Examples of Acceptable NextUp Eligibility Verification Documents

In an effort to assist colleges with verifying NextUp student eligibility, as defined in Education Code 79222 and Education Code 79223, the Chancellor's Office is providing the following information. Given the complexities of verifying foster care status, colleges are empowered to use their best professional judgement to assess eligibility. The Chancellor's Office encourages institutions to work closely with Child Welfare and Community partners to assess proper eligibility documentation. Institutions should keep on file any documents obtained.

Any of the following sources can be utilized to verify eligibility:

1. Cal Grant Foster Youth Access Award roster
2. Chafee Grant roster
3. Webgrants auto-verification tool
4. Letter from the Office of the Foster Care Ombudsperson
5. Letter from a County Child Welfare Agency, County Probation Agency, or Independent Living Program.
6. Letter from a foster care placement agency (such as a Foster Family Agency (FFA) or Transitional Housing Placement for Nonminor Dependents (THP-NMD) provider)
7. Letter from a Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus) provider
8. Letter from a County Office of Education Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP)
9. Letter from a high school district
10. Letter from a state or county child welfare agency outside of California
11. Court documents that specify that the student is currently in foster care or the date on which the student exited foster care.

Programs may also rely on another college's verification of eligibility for participation in NextUp or another college department's verification of eligibility for other benefits with the same eligibility criteria including FAFSA independent status and priority registration.

Finally, the FAFSA Simplification Act added new options for verifying eligibility for independent FAFSA status for foster youth. To maintain alignment between NextUp programs and financial aid eligibility, the following are also considered valid documentation:

- A documented phone call which confirms the student was in foster care at an applicable age from a State, county or tribal child welfare agency, a public or private foster care placing agency or foster care facility or placement, an attorney, a guardian ad litem, or a Court Appointed Special Advocate.

Please note: This list is not meant to be exhaustive. These are examples of acceptable forms of verification to accept students in the NextUp program, however, other comparable documentation may also be acceptable.

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