

# COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES

## ***Financial Aid for University, College, Community College, and Vocational Training:***

1. **Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA**- The **FAFSA** is a state and federal aid program for students who are attending a university, four year college and a community college to help pay for educational expenses such as tuition, fees, and books. This is free money for college. The deadline is March 2<sup>nd</sup> of each year.

*\* For more information or to fill out the **FAFSA** online, log on to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or call 1(800) 801-0576*

2. **Federal Pell Grant**- This grant is intended to assist eligible low- and middle-income students to attend a university, four-year college, and community college of their choice. **Pell Grants** are awarded to every undergraduate student who qualifies based on their financial need and don't have to be repaid. They can be used for tuition, fees, and living expenses. When you file for the **FAFSA**, you're automatically considered for a **Pell Grant**. You can also receive a **Pell Grant** if you're going to school less than half time. The deadline is March 2<sup>nd</sup> of every year.
3. **California Grants**- The **Cal Grant Program** has been expanded to guarantee financial aid to those students meeting the eligibility requirements. If you are a California high school senior or a graduate student planning to attend community college, a four-year college, a university, or a vocational school located in California, you should apply for the **Cal Grants** by completing a GPA Verification Form. The deadline **Cal Grants A, B, and C** is March 2<sup>nd</sup> of every year. The deadline for **Cal Grant T** is June 1<sup>st</sup> of every year. *There is however a second deadline for **Cal Grants A and B** if you are attending community college the deadline is September 2<sup>nd</sup> of every year.*

### **Basic Cal Grant eligibility requirements:**

All **Cal Grant** applicants must:

- Be California Resident
- Be U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens
- Meet U.S. Selective Service requirements
- Attended a qualifying California college or university
- Be enroll at least half-time
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined at the school of attendance
- Not owe money on any federal or state educational loan or owe a grant refund

**Cal Grant A**- Awards are available for tuition and fees only at a four year college or university. If you receive a **Cal Grant A** but are attending a community college first, you can reserve your award for up to two years until you transfer to a four-year college, if you continue to qualify.

**Cal Grant B-** Provides assistance for living expenses, books, supplies, transportation and sometimes tuition and fee assistance for community colleges, four-year colleges and universities.

**Cal Grant C-** Helps pay for tuition, fees, books, supplies, and training cost for students in occupational or career training programs.

**Cal Grant T-** Assist with tuition and fees for students who plan to attend an approved teacher preparation program at a four –year college or university, in exchange for teaching service.

**For further information, contact your local college financial aid office or call The California Student Aid Commission at 1(888) 224-7268.**

4. **California Student Opportunity And Access Program or CalSOAP:** is a program coordinated among school districts, colleges, universities, community-based organizations, and private sector partners. This program is for low-income, first generation and underrepresented students in higher education. The program offer services such as tutoring, dissemination of information about college admission requirements, courses of study, cost, financial aid opportunities, individual, group, and peer counseling to help students enter and successfully complete college.

**Cal-SOAP** is located in 10 regions through out California and soon will be expanding to 5 more regions.

***\* Next year Cal-SOAP will have a new pilot program called “Making It Happen,” which will provide academic counseling and financial aid information in collaboration with California community college staff to help community college students transfer to four-year colleges or university.***

5. **State Work-Study:** The program funds jobs for students attending a California college or university both on and off campus. Jobs may be available with public institutions, nonprofit organizations, or profit seeking enterprises. It gives students the opportunity to earn money to help pay for your education. Schools also help place you in a job related to your studies, career goals, or career exploration. The program has two components, through the first components students are placed in a job related to their studies. The second component consist of students being placed in positions where they provide tutoring assistance too elementary and secondary students.

Criteria for Eligibility:

- Be a legal California resident, and a U.S. citizen or eligible non citizen;
- Demonstrate financial eligibility, as determined by their college’s financial aid office;
- Be enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, at least half time at a participating school;
- Demonstrate satisfactory academic progress in a program leading to a degree or a certificate, according to federal standards.

***\* Check with your college financial aid office for more information.***

6. **Federal Stafford Loan**- The largest source of federal student aid and are available to undergraduate, graduate, vocational, and professional students. The are two types of loans are ***subsidized*** and ***unsubsidized*** loans. The ***subsidized*** loans are for students who demonstrate financial need. The federal government pays for the interest on the ***subsidized*** loans while the student is in school. With ***Unsubsidized*** loans, students pay all the interest on the loans.

### **CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY PROGRAM:**

**Educational Opportunity Program**- is designed to help low income and educationally disadvantage students who have potential for academic success. They offer services such as housing assistance, admission application fee waivers, summer programs, financial aid follow up, academic advisement, tutoring, personal, educational, and career counseling.

### **COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAMS:**

**Board of Governor's Grant or BOGG**- a fee waiver that pays for tuition and the cost of the college units that you are taking (check your Financial Aid Office for the form).

Criteria for Eligibility:

- Have already qualified for financial aid, such as the **Pell Grant** or **Cal Grant**
- Receive AFDC/TANF, **CalWORKs**, SSI, or General Assistance

\* *Foster youth are able to claim themselves as a dependent, so they automatically qualify for the **BOGG** waiver.*

**Extended Opportunity Program and Services or EOPS**- is a program designed to provide educational opportunities to students affected by language, social or economic disadvantages. The purpose for **EOPS** is to identify, recruit, retain, graduate and transfer students while in community college. Gives assistance with counseling, tutoring, priority registration, and financial assistance such as grants, textbooks, and small loans.

Criteria for Eligibility:

- California resident
- Enrolled Full-time
- Not have completed more than 70 degree applicable units
- Qualify for **BOGG**
- Be educationally disadvantaged
  - a. Not eligible for minimum English or Math for an AA degree
  - b. Non high school graduate
  - c. High School GPA below 2.5
  - d. Previously enrolled in remedial education
  - e. Other factors
    1. First generation college student

2. Member of underrepresented group in school
3. Non-native English speaker ( students or parents)
4. Emancipated Foster Youth

**Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education:** A special educational support program for **EOPS** students who are welfare recipients and single parents with preschoolers. **CARE** offers counseling, grants, textbooks, educational supplies, and services for childcare.

Criteria for Eligibility:

- To be eligible for the **EOPS** program
- Receive welfare
- Have a child
- Be a single parent

**CalWORKS:** The **CalWORKs** program provides counseling, job placement, and other support services such as childcare and book grants. This program is for students receiving TANF or for certain previous recipient.

*\* Please contact your college's **CalWORKs** coordinator for additional information*

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**Orphan Foundation of America Scholarship Program or the OFA:** This scholarship is only for foster care youth. Youth may use this money for a traditional college, university, accredited technical school or a vocational school of their choice. Students may use funds for tuition, books, or living expenses. *Scholarships are based upon individual need and are renewable each year until student reaches age 25.*

Criteria for Eligibility:

- Written documentation that student was in foster care for at least 12 consecutive months at the time of high school graduation or 18<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Not adopted following foster care
- Financial need reflected in **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**
- Accepted into a post-secondary program
- Complete **OFA** 2001 Scholarship Application
- Meet all deadlines (**FAFSA**, school, and **OFA**)
- Under age 25
- Applied for two additional funding sources
- Not married

**Casey Family Program Scholarship:** Aims to help with the financial barriers to higher education faced by foster youth in need, and to support their success by providing mentoring through the **OFA's** eMentor program. The scholarship will be awarded to pursue a postsecondary education, including vocational and technical training. *This scholarship is renewable each year based on satisfactory progress and financial need.*

Criteria for Eligibility:

- Under the age of 25
- Spent at least 12 months in foster care and were not adopted
- Money will be used to pursue a postsecondary education

**Hildegard Lash Merit Scholarship:** In honor of Mrs. Lash's memory, this scholarship was created to recognize youth who have overcome many obstacles in young life and will be an asset to society. Eligible students must complete the **OFA** scholarship application and write a letter that states interest in being considered for the **Hildegard Lash Merit Scholarship**. This award is for \$5,000 per academic year, paid in two installments, for the fall and spring semester. *Recipients cannot reapply.*

Criteria for Eligibility:

- Currently in foster care
- In foster care at the time of their high school graduation or 18<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Entering their sophomore, junior or senior year as a full-time student at a four-year college or university

\* FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORM PLEASE CONTACT:

**Orphan Foundation of America Scholarship Program**  
**Tall Oaks Village Center**  
**12020 D North Shore Drive**  
**Reston, Virginia 20190-4977**  
**1(800) 950-4673**  
[www.orphan.org](http://www.orphan.org)

**Child Development Teacher Grants Program:** Is a program that encourages students to go into early childhood education. (Each year up to 100 college students who are pursuing a child development permit as a teacher, site supervisor, or program director). Students at a community college may receive \$1,000 per academic year, for up to two years. Students attending a four-year college may receive \$2,000 per academic year, for up to two years. Recipients must work full time at an eligible California children's center for year, for each year they receive the funds.

Criteria for Eligibility:

- Be a U.S. citizen, or eligible non-citizen, and a legal California resident

- Demonstrate financial need and academic achievement
- Not owe on any federal or state educational loan or owe a grant refund
- Be nominated for a post-secondary institution or employing agency
- Enroll and attend a California community college or a California four-year college at least half time
- Maintain a satisfactory academic progress as defined by the college
- Agree to teach full time for one year in a licensed California children's center for each year of funding

***\* Applications are available at the financial aid office in of the college***

**Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships:** Recognizes exceptional students who show promise of continued academic excellence. This scholarship is renewable for up to four years for postsecondary study at any accredited U.S. college.

Criteria for Eligibility:

- Be a U.S. citizen, or eligible non citizen, and legal California resident
- Graduate from a public or secondary school between July 1 and June 30, 2001, or receive the equivalent GED or high school proficiency exam certificate between July 1, 2000 and March 31, 2001
- Be considered a first-year college student beginning fall 2001.
- Register with the U.S. Selective Service, if required to do so
- Submit certification (federal form 80016) conforming no delinquency or default on a federal scholarship or student loan

***\* Applications are available at your local high school***

**Governor's Merit Scholarships:** This scholarship is based on academic achievement, regardless of your financial need. High school students in 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade who earn high scores on state achievement tests may receive a \$1,000 scholarship for college. Students need to obtain a combined score on the math and reading portions in the top 5 percent statewide in your grade level. Students can earn \$1,000 award each year, for up to 3 years.

**Governor's Distinguished Math and Science Scholars Program:** ***This*** scholarship is for high school students who receive high scores on both the state achievement test and Advances Placement calculus or science (biology, chemistry or physics) exams students can earn a \$2,500 scholarship.

- ***For more information on these two scholarships, contact your school district's superintendent.***

**\* PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE FINACIAL AID OFFICE AS A WIDE RANGE OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO OFFER, APPLY FOR ALL OF THEM!**

*Best ways to find scholarships:*

1. *At your local Public Library*
2. *At your local colleges in the Financial Aid office*
3. *Internet*
4. *Through your Independent Living Program*
5. *Contacting the Office of the Foster Care Ombudsman*

### *WEBSITES AVAILABLE:*

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.orphan.org](http://www.orphan.org)

[www.review.com](http://www.review.com)

[www.scholarship.com](http://www.scholarship.com)

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

[www.collegequest.com](http://www.collegequest.com)

\* FOR FUTHER INFORMATION ON FINANCIAL AID OR THE SCHOLARSHIPS PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OF THE FOSTER CARE OMBUDSMAN AT 1(877) 846-1602