

Useful Information

Washington State Foster Youth Website

www.independence.wa.gov

ETV Information

ETV Program
PO BOX 45710
Olympia, WA 98504-5710
Email: ETVWASH@dshs.wa.gov
Toll-Free Number: 1-877-433-8388

Federal Financial Aid Assistance

www.fafsa.ed.gov

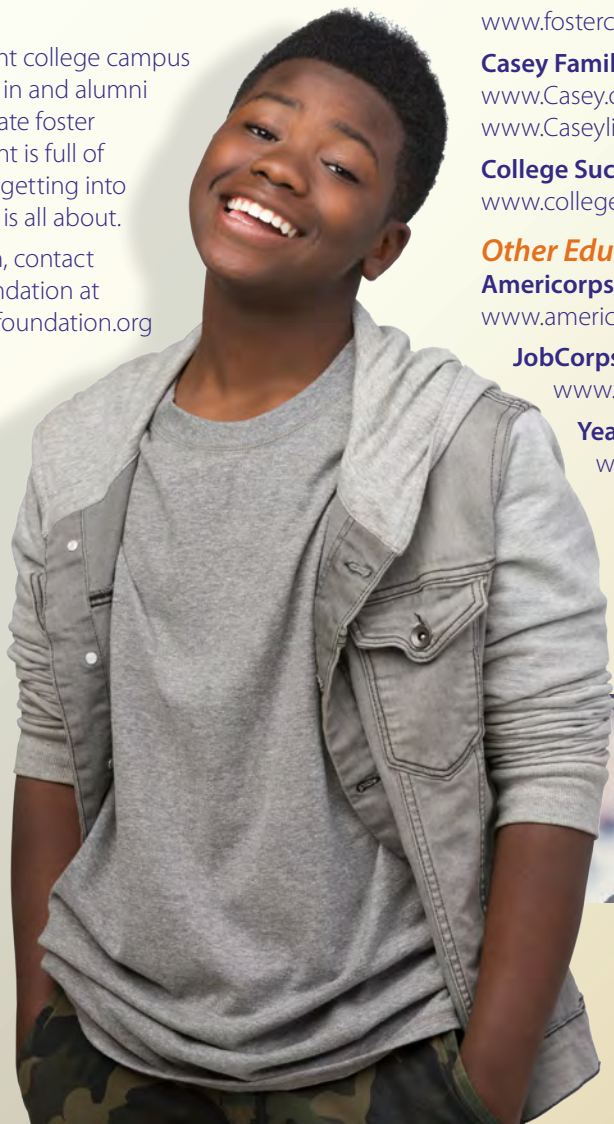
Make it Happen!

A three-day, two-night college campus experience for youth in and alumni of the Washington state foster care system. The event is full of information on what getting into and going to college is all about.

For more information, contact College Success Foundation at mih@collegesuccessfoundation.org or call 425-213-5888.

“With the help of ETV I have been able to worry less about buying text books and instead spend the time reading them.”

— William M., age 22



Foster Care to College

www.readysetgrad.org/fostercare

Supports TRIO

www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html

FosterClub

www.fosterclub.com

Orphan Foundation of America

www.orphan.org

Foster Care Alumni of America

www.fostercarealumni.org

Casey Family Programs

www.Casey.org
www.Caseylifeskills.org

College Success Foundation

www.collegesuccessfoundation.org

Other Education/Vocation Opportunities

Americorps

www.americorps.org

JobCorps

www.jobcorps.org

Year Up

www.yearup.org

You can get Independent Living and Transitional Living Services through workshops, classes, individual sessions and/or community experiences all tailored to meet your needs.



 Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

Transforming lives

DSHS 22-1161 (Rev. 4/16)

Washington State's Programs for Foster Youth:

Independent Living, Transitional Living and Education and Training Voucher

Helpful Information for Youth and Young Adults

Washington State's Adolescent Services
Building a Brighter Future



■ **Independent Living (IL)**

The Independent Living program is available if you are age 15 to age 18 and you are in the legal custody and care of DSHS or tribal out-of-home care. Your caseworker will make a referral on your behalf to a local IL provider beginning at age 15.

The IL program helps you get ready to live on your own by providing information and assistance on:

- How to manage your money
- How to get and keep a job
- Daily living skills
- How to get along with others and build valuable relationships and a network of support
- How to find and maintain a safe place to live
- How to do well in high school or get into a high school equivalency program
- How to prepare for education or training past high school
- How to speak up for yourself and get your needs met

■ **Transitional Living (TL)**

Transitional Living services are for current and former foster youth ages 18-21 entering adulthood. The program is voluntary and you can self-refer to a local provider.

The TL program provides services to help you succeed when you are becoming self-sufficient:

- Educational services that can help with everything from learning to read to preparing for and getting into a college or training program
- Financial assistance
- Locating housing resources
- How to find a job, apply, and prepare for interviews
- One-on-one coaching and help with skills needed to live on your own such as:
 - How to manage your money
 - How to find and keep safe housing
 - How to make smart spending decisions and what to do if you get into money trouble
 - Parenting skills
 - How to find a doctor or dentist
 - Where to go in your community to socialize and find support

“When I lost my job due to unfortunate circumstances my Independent Living worker was there for me, helping cover my monthly bills and doing everything possible to help me attain another job. I would have been lost without her support!”

– Merissa, age 19

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■ **Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program**

The ETV program can help pay for school and living costs to current and former foster youth up to age 21 who are seeking education and training beyond high school. Students who receive funds before turning 21 and are continuing to meet ETV requirements may be eligible up to age 23. The maximum ETV award is \$5,000 per academic year. ETV awards are unique to each student and are based on the college or university's Cost of Attendance (COA), financial aid award and student's unmet need.

ETV can be used for:

- School tuition and fees, on-campus or off-campus housing allowance
- Books, supplies and fees
- Day care if you have a child
- Costs relating to a disability such as tutoring or adaptive software
- Miscellaneous expenses, including rental or purchase of a personal computer, internet service and phone service

“ETV was a blessing, helping me get through college with little to no stress.”

– Leanna, age 19

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