JBAY JOHN BURTON Advocates for Youth

www.jbay.org
www.cacollegepathways.org

5 Things You Can Do Before the FAFSA & CADAA Open in Dec 2023

If you are a student currently or previously in the foster care system, here are five things you can do to get ready for college while you wait for the FAFSA or CADAA to open:

Typically, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act Application (CADAA) are released on October 1 for the following academic year, but in 2023, these applications won't be available until December 2023.

1 Create your FSA ID

Create your FSA ID at studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/. You will need an FSA ID to fill out your FAFSA online. To create an FSA ID, you'll need a Social Security Number, and a mobile phone number and/or email address. Make sure the name and social security number you enter in the FSA ID application exactly matches the name and number on your Social Security Card. It's recommended to create an FSA ID before you fill out the FAFSA, since it takes a few days to process.

2 Apply for the Chafee Grant

The Chafee Grant is up to $5,000 per year. You can apply for the Chafee Grant as soon as October 1st for the following academic year. Students must also submit a FAFSA or CADAA to be eligible for this funding. The Chafee Grant is for current or former foster youth who were in foster care at least one day between the ages of 16-18. Learn more about eligibility by visiting chafee.csac.ca.gov.

3 Get Connected to Support

Ask for help with applying to college; you don't have to do this alone. Talk to your school counselor, social worker/probation officer or Independent Living Program (ILP) Coordinator. You can also visit cacollegepathways.org and click "Find Support" to get the contact information for the campus-based foster youth support programs at the colleges you are interested in applying to. They can even help you apply!

4 Research and Apply to Colleges

Work with your school counselor to help you explore colleges that are a good match for you and your goals. Learn more about how to apply and key deadlines by visiting this step-by-step guide for 12th grade students in foster care HERE.

5 Apply for Private Scholarships

Scholarships are money to help students pay for college that don't need to be paid back. Scholarship searches and applications take time, so get a head start now. To visit a list of scholarship search websites and application tips, visit this link HERE.