



Foster Youth Student Success Completion Grant FAQ

The 2023/2024 budget bill included increased funding for financial aid for foster youth through the Student Success Completion Grant. Language governing this funding was included in SB 117, the higher education budget trailer bill.

1. HOW DOES THE STUDENT SUCCESS COMPLETION GRANT WORK?

Each California Community College receives funding through this program, which is then distributed by the college to students. The program provides grants to students that are enrolled in 12 or more units, receive the [Cal Grant B or C](#)* and are California residents or meet the requirements for a non-resident tuition exemption. Students must also meet [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) (SAP) standards.

Non-foster students receive \$1,298 per semester, or quarterly equivalent, if enrolled in 12-14 units and \$4,000 per semester, or quarterly equivalent, if enrolled in 15 units.

2. WHAT CHANGES WERE MADE TO THE STUDENT SUCCESS COMPLETION GRANT FOR FOSTER YOUTH?

SB 117 increased the grant amount for current and former foster youth enrolled in 12 or more units to \$5,250 per semester, or quarterly equivalent.

3. HOW IS “FOSTER YOUTH” DEFINED?

Current and former foster youth are defined as those whose dependency was established or continued on or after the age of 13.

4. IS THERE AN AGE CAP TO RECEIVE THIS FUNDING?

No, there is no age cap.

5. HOW IS ELIGIBILITY DETERMINED?

Each institution must identify eligible students. The Community College Chancellor’s Office is expected to issue guidance to colleges in the coming months. Financial aid offices should collaborate with their campus’ NextUp program and are encouraged to utilize multiple strategies to ensure that all eligible students receive this financial aid. This can include automatically awarding students who otherwise qualify and have verified their eligibility for NextUp, a Chafee grant, a Cal Grant foster youth award, or independent FAFSA/CADAA status as a foster youth.

6. WHEN DOES THIS FUNDING GO INTO EFFECT?

Funding goes into effect starting in the 2023-24 academic school year. The exact timing of funding disbursement is not yet known, but it is anticipated that awards will be made by the end of the fall term.

* To qualify for a Cal Grant B a student must be low-income, have a 2.0 high school GPA and submit a FAFSA/CADAA by September 2. To qualify for a [Cal Grant C](#) a student must be low-income and enrolled in a qualified occupational or technical program.