

# Foster Youth Fee Waiver

## How: Steps to Obtain

### STEP 1: COMPLETE THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)!

- **FINANCIAL AID (or STUDENT AID) = MONEY FOR SCHOOL** (most often refers to financial assistance for college)
- **FEE WAIVERS, VOUCHERS, GRANTS, and SCHOLARSHIPS = “GIFT AID”**
  - ⇒ **“GIFT AID”** is financial aid that is awarded to you—based on foster care history, financial need, and/or other specialized eligibility criteria—that **DOES NOT NEED TO BE REPAID (i.e. it is a “gift”)**, provided you are maintaining sufficient attendance in your classes and meeting all financial aid regulations (unlike LOANS, which need to be repaid, with interest!).
- **FAFSA = FEDERAL STUDENT AID APPLICATION FORM** (the FAFSA, itself, is NOT a form of financial aid)

To be considered for the fee waiver and other “gift aid,” complete/submit your FAFSA at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov). It opens on October 1<sup>st</sup> each year, for the following academic year. **SUBMIT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, BEFORE THE PRIORITY DEADLINE** for your school, prior to every academic year in which you plan to enroll. Indicate if you were in foster care (adjudicated “ward of the court” status) at/after age 13. If this applies to you and you have documentation, you’ll be deemed “financially independent” for financial aid purposes. This means that you do NOT need to (and SHOULD NOT) enter any parental income information, even if someone is claiming you on their taxes.

### STEP 2: COMPLETE/SUBMIT THE APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION FOR YOUR NSHE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY OF CHOICE, PRIOR TO THEIR APPLICATION DEADLINE!



**STEP 3: ONCE ADMITTED TO YOUR NSHE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY OF CHOICE, COMPLETE/SUBMIT THE FOSTER YOUTH FEE WAIVER FORM, WHICH CAN BE ACCESSED AT [https://nshe.nevada.edu/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Affairs/fostering-success/NSHE\\_Foster\\_Youth\\_Fee\\_Waiver.pdf](https://nshe.nevada.edu/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Affairs/fostering-success/NSHE_Foster_Youth_Fee_Waiver.pdf) (always access the form through the link, to ensure that you have the most updated version, with the correct contact information)!**

**ALONG WITH THE FORM, YOU NEED TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

- 1) Your **FINAL, OFFICIAL High School Transcript**, showing proof of graduation; OR, if applicable, your **OFFICIAL Certificate of High School Equivalency (TASC, HiSET, or GED) test scores**
- 2) **Verification that you were in the custody of a Nevada child welfare agency, at or after age 13**, which could include (but is not limited to) any of the following options:
  - A Ward of the Court letter from a Nevada state (Nevada Division of Child and Family Services) or county (Clark County Department of Family Services or Washoe County Human Services Agency) child welfare agency that shows proof of the dates you were in foster care (adjudicated “ward of the court” status)
  - A copy of a court document that verifies **WARDSHIP** within the Nevada foster care system
  - A copy of a court document that shows proof of “aging out” of foster care, in Nevada, such as a court order for Court Jurisdiction services

**YOU WILL ONLY SUBMIT THE FORM ONCE (NOT EVERY SEMESTER/YEAR), UNLESS YOU TRANSFER TO A DIFFERENT SCHOOL** (transfer students need to submit a new fee waiver form to their new school, for tracking purposes; but their foster care documentation can be transferred between the NSHE schools).

### STEP 4: USE YOUR RESOURCES AND ASK FOR HELP!

- **Foster Youth Fee Waiver:** [Who, What, When, Where, & Why Fact Sheet](#); [FAQs Fact Sheet](#)
  - » The [fee waiver form](#) lists the contacts for each NSHE school and Nevada child welfare agency.
- **Financial Aid:** [Foster Care-Specific Financial Aid Fact Sheet](#); [Nevada Fostering Success Financial Aid and FAFSA Guide](#); [Nevada Fostering Success Financial Aid Toolkit](#); [Federal Student Aid Help Center](#)
- **FAFSA:** [Foster Care-Specific FAFSA Fact Sheet](#); [Federal Student Aid Help Center](#)
- **Questions about the fee waiver policy/requirements, or any of the info/resources covered on this fact sheet?** Contact Laura Obrist, with the [NSHE Fostering Success Initiative](#).
  - » Email Address: [lobrist@nshe.nevada.edu](mailto:lobrist@nshe.nevada.edu); Phone Number (call or text): [702-522-7035](tel:702-522-7035)

