

OHIO REACH - POSTSECONDARY RESOURCE GUIDE

Supporting Foster Youth
Reaching for Higher
Education



PAYING FOR SCHOOL

FAFSA

All students should fill out the FAFSA. Fill out the FAFSA and mark "Independent Student" if you were: an orphan, ward of the state, or in foster care after 13, if you were emancipated, or you are unaccompanied and homeless. The FAFSA helps qualify you for federal grants and financial aid.

ETV VOUCHERS

The Ohio Education and Training Voucher Program is a program designed to help youth who were in U.S. foster care. Students may receive up to \$5,000 a year for qualified school related expenses. Applicants must complete the ETV application which includes documentation sent directly from the school to ETV confirming enrollment, the cost of attendance (COA), and unmet need.

FRANKLIN COUNTY CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCHOLARSHIPS

The Alvin R. Hadley and Jack Donahue scholarships are renewable, four-year scholarships, best suited for completion of a bachelor's degree at a four-year college or university. The award is \$4,000.00 each year on a renewable basis. Contact Chuck Cochran at 614-275-2598 or cjcochra@fcss.us for application.

OHIO COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANT (OCOG)

Certain higher ed institutions received a grant to support students with high need. These funds are distributed to students based on FAFSA completion.

CERTIFICATE GRANTS

The Ohio Department of Higher Education provided 19 schools with funds to provide foster students \$2,000 each to put toward tuition and fees while pursuing a short term certificate. You can access this grant through your school.

PAYING FOR SCHOOL

EEQUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Students pursuing post-high school education programming who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability qualify to apply for the EEQUAL scholarship.

CASEY FAMILY SERVICES SCHOLARSHIPS

Awards dependent on need and available for undergrads up to 6 years and graduate students up to 4 years. Must have received services from Casey Family Services.

FRANKLIN COUNTY CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCHOLARSHIPS

The Alvin R. Hadley and Jack Donahue scholarships are renewable, four-year scholarships, for students seeking a bachelors degree. The award is \$4,000.00 each year on a renewable basis. Contact Chuck Cochran at 614-275-2598 or cjcochra@fcss.us for application.

OHIO REACH SCHOLARSHIP

The Ohio Reach Scholarship is a renewable award for students pursuing community college, a 4-year degree, a certificate, or a trade/tech program.

FOSTER CARE TO SUCCESS SCHOLARSHIPS

Students must have been in foster care on their 18th birthday or been adopted or placed into legal guardianship after their 16th birthday. This is a renewable scholarship.

FOSTER LOVE FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

Family Fellowship Scholarship Program is designed to provide foster youth with the necessary resources to pursue higher education. This program aims to advance the educational aspirations of foster youth by offering financial assistance and family-like emotional support. This is a 5-year scholarship available to current and former foster youth.

HOUSING RESOURCES

COHHIO YOUTH HOUSING INITIATIVE

COHHIO's Youth Housing Initiative seeks to reduce the barriers that prevent Ohio's youth at risk-of or experiencing homelessness and young adults from gaining access to housing, services and stability through furthering advocacy, training and education in order to put an end to youth homelessness across our state.

RENTER'S RIGHTS

As a renter, you have rights and responsibilities. This link can help you understand your rights and find affordable rentals.

FOSTER YOUTH INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM

Housing vouchers for former foster youth ages 24 and under. Contact your local county housing authority for information about local vouchers.

HOUSING NOW FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES PROGRAM

The Housing Now for Homeless Families Program (HNHF) funds local nonprofits that provide temporary financial assistance and supportive services to rehouse families with children that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. HNHF grants are administered by COHHIO and funded by federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funding provided by the State of Ohio.

Many housing resources are location specific. [Click here to view a list of county resource guides](#), with further information on local housing resources.

HOUSING RESOURCES

COLUMBUS - SCHOLAR HOUSE 3

An apartment building in Columbus designed to serve those ages 18-24 with foster care history. Residents are expected to maintain full-time status at an accredited two or four-year college or university.

CLEVELAND - A PLACE 4 ME

A program designed to help youth who are at risk or currently experiencing homeless in the greater Cleveland area.

CINCINNATI - LIGHTHOUSE SHEAKLEY CENTER

Youth shelter for those ages 18-24 that provides food, basic needs and supplies, and basic medical and first aid care in Cincinnati.

DAYTON - DAYBREAK

Youth emergency shelter located in Dayton that includes crisis hotlines, transitional housing, life-skills education, and other follow-up services.

COLUMBUS - STAR HOUSE

Drop-in center for youth ages 14-24 who are experiencing homelessness. Provides connections to basic needs and stabilizing resources as well as onsite education, healthcare, and access to transitional jobs.

AKRON - SHELTER CARE

Shelter and connection to housing, clothing, food, education, employment, counseling, transportation, and healthcare for those 10-18 years old.

Many housing resources are location specific. Click here to view a list of county resource guides, with further information on local housing resources.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

BLUPRINT ADVISING PROGRAM

Blueprint is a hybrid advising program that supports students through text-based, on-demand advising and virtual meetings. Available to college students who are from Dayton, Cincinnati, or Columbus, and are attending university anywhere in the US.

ASPIRE

Free academic skills instruction (in person and online) to help prepare for your High School Equivalence test or certification testing, learn English as a second language, improve employability, and much more!

GITHUB STUDENT PACK PRESENTED BY MICROSOFT

Free access to real world software developer tools and courses for students to help develop computer program skills to improve job readiness. See what all is included and download the pack

PURDUE ONLINE WRITING LAB

The online writing lab offers support through online reference materials and services for creating citations, cover letters, major-specific writing help, and general writing advice.

CHOOSING A PATH

OHIO FIND YOUR CAREER PATHWAY RESOURCE

The “Find Your Career Pathway” video and toolkit aim to guide students in their educational journey to land a successful career right here in Ohio. Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted has created this resource that provides information for students, parents, and teachers about the different career pathways available to Ohio students.

STATE OF OHIO CAREER PROFILE QUIZ

There are more than 26 industries doing business in the State of Ohio. Sometimes the choices can feel overwhelming. It is important that you start your job search with your passions and interests in mind. Find a field that will play to your personal strengths.

CREDENTIALS

Industry recognized Credentials demonstrate the knowledge and skills students gain through hands-on learning in a specific job or industry. Credentials can lead to meaningful employment or postsecondary options.

COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS

College Credit Plus is Ohio’s dual enrollment program that provides students in grades 7-12 the opportunity to earn college and high school credits at the same time by taking courses from Ohio colleges or universities, usually for free.

HOW TO FIND A JOB ONLINE GUIDE

This guide includes profiles of common types of professionals, with questions to help guide job seekers - from entry-level to executive - find the website that will be of most help to them.

OTHER RESOURCES

BRIDGES

Bridges helps those ages 18-21 make the transition from foster care into adulthood as easy as possible with housing, health, and skill support services. Young adults who emancipated or "aged out" of foster care are eligible.

OVERCOMING HURDLES IN OHIO YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

The Overcoming Hurdles in Ohio Youth Advisory Board (OHIO YAB) is a statewide organization of young people, ages 14-24, who have experienced foster care, that exists to be the knowledgeable statewide voice that influences policies and practices. Get involved by emailing yab@fosteractionohio.org

ALUMNI OF CARE TOGETHER IMPROVING OUTCOMES NOW

Alumni of Care Together Improving Outcomes Now (ACTION Ohio) exists to improve outcomes during and after foster care. Our membership includes former foster youth of all ages. Get involved by emailing action@fosteractionohio.org

YOUTH NAVIGATOR NETWORK

The Youth Navigator Network has full-time YNN Navigators you can talk with directly about challenges you are facing or opportunities you are striving for. They meet you where you are, listen first, and offer direct help as able.

POST EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Extended supports and services provided by the Public Children Services Agencies to former foster youth who have emancipated from agency custody due to reaching eighteen years of age. The services and supports are to complement the young adult's own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and shall be available until the young adult's twenty-first birthday. For more information, contact your local public children services agency.

OTHER RESOURCES

MEDICAID

Youth who "age out" of foster care in Ohio are eligible for Medicaid until their 26th birthdays. After being initially signed up for Medicaid at age 18, former foster youth must stay in touch with Medicaid, so that they don't lose services between ages 18-26. Please contact the Medicaid Hotline: 1-800-324-8680 or apply online.

LEGAL HELP

Find information on your legal rights as a foster youth, and resources on legal assistance.

OHIO MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION SERVICES

OhioMHAS strives to end suffering from mental illness, substance use disorders, and problem gambling for Ohioans of all ages, their families, and communities.

For emotional support, contact the Ohio CareLine (1.800.720.9616), Crisis Text Line (text "4HOPE" to 741741) and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988).

OHIO BENEFITS SYSTEM

Site to manage or apply for healthcare, child care, food and cash benefits through the Ohio Department of Health.

CCMEP

Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program is an innovative program that can help low-income young adults build career paths, find employment and break the cycle of poverty. It offers a wide range of services specifically tailored to each individual.

OTHER RESOURCES

ALICIA'S CLOSET

Alicia's Closet serves the foster care community in Central Ohio and Northwest Ohio. The stores provide infant to young adult sized clothing, shoes, coats, diapers & wipes, baby accessories and other essentials, at no cost. The Columbus location also offers additional programming such as support groups, and a mentoring and outreach program for former foster youth.

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