



# **HOW TO APPLY FOR ETV**

## **THE CHAFEE EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHER**

### **THE BASICS**

**The Chafee Education and Training Voucher (ETV) provides students currently and formerly in foster care up to \$5,000 per year depending on the student's financial need and on the amount of funding available.**

These funds can be used to cover the cost of attending an accredited college or job training certificate program anywhere in the United States (not just in New York) that is at least one year in length. ETV is one of the only financial aid sources that will cover the cost of a job training certificate program (though they will not cover certificate programs shorter than one year).

Once you start receiving ETV funding, you can continue being funded for up to 5 years, or until your 23rd birthday, whichever comes first.

Like FAFSA, ETV requires students to re-apply for funding each academic year. After your first semester in college, you will need to start sending ETV a copy of your official transcript each semester.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR ETV**

**In order to qualify for ETV, students must:**

- Be eligible to file for financial aid through FAFSA (i.e. be a US citizen or eligible non-citizen. Undocumented students are, unfortunately, not eligible for ETV.)
- Be under 21 years of age the first time they receive ETV.

**AND meet one of the following qualifications:**

- Currently in foster care, including on a PINS case or in the custody of the juvenile justice system.
- Formerly in care and left care after your 16th birthday.
- Formerly in care and left to guardianship (not adoption or reunification) after your 14th birthday.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR ETV

**STEP 1:** Complete the FAFSA. You will need to have submitted FAFSA before your ETV application can be processed.

**STEP 2:** Begin the ETV application process [here](#). You will need to create an account to begin the application.

**STEP 3:** Fill out the Budget section of the ETV application if you have non-school related expenses that might make it harder for you to pay for school (for instance, if you're living independently and have to pay rent). This may qualify you for additional funding. Otherwise, you can leave this section blank.

**STEP 4:** Download the Financial Aid Release Form and complete the top section. Bring the form to the financial aid office at your school. The financial aid office should then complete the form and submit it to ETV by faxing it to 877-234-5025 or scanning and emailing it to: [newyorketv@statevoucher.org](mailto:newyorketv@statevoucher.org).

If there are issues getting the financial aid office to submit the Financial Aid Release Form to ETV, have the financial aid office fill the document out and then you can submit the completed form to ETV yourself.

**You will receive an award level when your ETV application and all additional documentation from your school have been submitted.**

If you have a balance on your school account or are in the Dorm Project, ETV will disburse funding directly to your school or dorm to cover the balance. Otherwise, they will issue the funding to you, usually as a monthly stipend.

## MAINTAINING ETV

**ONCE YOU START RECEIVING ETV, YOU WILL NEED TO TAKE SEVERAL STEPS TO MAINTAIN YOUR FUNDING:**

**STEP 1:** You must maintain a GPA of 2.0 or above  
*(which is also the GPA that you need to maintain financial aid and good academic standing at most colleges)*

**STEP 2:** Each semester, you must send ETV a copy of your official transcript (they do not accept unofficial transcripts). Your school registrar's office can help send your transcript to ETV

**STEP 3:** Each semester, you must work with the financial aid office at your school to resubmit the Financial Aid Release form.

**STEP 4:** Each year, you must fill out the ETV application again on the [New York State ETV website](#).

**STEP 5:** If you are not in the Dorm Project, you must maintain contact with your ETV coordinator on a monthly basis.\* If you plan to withdraw from any classes during the semester, you should let your ETV coordinator know right away.

*\* This monthly requirement may change. Confirm with your ETV Coordinator how frequently you should be in contact with them before starting the semester.*

### **TIP!**

ETV will sometimes be able to allocate additional funds to help you with unexpected expenses or with a summer or winter class. It's a good idea to reach out to your ETV coordinator if there is an additional school-related expense that you need help with, though they may not always be able to assist you.

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## LINKS

[New York State ETV application](#)

[ETV FAQs from Foster Care to Success](#)