



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.

There have been some temporary additions to ETV eligibility and funding due to the pandemic. During the 2020-2021 academic year only, students aged 23-26 who previously received ETV can apply for ETV funding (they will stop being eligible in September 2021). In addition, the ETV funding limit has been increased to \$12,000/year until September 2022.

If you are not sure if you qualify or otherwise need assistance with the ETV process, email admin@etv-nys.com

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 submit the 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 including any 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.
- STEP 4:** New York State's ETV team will reach out to your campus to verify your financial aid information. Previously, students had to submit a financial aid release form, but this is no longer the case. You may need to assist the ETV team in following up with your college about the requested documents - check your email for messages about ETV and email admin@etv-nys.com if there are any issues with receiving your award.

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 (for instance, for dorming), 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 will need to maintain a good academic standing (typically a 2.0 GPA) while earning college credits. If you end up on academic probation, need to withdraw from classes, or lose your Pell Grant funding, contact ETV at admin@etv-nys.com to find out if you will be able to keep your ETV funding for next semester. ETV is less strict than they used to be about their GPA requirement, but they still want to see you making progress in school in order to keep funding you.
- 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, your school must work with ETV to resubmit your financial aid information before your award can be disbursed. Check your email for messages from ETV and reach out to admin@etv-nys.com if there are any issues with receiving your award.
- STEP 4:** Each year, you must fill out the ETV application again on the [New York State ETV website](#).

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 New York's ETV team at admin@etv-nys.com if there is an additional school-related expense that you need help with, though they may not always be able to assist you.

LINKS

[New York State ETV application](#)

[ETV Brochure from New York OCFS](#)