

High School Counselor Foster Youth FAFSA / CADAA Challenge Toolkit

Helping California's
foster youth achieve
their dreams!

This document was
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Los Angeles County
Office of Education

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Counselors are a vital part of every student's school experience.

Given the inequitable college outcomes that most students in foster care experience, counselors can be particularly instrumental in ensuring that they receive targeted tiered support within the College and Career Domain of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) National Model to successfully matriculate into postsecondary education. Filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA) is a critical step in this process, especially as foster youth often qualify for additional grants that can make their college journey possible.

COLLEGE OUTCOMES FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Nearly all foster youth report that they want to go to college, but only



will actually receive a 2- or 4-year degree by the age of 23.

Less than



of foster youth attending community college receive the Pell grant, even though nearly 90% are low-income and eligible.

A 2016 survey of 19-year-old youth in California found that roughly



of foster youth reported they did not receive enough assistance with college planning.

Foster youth, by definition and through no fault of their own, have endured abandonment, abuse, or neglect.

These experiences can profoundly impact a young person's emotional, physical, and psychosocial development. In most schools, foster youth only make up a small percentage of the student population. These students often lack adequate support from counselors and also lack family support outside of school. Below are just a few unique challenges foster youth may face that can contribute to their college outcomes and underscore the importance of providing more individual college and career counseling for foster youth:

UNIQUE CHALLENGES FOSTER YOUTH FACE



Foster youth often lack support with filling out the FAFSA/CADAA and completing the necessary follow-up steps after the FAFSA/CADAA.



Foster youth are four times more likely to change schools in a given school year.



Foster youth often miss out on receiving the Cal Grant because the information provided on their school's GPA verification submission does not match the information on their FAFSA/CADAA.



Youth in care often suffer from complex trauma, which can negatively impact their performance in school.

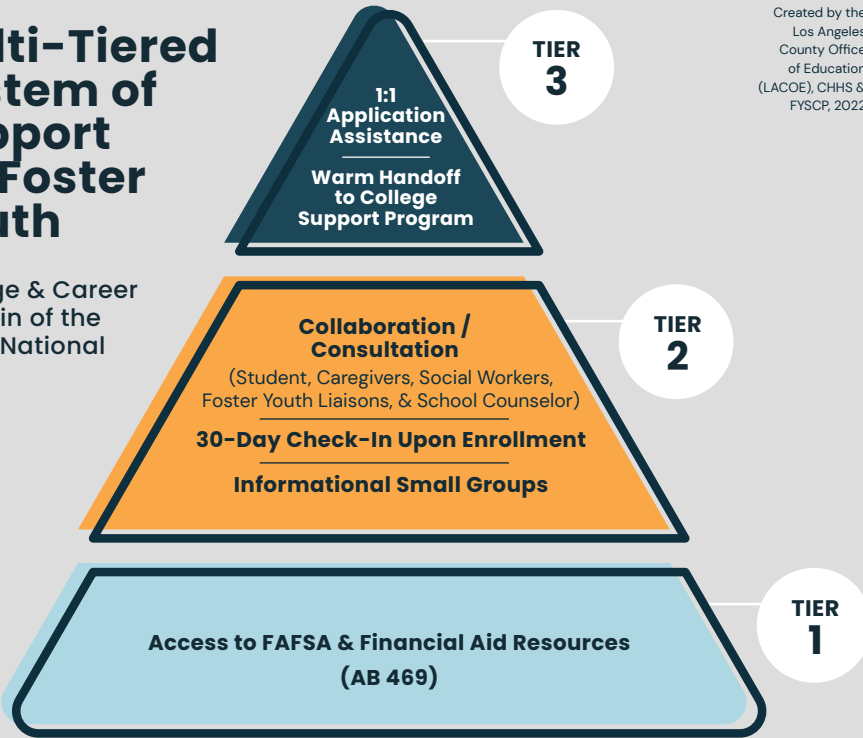


How can you help using the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework?

Beginning in the 2022-23 academic year, local education agencies will be required to confirm that all 12th graders complete financial aid applications unless they explicitly opt-out or are otherwise exempt (Education Code Section 51225.7; AB 469). The Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework can provide helpful guidance in conceptualizing the individual level of support foster youth need to successfully complete financial aid applications in light of this new requirement.

Multi-Tiered System of Support for Foster Youth

College & Career Domain of the ASCA National Model



Created by the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), CHHS & FYSCP, 2022



John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY) and your local County Office of Education Foster Youth Coordinating Services Program (FYSCP) are excellent resources for assistance on how to help foster youth apply for financial aid. FYSCPs can provide student-level data on financial aid completion for foster youth as well as technical assistance, training, and resources specific to assisting these students. For additional information, please visit jbay.org/resources/financial-aid-guide/ and cde.ca.gov/lsp/fy/contacts.asp.

TIER 1 | ALL

Per AB 469 (Education Code Section 51225.7), beginning with the 2022-23 academic year, high schools are required to confirm FAFSA or CADAA completion for their high school seniors and direct them to resources and support. Most students only require general information, workshops, and resources to assist with financial aid, however, given the unique challenges experienced by youth in the foster care system, they are more likely to require a Tier 2 or Tier 3 level of intervention.

TIER 2 | SOME

Despite the many adults involved in the life of a foster youth, which can include a social worker/probation officer, district foster youth liaison, and caregiver, many do not receive adequate guidance around college and career planning. For all foster youth, counselors should collaborate and consult with the youth's team to create an appropriate plan to help the youth reach their college and career goals. This plan should ensure that qualified individuals have been identified to assist the youth in reaching their goals. In addition, foster youth often experience high rates of school mobility, leading many to fall through the cracks and miss out on critical sessions with their counselors. Students' needs should be assessed and triaged within 30 days of enrollment. When developing an appropriate plan, most students will need a Tier 3 intervention that provides one-on-one assistance. However, Tier 2 interventions such as informational small groups can also be a method to provide targeted resources and information to special student populations, such as foster youth, if the student is comfortable with being identified as a foster youth with their peers.

Did you know



that Senate Bill (SB) 12 requires social workers and probation officers to identify an individual or individuals to assist youth ages 16 or older on their caseload with their college applications, including career and technical education, and related financial aid? This individual can be the school counselor.

TIER 3 | FEW

Foster youth often need individualized assistance to successfully complete their applications for financial aid. For some, they may not want to self-identify as a foster youth in front of their peers in a workshop setting. For others, they may need personalized assistance to ensure that they qualify for independent status based on their involvement in the child welfare system. Completing the FAFSA or CADAA is also just one step in the process. Foster youth benefit from individualized assistance with other key steps in the college matriculation process such as applying to college and getting connected through a warm hand-off to a campus-based support program to prevent summer melt. Remember that due to the trauma many youth have experienced, there may be underlying fears, doubts, and worries about pursuing postsecondary education. Be persistent and consistent with encouraging and motivating youth about their potential to reach their dreams.

Foster Youth FAFSA/CADAA Tip Sheet for High School Counselors:

You can help foster youth succeed in college!

Unique Cal Grant Benefits

- Foster youth in care at least one day after the age of 13 can now receive a Cal Grant Access Award of up to \$6,000 if attending a California public or private college or university.
- Foster youth in care at least one day after the age of 13 can receive the Cal Grant B Foster Youth Award for up to eight years instead of four. They can also apply up until the age of 26 if planning to attend a four-year college or university, while other students must apply within one year of high school graduation. All students pursuing community college now have until September 2nd to apply.

Timing YOUR SUPPORT:

FAFSA/CA Dream Act Application	30-60 minutes
Chafee Grant Application	10-15 minutes
Creating a WebGrants Account	10 minutes
Verifying GPA has been received	5 minutes

(if the GPA has not been successfully matched to their FAFSA/CADAA, additional time may be needed for troubleshooting)

VISIT
www.jbay.org/resources/financial-aid-guide

for a comprehensive list of resources, tools, and trainings to help foster youth navigate college and financial aid!



Before THE FAFSA / CADAA

- Provide **individual assistance** to foster youth students with their FAFSA/CADAA. Many students may not feel comfortable disclosing their foster youth status in front of their peers in a workshop setting. If FAFSA/CADAA workshops are offered, ensure that outreach materials are inclusive of foster youth and that volunteers or staff are familiar with their unique considerations.
- Ask students if they have access to their social security card. If not, direct them to their social worker or probation officer for help.
- Make sure students have a personal email address (not a school-based email).
- Ensure that students who express that they do not want to fill out a FAFSA/CADAA are aware of the benefits of financial aid and postsecondary education pathways and that applying for aid does not commit them to accepting the aid if offered.

During THE FAFSA / CADAA

- Be mindful that the “challenge questions,” which are asked in order to verify their FSA ID username and password later if necessary, may relate to family or identity, and therefore might be a trauma trigger for the student.
- Foster youth often lack home stability. Assist students in creating a system to store their passwords and usernames in a safe location.
- A foster youth may qualify as an independent student on their FAFSA/CADAA if they were in foster care as a dependent or ward of the court (in out-of-home placement) on or after their 13th birthday. Students who can answer yes to this question do not need to report information about their biological parents, foster parents, or adoptive parents. Students may also qualify if they are in a legal guardianship. Make sure eligible students receive independent status.
- Encourage foster youth to check off the box on the FAFSA that asks, “Are you a foster youth or were you at any time in the foster care system?” Answering “yes” may give students more access to on-campus resources and supports.
- Extended Foster Care (AB 12) benefits, such as Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) benefits, do not need to be reported as income on the FAFSA or CADAA.

After THE FAFSA / CADAA

- Complete the Chafee Grant Application at chafee.csac.ca.gov. Eligible foster youth (in out-of-home foster care placement at least one day between ages 16 to 18) can receive up to \$5,000 per academic year for up to five years (whether or not consecutive) up until age 26.
- Create a WebGrants 4 Students account at mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov. It can take one to two weeks for the FAFSA to process before an account can be created.
- Verify that their high school GPA has been received and matched to their account to receive the Cal Grant.
- Remind students to update their accounts if their address/phone number changes (e.g., WebGrants, FAFSA, college portal, CADAA, etc.). Many students experience frequent placement changes.
- Provide a warm hand-off to link students to campus-based foster youth support programs such as NextUp, Guardian Scholars, etc. Learn more at: cacollegepathways.org.
- If verification of foster youth status is requested for financial aid or other resources, such as campus-based foster youth support programs, students should contact their social worker, probation officer, or Independent Living Program (ILP) Coordinator. Youth no longer in foster care can call the office of the California Foster Care Ombudsperson at 877-846-1602.
- If you have a student who must provide the IRS Verification of Non-Filing (VNF), please visit the following link for special considerations for foster youth: jbay.org/resources/irs-vnf/

Individualized assistance is most effective. Keep in mind these considerations:

Child Welfare Terms & Definitions



TERM	ACRONYM COMMONLY USED	DEFINITION
Absent Without Leave	AWOL	When a youth leaves their placement, or is a “runaway,” for at least 24 hours.
Case		An open court case in dependency court or juvenile court. It may also refer to a case that has no court involvement but only voluntary supervision by the child welfare agency (e.g., Voluntary Family Maintenance (VRM) or Voluntary Family Reunification (VFR)).
Child and Family Team Meetings	CFT	Meetings that the child welfare or probation agency convenes with families with an open dependency case. The purpose of a CFT is to identify the family’s strengths, needs, and collaborative case planning. School representatives may be invited to attend, and some meetings may occur at school sites.
Child Welfare Agency		The child protection agency, or child welfare agency, in the county. Each county may use a different name for their department.
Court Appointed Special Advocates	CASA	A non-profit organization that pairs children and youth in the dependency system with trained volunteer advocates. Not every youth in the dependency system has a CASA.
Dependency Court		The court system that handles child abuse and neglect cases.
Dependent or Ward of the Court		For the purposes of the FAFSA/CADAA, these terms are synonyms to mean a youth who has an open case in dependency court. This does not include students who are involved in the child welfare system but remain in the legal custody of their parents. For example, youth who are involved with the child welfare system but do not have an open court case, such as Voluntary Family Maintenance or Voluntary Family Reunification, are not considered a Dependent or Ward of the Court.
Dual Supervision/ Crossover Youth		A student who is under the supervision of child welfare (as a child victim of abuse or neglect) and probation (for committing an offense). These students may have both a social worker and probation officer.
Education Rights Holder	ERH	Every foster youth under the age of 18 must have an ERH, who is required to make education decisions in the youth’s best interest. Foster youth who are 18 or older have the right to make their own education decisions. The ERH may be their parent or legal guardian, caregiver, or another person chosen by the court. It cannot be their social worker, probation officer, attorney, group home staff, or school staff members. Youth may have more than one ERH at times.
Emergency Response Children’s Social Worker	ER CSW OR ER Worker	A children’s social worker who is tasked with investigating any allegations of child abuse or neglect.
Extended Foster Care	EFC or AB 12	A program that allows eligible youth in the child welfare and/or probation systems to voluntarily remain in the foster care system between the ages of 18-21. The court also retains jurisdiction over the case. AB 12 (2010) is the legislation that extended foster care to age 21 in California.
Family Maintenance	FM	A court case that has the goal of maintaining the child(ren) at home with at least one parent. These cases are meant to only last six months while at home but have been extended at times. These youth may be considered a Dependent or Ward of the Court for the purposes of Independent Status on the FAFSA/CADAA depending on the nature of their court case. Contact your County Office of Education FYSCP for further information.
Family Preservation	FP	A third-party party contracted service for families. FP workers may reach out to the school on behalf of the student. This only applies to families with children that have not been removed from the home.
Family Reunification	FR	A court case that has the goal of returning the child back home after family compliance has been achieved. These cases can last up to 18 months (only six months for children under 5). These youth are considered a Dependent or Ward of the Court for the purposes of Independent Status on the FAFSA/CADAA.

Foster Family Agency	FFA	Contracted foster homes that the county child welfare agency refers children to for placement with certified and trained Resource Parents.
Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program	FYSCP	FYSCPs are located within the county office of education. They have the ability and authority to ensure that health and school records are obtained to establish appropriate placements and coordinate instruction, counseling, tutoring, mentoring, vocational training, emancipation services, training for independent living, and other related services. Support services can vary county to county.
Independent Living Program	ILP	A program within the child welfare agency and probation department that offers financial assistance and services for eligible foster youth 16–20 years of age.
Juvenile Court		The court system that handles youth probation cases.
Legal Guardian		Not to be confused with “Foster Parent” or “Resource Parent” the term “Legal Guardian” is a legal assignment by a court order naming a person other than the biological parents the legal party over medical and educational decisions and other decisions related to a child’s wellbeing.
Permanent Placement	PP	A court case in which neither parent successfully reunified with their child(ren) and a more permanent plan is being sought, such as legal guardianship or adoption. These youth are considered a Dependent or Ward of the Court for the purposes of Independent Status on the FAFSA/CADAA.
Resource Parent		Trained and certified caregivers, which can include foster parents, foster-to-adopt families, and kinship/relative caregivers.
Special Immigrant Juvenile Status	SIJS	Undocumented children who are dependents of the juvenile court, which finds that they cannot be reunified with one or both of their parents due to abuse, abandonment, or neglect, and it is not in their best interest to return to their country of nationality. These children may be able to obtain SIJS and apply to become a lawful permanent resident (LPR), also known as obtaining a Green Card.
Senate Bill 12	SB 12	SB 12 requires social workers and probation officers to identify a postsecondary education support person(s) in the case plan for foster youth age 16 or older interested in pursuing postsecondary education to assist them with their college applications, including career and technical education, and related financial aid.
Short-Term Residential Treatment Program	STRTP	Residential congregate care facilities that are therapeutic in nature and time limited. STRTPs replaced group homes in California.
Social Worker		The representative who works with the family receiving services from the child welfare agency. Each county may have a different term to describe this role, such as Children’s Social Worker or Protective Services Worker.
Supervised Independent Living Placement	SILP	Youth who participate in Extended Foster Care must live in an approved placement. That can include a SILP, which is housing such as a room for rent, apartment, or college dorm, that the youth finds and is approved by the social worker or probation officer. If a student has a SILP they are also eligible for a set monthly payment for living expenses.
Transitional Independent Living Plan & Agreement	TILP	A youth-driven planning document to be completed every six months by a social worker or probation officer for all foster youth ages 16 and older and in out-of-home care. TILP includes the youth’s goals around transitioning into adulthood and a field to identify the postsecondary education support person(s).
Tribal Indian Foster Youth		Per AB 1962, the definition of foster youth, for the purposes of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), now includes youth who are dependents under the jurisdiction of tribal courts that meet specified requirements. Local Education Agencies (LEAs) must collect this information on a local level since these youth are not under the jurisdiction of the California juvenile court system.
Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program	URM	Children covered under the URM program (e.g., students in the U.S. who are refugees, asylees, etc.) are entitled to services equivalent to mainstream foster care and emancipation services. They are not included in California’s definition of children in foster care under WIC or Ed Code; therefore, this student population is not included in LCFF, LCAP, or other entitlements afforded to children in California’s foster care system.
Voluntary Family Maintenance	VRM	A non-court case that is opened by the county child welfare agency only when there is not enough legal standing to refer a family to court supervision, but enough safety concerns assign a social worker to the case. These cases last a maximum of six months. These youth are not considered a Dependent or Ward of the Court for the purposes of Independent Status on the FAFSA/CADAA.
Voluntary Family Reunification	VFR	A non-court case that is opened by the county child welfare agency only when there is not enough legal standing to refer a family to court supervision, but enough safety concerns to assign a social worker to the case and get the parents’ permission to remove a child from their home. These cases last a maximum of six months. These youth are not considered a Dependent or Ward of the Court for the purposes of Independent Status on the FAFSA/CADAA.

Frequently Asked Questions:

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR EDITION



<p>1.</p>	<p>There is a question in the Student Eligibility section of the FAFSA that asks: “Are you a foster youth or were you at any time in the foster care system?” Why should students check this box?</p>	<p>Answering this question, even if they were in care for one day, may give them access to more support and resources on their campus.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>What if a student’s case closed?</p>	<p>As long as the student’s case closed on or after their 13th birthday, they are eligible for Independent status on their FAFSA/CADAA. Youth who were a dependent or ward of the court, but remained under the legal custody of their parent, do not qualify for Independent Status. Youth may have a foster care placement order through the child welfare system or through probation.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>How do counselors identify foster youth on their caseload?</p>	<p>There are three possible ways to identify foster youth on your case load:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact your district’s Foster Youth Liaison (aka AB 490 Liaison). 2. Contact your County Office of Education Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP). 3. View your Student Information System (SIS), if applicable.
<p>4.</p>	<p>If a new student arrives or leaves my school, what do I need to know to ensure that they qualify for financial aid?</p>	<p>Utilize WebGrants to verify that the student’s GPA was submitted and matched to their FAFSA/CADAA. Contact your county’s FYSCP or the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) for assistance, if needed. If the student is awarded a Cal Grant, the high school that first submitted the GPA will be required to verify the student’s high school graduation date. If the school that submitted the GPA is different from the school from which the student graduated, CSAC should be informed to ensure that the student’s information is updated, including their high school graduation information and address.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>What if a student says they are a foster youth, but it’s not showing up in our Student Information System (SIS)?</p>	<p>Contact your county Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP) office.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Do foster youth need to report the income of their biological parents or caregivers on the FAFSA/ CADAA?</p>	<p>As long as the youth was a dependent or ward of the court at least one day after their 13th birthday, they are eligible for Independent Status on the FAFSA/CADAA and do not need to report the income of their biological parents or caregivers (i.e., Resource Parents, foster parents, Short-Term Residential Treatment Program staff, etc.). Youth who were dependents or wards of the court, but remained under the legal custody of their parent, do not qualify for Independent Status. Youth may have a foster care placement order through the child welfare system or through probation. Probation-supervised foster youth are foster youth and have the same rights and eligibility for supportive programming as child-welfare-supervised foster youth.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Is the student’s household size still “1” if the youth is placed with a relative or in a group home?</p>	<p>Yes. The FAFSA automatically populates household size based on if the student indicates in a prior screen if they are married or have children. Students should enter “1” for number in college unless they have a spouse attending college at least half time.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Senate Bill (SB)12 requires a social worker or probation officer to identify a postsecondary education support person to assist youth age 16 or older with their college and financial aid applications. Who is allowed to be this person?</p>	<p>Any adult can be the postsecondary education support person. It can also be more than one person. This person may include their high school counselor, CASA, caregiver, or other appropriate adult. If a high school counselor plans to assist youth with their college and/or financial aid applications, it is recommended that they communicate with the social worker/probation officer to ensure collaborative teaming.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>What income unique to foster youth IS NOT included on the FAFSA/CADAA?</p>	<p>Extended Foster Care (AB 12) benefits—including Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) payments, the infant supplement or payment from a Transitional Housing Placement for Non-Minor Dependent (THP-NMD) program, does not need to be reported on the FAFSA/CADAA. Even if the SILP payment is sent directly to the youth, they DO NOT need to report this as income.</p>

<p>10. Where can I direct the student to get verification of their foster youth status?</p>	<p>Financial aid offices now have the ability to automatically verify a student’s foster youth status via a match with California Department of Social Services (CDSS) data through the WebGrants system. However, although this process exists, not all financial aid offices use this new feature and some students will still be asked to provide verification of their foster youth status for the purposes of Independent Status on the FAFSA or CADAA. Students may also be asked to provide verification to access other benefits for foster youth such as priority registration or the NextUp program. Should a youth need verification of their foster care status, you can direct the youth to their ILP worker, social worker, or probation officer or contact the Office of the California Foster Care Ombudsperson if their case is closed at (877) 846-1602 or via e-mail at fosteryouthhelp@dss.ca.gov.</p>
<p>11. Are there programs and resources to support foster youth in college?</p>	<p>Yes. Most colleges in California have a support program for foster youth; however, programs, services, and resources can vary from campus to campus. Many, but not all, go by the name of NextUp or Guardian Scholars. Visit cacollegepathways.org to find campus-specific support programs and contacts.</p>
<p>12. If my student will be living with their foster parent(s) (also known as Resource Parents) or legal guardian when they go to college, should they select “With Parent” as their housing plan in the School Selection section on the FAFSA?</p>	<p>No, they should select “Off-Campus.” This may qualify them for additional financial aid to assist with living expenses.</p>
<p>13. What if the student’s name or address changes after they submit a FAFSA/CADAA and create a WebGrants account or they discover that their name or address is incorrect in the system?</p>	<p>The student’s name on WebGrants and the FAFSA/CADAA must match the student’s Social Security Card and the school’s official student record. Below is guidance, depending on the circumstance:</p> <p>Mismatched Names</p> <p><u>Errors on FAFSA/CADAA</u> – Assist student to correct their name and resubmit the FAFSA/CADAA application.</p> <p><u>Errors on WebGrants</u> – If the correction is minor (such as a dash or space removed/ added), a counselor can call California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) directly at (888) 294-0153. If the correction is more significant, the student must complete the CSAC form G-10 (located under “student forms” at csac.ca.gov). The student is required to provide two forms of ID. NOTE: CSAC will need to verify the student’s name on a school record. If the student’s name does not match the official student record, the student must correct the school record name first and then submit the G-10 form.</p> <p>Mismatched Address</p> <p>If the youth has recently moved, assist them to update their address in their WebGrants for Students account or call CSAC directly at (888) 224-7268. Additionally, assist the youth to update their address in their FAFSA or CADAA.</p> <p>If the youth’s address does not match the GPA submitted by the school and the address on file in WebGrants, this will result in a non-match and they will not be awarded a Cal Grant until the information is corrected.</p> <p>Need assistance or have questions? Contact CSAC Institutional Support at (888) 294-0153/ schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov</p>
<p>14. Are all youth served by Probation considered a dependent or ward of the court for the purposes of the FAFSA?</p>	<p>No. In the juvenile justice system “ward of the court” means something different than it does on the FAFSA/CADAA. However, some youth who were in a foster care placement before entering the juvenile justice system may qualify as a dependent or ward of the court as long as they were in foster care, even only for a day, after turning 13. In addition, any youth under the jurisdiction of the probation system who is placed outside of their parent’s or guardian’s home in an out-of-home placement other than a juvenile detention setting—such as in a group home (STRTP), with a foster parent (Resource Parent), or other relative’s home— is a dependent or ward of the court for the FAFSA/CADAA.</p>

<p>15. There are changes to the Cal Grant for foster youth. What should I know?</p>	<p>In 2018, California expanded eligibility requirements for the Cal Grant B entitlement program for foster youth. This expansion includes three key provisions:</p> <p>Application window: The first provision extends the time to apply for an entitlement Cal Grant if a student is planning on attending a four-year college or university. 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.</p> <p>Time limit: The second provision extends the maximum length of time a foster youth is eligible for a Cal Grant from four years to eight years of full-time status enrollment.</p> <p>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. This has now been expanded for all students, not just foster youth.</p> <p>In addition, foster youth can now qualify for a Cal Grant Access Award up to \$6,000 to use at California public and private colleges and universities to assist with non-tuition costs.</p> <p>The law defines foster youth as students who were a dependent or ward of the court at least one day after the age of 13.</p> <p>Learn more at www.csac.ca.gov/foster-youth-students.</p>
<p>16. Who can sign the “Opt-Out Form” on behalf of foster youth as detailed in AB 469?</p>	<p>AB 469 requires LEAs to document 12th graders who elect not to submit, or are determined exempt from submitting, a FAFSA or CADAA. The state’s model opt-out form requires a signature by a parent or guardian. Best practice for foster youth is to require a signature by the student’s Education Rights Holder (ERH).</p>
<p>17. What financial aid applications should an undocumented foster youth complete?</p>	<p>Undocumented children who are dependents of the juvenile court, which finds that they cannot be reunified with one or both of their parents due to abuse, abandonment, or neglect, and it is not in their best interest to return to their country of nationality, may be able to obtain Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) and apply to become a lawful permanent resident (LPR), also known as obtaining a Green Card.</p> <p>However, students with a pending application for SIJS are not eligible for federal financial aid and should submit the CADAA until they have received permanent resident status (i.e., a Green Card). Additionally, students who received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status and were issued a social security number must still fill out the CADAA. DACA status is not required to apply for the CADAA.</p> <p>If an undocumented student does not have an application for SIJS pending, the child welfare or probation agency should be contacted for eligibility screening and to determine if SIJS is the right option for the youth since it is recommended that an application be initiated before they turn 18.</p> <p>For the Chafee Grant, students may complete either the FAFSA or CADAA in addition to the Chafee Grant application.</p>