, there are some exceptions to this.

There are two scenarios under which students who do not receive a diploma or equivalent can qualify for federal financial aid.

Option 1 - Comprehensive Training and Postsecondary Program (CTP): A CTP is a program for students with intellectual disabilities at an institution of higher education (a college or career school) that participates in the federal student aid programs. For more information, visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/eligibility/intellectual-disabilities>. There are six such programs in California schools, which are listed at the bottom of the webpage.

Option 2 - Ability to Benefit: It may be possible for a student without a high school diploma to receive federal financial aid if they are enrolled in a career pathway program that enables an individual to attain a high school diploma or recognized equivalent along with career pathways

training. It is important to work with the financial aid department of the college to ensure that the program satisfies the necessary conditions under the Higher Education Act.

The student must also meet minimum score requirements on an “Ability to Benefit” test, as defined by the Department of Education. The student must work with the financial office at the college to determine if they are eligible to qualify for financial aid under the Ability to Benefit standard.

Note that while qualification for federal financial aid requires a component for attaining a high school diploma or recognized equivalent, the Pell Grant may not be used to cover the costs of that component of the program.

FAFSA/California Dream Act Application FAQ

Below are some common questions that come up during the process of completing a FAFSA or Dream Act application. For a more comprehensive list of questions, visit <http://www.jbaforyouth.org/ca-fy-financial-aid-guide>.

Q: Do students in foster care have to provide any parental (biological or foster) financial information?

A: No. Students qualify for “Independent Status” on the FAFSA if they can answer “Yes” to any part of these two questions in section 3 of the FAFSA: “At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?” OR “Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of residence?” Once students answer “Yes” to one of these questions, they are filing as independent students and **do not need** to provide financial information for their parents or guardians.

Q: Can youth who have a Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) application pending complete a FAFSA?

A: No, youth with pending SIJS applications are not eligible to complete a FAFSA so they would need to complete a California Dream Act Application to access California state aid until their status changes.

Q: How can I find out which immigration statuses qualify for the FAFSA?

A: Check the [Federal Student Aid website](#) to find out which non-US citizens qualify for federal student aid.

Q: How does a student in foster care answer this question on the FAFSA: "Your number of family members in 2019-2020 (household size)?"

A: Students in foster care should answer “1” for the "number of family members in 2019-2020 (household size)," unless the student has children, in which case this number would include the student plus any children they support.

Q: How does a student in foster care answer this question on the FAFSA: "How many people in your household will be in college in 2019-2020?"

A: For independent applicants, this number should be 1.

Q: Do extended foster care benefits have to be reported as income on the FAFSA?

A: No, extended foster care benefits **do not have** to be reported as income on the FAFSA. This includes payments received while residing in a Supervised Independent Living Placement, payments from a THP-Plus FC program and supplemental payments such as the infant supplement.

Q: Are students automatically considered for a Chafee grant if they complete the FAFSA?

A: No, students must complete a separate [Chafee grant application](#) in addition to the FAFSA in order to qualify.

These questions and many more details about the FAFSA are explained in the JBAY Financial Aid Guide for California Foster Youth available here: www.jbaforyouth.org/fafsachallenge

Q: Does a student need to live in California for 5 years to be eligible for a Cal Grant? If not, how long do they need to live in California for a Cal Grant?

A: The FAFSA asks about residency status going back 5 years because 5 years is sufficient for someone to be considered a state resident in all states. Most states require a shorter duration for someone to be considered a state resident. California requires you to be a state resident for at least one year (and two years in certain circumstances) to qualify for the Cal Grant. See www.csac.ca.gov/cal-grants.

Q: Is a student who earns a certificate of completion instead of a diploma eligible for federal aid?

A: In most cases, to be eligible for federal student aid, the student must have a high school diploma, GED or state equivalent (e.g., the California High School Proficiency Exam). It is still recommended that the student complete a FAFSA however as they may qualify for other forms of aid such as the Chafee grant.

Q: For students who want to attend college out of state, do they still complete the FAFSA?

The FAFSA is applicable for out of state schools as this is the form used for all federal aid. Students should consult with the financial aid office at the school to which they are applying about any additional state-specific applications that should be completed in addition to the FAFSA. Students who are dependents of a California County can also qualify to receive a Chafee grant at an out of state school and should submit a Chafee application.

Online Resources

John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY)

The [Foster Youth FAFSA Challenge page](#) on the JBAY website has resources for supporting students in completing the FAFSA and CADAA, and resources to help counties meet the Challenge. Be sure to also check out our [California College Pathways](#) site, which has a wealth of college and financial aid resources. A [site](#) targeted directly to students is also available.

Foster Youth Success Initiative

Each of California's 114 community colleges has a liaison designated to assist foster youth through the Foster Youth Success Initiative. These individuals can be a resource for answering questions both about financial aid and the matriculation process. The California Community College Chancellor's Office maintains a list of liaisons on its [website](#).

Campus Support Programs

Many community colleges and four-year universities have foster youth support programs. An online, searchable database of these programs is available through the California College Pathways [website](#).

U.S. Department of Education Office of Federal Student Aid

To get answers to specific questions or to resolve any issues with the FAFSA form or ID, FAFSA applicants can chat online with a Federal Student Aid representative by completing this [online form](#). The wait time on this chat feature is reportedly much less than the wait time when calling, which is another option available at that link.

The Office of Federal Student Aid also has a [YouTube channel](#) with a number of engaging videos that can be shared with students and individuals supporting their FAFSA completion. Be sure to watch and share the most recent videos, as some information has changed. Be sure to also check out their [Twitter page](#), which provides timely reminders of relevant information and deadlines related to federal student aid programs. The site hosts live question and answer sessions during “#AskFAFSA Office Hour” to provide students and others the chance to get FAFSA and financial aid questions answered from federal officials.

The Office of Federal Student Aid also provides Information about [undocumented students](#) and financial aid.

As part of the [Better Make Room](#) initiative, the U.S. Department of Education has partnered with [Up Next](#), a service that sends text reminders to guide students through the application and financial aid process. This service is free to schools and students.

U.S. Department of Education's [Homeroom Blog](#): Federal Student Aid

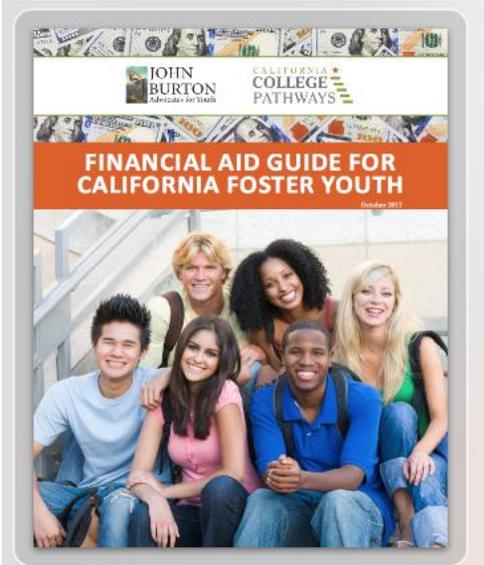
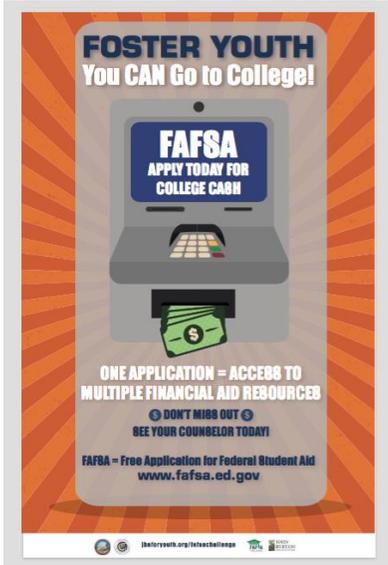
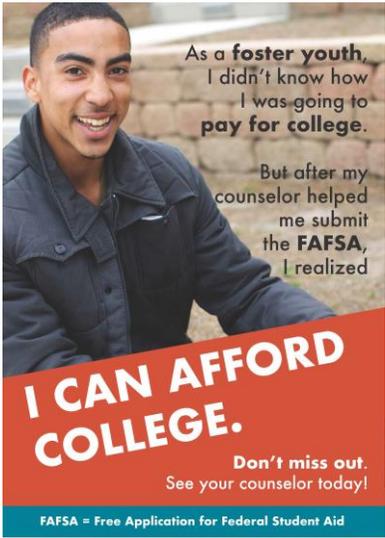
Homeroom is the official blog of the U.S. Department of Education and publishes timely information and resources relevant to FAFSA completion and federal student aid. Some examples of blog topics include: 5 Things to Do After Filing Your FAFSA, Top 5 FAFSA FAQs, 7 Common Myths about Financial Aid, and 7 Common FAFSA Mistakes.

California Student Aid Commission (CSAC)

In addition to providing information about state financial aid, the CSAC website includes the WebGrants portal. Students can create a [WebGrants 4 Students](#) (WGS) account to manage their Cal Grants and/or Chafee Grants online by letting them view updates, make school changes, make address changes, make corrections, and post leave of absence requests. It is important for students to understand that their WGS account does not replace their School or FAFSA accounts. Each account must be monitored and managed independently.

Resources to Order from JBAY

FYSCPs can order the following resources to share with their local partners. A link for ordering will be provided after you register for the challenge.

<p>Financial Aid Guide for CA Foster Youth</p> 	<p>Poster 1</p> 
<p>Poster 2</p> 	<p>Stickers</p> 

Print this page on card stock to create cards that students can use to track important information.

FSA ID Username	FSA ID Username
FSA ID Password	FSA ID Password
2019-2020 FAFSA Save Key	2019-2020 FAFSA Save Key
FAFSA Confirmation # or CA Dream Act #	FAFSA Confirmation # or CA Dream Act #
WebGrants User Name	WebGrants User Name
WebGrants Password	WebGrants Password
Email address used	Email address used
Email password	Email password

FSA ID Username	FSA ID Username
FSA ID Password	FSA ID Password
2019-2020 FAFSA Save Key	2019-2020 FAFSA Save Key
FAFSA Confirmation # or CA Dream Act #	FAFSA Confirmation # or CA Dream Act #
WebGrants User Name	WebGrants User Name
WebGrants Password	WebGrants Password
Email address used	Email address used
Email password	Email password

Thank you for taking the Challenge!

Check out the California Foster Youth FAFSA Challenge web page at <http://www.jbaforyouth.org/fafsachallenge/> for additional resources as well as updates to this Toolkit.



**JOHN
BURTON**
Advocates for Youth



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