



DCFS

Illinois Department of
Children and Family Services

Office of Education and Transition Services
Post Secondary Education Programs

Laura Gutiérrez
Post-Secondary Education Specialist

AGENDA

- Post-Secondary Education Programs
- Contacting Post-Secondary Education Specialists

DCFS Post-Secondary Education Programs

DCFS Scholarship

Tuition & Fee Waiver

**Youth in College/ Vocational
Training (YIC/ VT)**

**Education & Training Voucher
(ETV)**

DCFS Scholarship

Benefits

- **It is a competitive scholarship**
- **DCFS must award a minimum of 53 each year**
- **Monthly stipend of \$1,577 for up to 5 consecutive years**
- **One time startup funding to be used for living expenses**
- **Illinois Medical Card**
- **Reimbursement available for books not covered by financial aid grants**
- **Tuition & Mandatory fee waiver if attending Illinois state funded community colleges or universities – school uses MAP and other tuition specific funds before applying the DCFS waiver.**

DCFS Scholarship

Requirements

- **Youth must maintain at least a “C” average each semester (2.0 term GPA)**
- **Maintain full-time status (12 hours Fall & Spring, 6 hours or an approved internship in Summer)**
- **Enrollment will be verified through the National Student Clearinghouse**
- **Submit class schedule at the beginning of each semester and grades at the end of the term**
- **Report changes to any contact information promptly to the DCFS scholarship administrator**

2026 DCFS Scholarship application

- **The application period for the DCFS Scholarship is currently open**
- **Deadline is March 31st**
- **The official link**
 - <https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/program/ILDCFS2026>
- **A complete application must be submitted to be taken into consideration**
- **Recipients will be notified prior to May 1st**

Youth in College/Vocational Training (YIC/VT)

Benefits

- **DCFS must have court ordered legal responsibility for the youth; a placement for youth in care.**
- **Monthly board payment of \$1,577 for up to 5 consecutive years**
 - **Rate includes approximate monthly allocations of \$68 for personal allowance, \$68 for clothing, \$68 for utilities, \$263 for food, \$54 for phone, \$133 for transportation, and up to \$852 for rent.**
 - **Ensure student understands board payment is to be used for room/board costs.**
- **The program benefits end once a bachelor's degree is earned or through age 25; whichever occurs first.**
- **Reimbursement for books not covered by financial aid grants.**
- **One time startup funding to be used for living expenses**

Youth in College/Vocational Training (YIC/VT) Requirements

- **Youth must maintain at least a “C” average each semester (2.0 term GPA)**
- **Maintain full-time status (12 hours Fall & Spring, 6 hours or an approved internship in Summer)**
- **Enrollment will be verified through the National Student Clearinghouse**
- **Submit class schedule at the state of each semester and grades at the end of the semester**
- **Report changes to any contact information promptly to the Youth in College Coordinator**

Education & Training Voucher (ETV)

- **Youth for whom DCFS is legally responsible or who aged out of care at age 18 or older OR achieved permanency at age 16 or older through either guardianship or adoption.**
- **Up to \$5,000 to cover Cost of Attendance items such as tuition, fees, books, supplies, uniforms, equipment and/or transportation not covered by other grants or scholarships.**
- **Funding available through age 25 or 5 years if the student is continuing to make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in the program.**
- **Award is based on Cost of Attendance and other grants/scholarships**
- **Computers allowed ONLY if schools include a computer in their Cost of Attendance and there is funding left after tuition and fees are paid (students do not receive \$5000 AND a computer).**
- **Student may attend any school that is listed as currently accredited at <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/search.aspx>**

Education and Training Voucher (ETV)

- A complete application must be submitted every year via
 - <https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/scholarships/a0DHq0000kfM8lMAE>



The screenshot displays the Kaleidoscope website interface. At the top, the 'Kaleidoscope' logo is centered, with 'Marketplace' and 'Sign in / Sign up' buttons to the right. Below the header, the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) logo is prominently featured. The main content area is titled 'Application for Illinois Education and Training Voucher Funds' and includes a 'Share' button. A section titled 'INTRODUCTION' contains 'Program Information' which states that the ETV program provides up to \$5,000 annually to eligible students for approved post-secondary education expenses, subject to financial need and the Cost of Attendance. The application period is noted as July 1 - June 30 (Academic Year). A preview window on the right shows a smaller version of the application page with a 'Begin' button.

Kaleidoscope Marketplace Sign in / Sign up

Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services

Share

Application for Illinois Education and Training Voucher Funds

INTRODUCTION

Program Information
The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program provides up to \$5,000 annually* to eligible students for approved post-secondary education related expenses. There must be a financial need for the funding for the ETV application to be processed. ETV funding plus other financial aid cannot exceed the budgeted Cost of Attendance for the school the student is attending.

*July 1 - June 30 (Academic Year)

Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services

Application for Illinois Education and Training Voucher Funds

Accepting Applications

Share Begin

Tuition & Fee Waiver

- **Tuition & Mandatory fee waiver if attending Illinois state funded community colleges or universities.**
- **Department must have court ordered legal guardianship of the applicant, must have aged out of DCFS guardianship at 18 or older, or the department must have had legal guardianship prior to adoption or guardianship being finalized**
- **Applicant must have high school diploma from an accredited institution, high school equivalency certificate, or met State criteria for high school graduation before the start of the school year for which applicant is applying for waiver**
- **Applicant must have filed FAFSA**

DCFS youth – What program, funding or benefit is available to which youth?

Programs or benefits available to youth	Placement Type						
	Youth in Care (Foster, TLP, ILO, Group Home, Residential)	Youth adopted or guardianship age 16+	Guardianship - no matter what age	Youth in Care at age 13, closed to adoption or guardianship	Adopted or Guardianship before age 13	Return home to parent before 13	Return home to parent after age 13
Apply for DCFS Scholarship (YIS)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Tuition and fee waiver (Illinois public university or community college)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Youth in College/Vocational Training (YIC/VT) (Can apply while in any of listed categories, will give up other placement when in YIC.)	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Education and Training Voucher (ETV)	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Employment Incentive Program (EIP) (\$178 monthly grant with documentation of employment, job training program, apprenticeship)	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
FAFSA considered independent student (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y

For more info: DCFS.PostSecondaryEducationAssistance@illinois.gov or visit the [DCFS tip sheets](#).

Contacting OETS programs

- DCFS Scholarship questions
 - DCFS.Scholarship@illinois.gov
- DCFS Tuition and Fee Waiver
 - DCFS.TuitionWaiver@illinois.gov
- Education and Training Voucher
 - DCFS.ETVCoordinator@illinois.gov
- Youth in College or general questions
 - DCFS.PostSecondaryEducationAssistance@illinois.gov

[Post-Secondary Education Services \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.illinois.gov)

DCFS Website > Brighter Futures > Education Resources for Youth in Care > Post-Secondary Education Services

Post Secondary Education Staff

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THANK YOU