

\$\$ Scholarship Information \$\$

Where do I begin my scholarship search?

There are many useful websites that contain excellent scholarship information. Many of them will even allow you to type in your profile so that you can save time by looking for scholarships specifically for you!

REMEMBER: Do not pay for any scholarship searches!

- **Financial Aid Information**

www.finaid.org

This website is an excellent starting point providing comprehensive Financial Aid information on the Internet. At this website, you will find very useful information for a variety of populations.

- **FastWEB**

www.fastweb.com

This is one of the largest free scholarship search services on the Internet. It contains a searchable database of millions of public and private scholarships, grants and loans. Students register on-line and fastWEB responds with a list of matching award programs. Tip: Say no to all the ads to avoid email spam.

- **CollegeNET-MACH 25**

www.collegenet.com/mach25

This free scholarship search engine lists more than 500,000 private sector awards. Award listings are matched to student profiles.

- **College Board Scholarship Search**

http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_ss/welcome.jsp

This free version of the College Board's FUNDFINDER database can be used to find scholarships, loans, internships, and financial aid programs from non-college sources.

- **Zinch Scholarship Search**

www.zinch.com

This free scholarship and college match service provides over \$2 billion scholarships.

- **Scholarships.com**

www.scholarships.com

This scholarship search engine was created in 1998 and lists over 2.7 million scholarships and grants.

- **Educators for Fair Consideration**

www.e4fc.org

Our mission is to help immigrant students realize the American dream of college and citizenship. We provide direct support and advocacy for immigrant students who have grown up in the United States but face challenges due to financial need and immigration status.

- **Latino College Dollars**

www.latinocollegedollars.org

This free scholarship search engine, geared for students from Latino communities, contains a variety of scholarships searchable by grade level, GPA and citizenship.

- **Black College Dollars**

www.blackcollegedollars.org

This free scholarship search, geared for African-American students, contains more than 300 scholarships searchable by GPA requirement, academic and career interest, and application deadline.

- **California Colleges**

www.californiacolleges.edu/finance/scholarship-search.asp

This scholarship search engine provides scholarships that match your profile, such as your specific skills, interests and background, after you answer general questions about yourself.

- **East Bay Consortium/Cal-SOAP**

www.eastbayconsortium.org (click on scholarship directory)

Over 200 local (East Bay) and national scholarships listed.

\$\$ Terminologies in the World of Free Money \$\$

- **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid):**

www.fafsa.gov (NOT fafsa.com)

It all starts with the FAFSA. Every institution of post-secondary education (vocational, career, public, private, 2- or 4-year) uses this form to determine how much financial aid they can award you. Do this form between Jan 1-Mar 2 of your senior year and every year you are in college.

- **Cal Grants:**

www.calgrants.org or www.csac.ca.gov

With a Cal Grant you can get up to \$12,192 a year to pay for college expenses at any qualifying CA college, university or career or technical school in CA. Depending on which Cal Grant you get (A, B or C), the money can be used for tuition, room and board, even books and pencils. The best part is, it's yours to keep and you don't have to pay it back. All you have to do is submit the FAFSA between January 1 and March 2 and submit a verified Cal Grant GPA anytime between November and the March 2 deadline.

Different Types of Financial Aid

- **Scholarships:**

Scholarships are awarded to certain students based on specific criteria and are always free money that does not need to be repaid. They can be need-based, or based on merit, major, ethnicity, community service, talent, or special circumstances. They can come from private companies or from your college.

All you need to do is APPLY!

- **Grants:**

Grants are usually awarded to students based on documented financial need. Grants are free money that do not need to be repaid.

- **Loans:**

Loans are the only financial awards that must be paid back, with interest. There are many flavors of loans, ranging from Subsidized Student Loans in which the government pays the interest while the student is in college, to Parent Loans in which interest begins immediately.

- **Work-Study:**

Federal College Work-Study awards enable you to earn part of your financial aid through employment on or off campus during the academic year. A portion of your earned wages is paid with federal funding.

Nationally Well-Known Scholarships

- Coca-Cola
- Ronald McDonald House Charities
- Burger King
- KFC's Colonel's Scholars
- Best Buy
- Elks Club
- AXA Achievement
- US Bank
- Mahatma Rice
- USA Funds
- Metro PCS
- Jackie Robinson Foundation
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund
- Hispanic College Fund
- Bill and Melinda Gates (Gates Millennium Scholars)
- PG+E (sponsored by their employee associations)
- Kaiser Permanente (sponsored by their employee associations)

Scholarships for Oakland (or Bay Area) Students

- **Marcus A. Foster Educational Institute (MAFEI):** www.marcusfoster.org
- **East Bay College Fund:** www.eastbaycollegefund.org
- **East Bay Consortium/Cal-SOAP:** www.eastbayconsortium.org
- **Port of Oakland / Asian Employees Association:** www.portaea.org
- **Oakland Dollars for Scholars:** www.scholarshipbayarea.org
- **Good Tidings Foundation:** www.goodtidings.org
- **Boys and Girls Clubs of Oakland:** www.bgcoakland.org

Foster Youth Resources, Scholarships & Grants:

- **Foster Care Outreach & Information**

www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov

A website for Foster Youth. Ombudsman's Office Free Help Line: 1-877-846-1602

- **California Youth Connection**

www.calyouthconn.org

CYC promotes the participation of foster youth in policy development and legislative change to improve the foster care system, and strives to improve social work practice and child welfare policy. CYC Chapters in counties throughout the state identify local issues and use grassroots and community.

- **California College Pathways Project**

www.cacollegepathways.org

The goal of the California College Pathways Project is to increase the number of foster youth in California who enter higher education and achieve an academic outcome by expanding access to campus support programs, such as the Guardian Scholars Program, the Renaissance Scholars Program and other successful approaches to supporting former foster youth on campus.

- **Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP)**

www.alamedacountyilsp.org

A program supporting youth transitioning from the foster care or juvenile justice system to independent living. The ILSP scholarship program is open to ILSP seniors who will enroll in college or vocational training post high school. Check with your trainer for an application. Deadlines for scholarship applications can be found on the ILSP Calendar page. Book grants also available.

- **Chafee Grant**

www.chafee.csac.ca.gov

If you are or were in foster care and have financial need, you may qualify for up to \$5,000 a year for career and technical training or college. You don't have to pay this money back. You may also be able to use your grant to help pay for child care, transportation and rent while you're in school. You can use your Chafee Grant at any eligible California college or university or career or technical school, as well as schools in other states.

- **Guardian Scholars or Renaissance Scholars (contact the EOP offices at each college)**

A comprehensive program with the goal of supporting former foster youth in their efforts to gain a university, community college or trade school education. Guardian Scholars students receive:

- Full Financial Aid Package - grants and scholarship packages cover tuition and living expenses.
- Housing – priority for campus housing and availability of year-round housing, either on or off campus.
- Academic Advisement – assistance with class selection & registration.
- Employment Services, Mentoring and Career Counseling – job placement, shadowing and advising.
- Personal Guidance, Counseling, Tutoring – regular contact with a consistent counselor to develop and monitor an education plan.
- Supplemental Support Services – child care, transportation help, book and supply vouchers etc.

- **The Orphan Foundation of America Scholarships for Youth in Foster Care**

www.orphan.org & www.casey.org

The Casey Family Scholars Program has been administered by OFA since 2001. It provides scholarships of up to \$10,000 to young people, under the age of 25, who were in foster care for one consecutive year at the time of their 18th birthday or high school graduation OR were adopted or taken into legal guardianship out of foster care after their 16th birthday. Scholarships are awarded for the pursuit of post-secondary education, including vocational/technical training, and are renewable each year based on satisfactory progress and financial need. In addition to the money, Casey Family Scholars will receive ongoing support through OFA's Mentor program.

- **"Dare to Dream" Academic Scholarship**

www.fosteradream.org

Foster a Dream: Our programs provide the important extras the child welfare system is simply unable to provide, things that focus on "social" well-being and opportunity for success.

- **Darko Rapotez Memorial College Scholarship Fund For Aged Out Foster Youth**

www.loveourchildrenusa.org/scholarship.php

The Darko Rapotez Memorial College Scholarship Fund For Aged Out Foster Youth (an initiative of Love Our Children USA) is a scholarship program that has been established to assist exceptional youths who age out of the foster care system who wish to further their education. Scholarship recipients will receive up to \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year or as much as the fund will allow. Students are encouraged to reapply for each academic year. Scholarships are available to youths between the ages of 18 to 24 years of age who have aged out of the foster care system, and will be awarded to youths on the basis of academic excellence (3.0 gpa) and need.

- **National Foster Parent Association and the University of Phoenix**

www.nfpainc.org

The National Foster Parent Association is the only national organization which strives to support foster parents, and remains a consistently strong voice on behalf of all children. The University of Phoenix and NFA have joined together to offer 50 scholarships to foster youth under the banner of the University's First Chance Scholarship program.