

Frequently Asked Questions: Education and Training Voucher (ETV)

Q: What is the Education and Training Voucher (ETV)?

A: The Education and Training Voucher is a nationwide federal program administered by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) through their contract provider BCFS Health and Human Services (BCFS). Through this program, youth or young adults who are currently or formerly in foster care and enrolled as students in Texas supported public higher education (college, university, vocational, or technical) programs may be eligible to receive financial assistance. The ETV program is not a loan and does not need to be paid back.

Q: Do I qualify for ETV?

A: Am I any one of the following, if yes, then I am eligible for ETV:

- I am at least 16 and in DFPS care or are in extended foster care; or
- I aged out of DFPS foster care and am not yet age 23; or
- I was adopted from DFPS foster care after turning age 16 and are not yet 23; or
- I was legally emancipated by a court while in DFPS foster care and I am not yet 23; or
- I entered Permanency Care Assistance from DFPS foster care after turning age 16 and I am not yet age 23; or
- I was in the custody of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (formerly TJJC) or under the jurisdiction of a local juvenile probation department and received Title IV-E foster care payments the day before turning age 18 and am not yet age 23.

Q: Who can verify my eligibility for ETV?

A: ETV eligibility can be verified by DFPS PAL Staff, Transitional Living Services Staff, Adoption Assistance Eligibility Staff, or the student's tribal representatives, as applicable and appropriate.

Q: What costs will ETV cover?

A: ETV covers what is called Cost of Attendance or COA. COA is determined by the individual college the student attends and is a listing of the items and their costs for students that attend the college. Each college posts the institution's COA on the college's website.

For full-time students and students who are considered at least half-time students by the college they attend, COA includes:

- Tuition, if not already covered by the Texas Tuition and Fee Waiver;
- Room and Board (shelter, food, clothing), unless you are in DFPS conservatorship or the DFPS Extended Foster Care Program;
- Books;
- Classroom supplies and materials; or
- Miscellaneous personal expenses.

ETV cannot pay for items not included in the college's COA.

Q: Is there a cap on ETV funding?

A: The amount of ETV funding a qualified student may access per school year (Fall-Summer) is \$5,000.00. ETV only covers the remaining portion of your COA, if any, after all other educational funding sources accepted by the student (Tuition and Fee Waiver, grants, scholarships, and loans) are applied to your COA. If your other educational sources entirely cover your COA, you will not receive ETV funds.

Q: How many hours do I have to take to be able to receive ETV?

A: You must take at least 6 semester hours to receive ETV. If you are enrolled in a dual credit course, you are required to enroll into at least one class to qualify.

Q: What type of course do I have to be enrolled in to receive ETV?

A: The higher education institution must be able to calculate a cost of attendance (COA) for the course.

Q: What type of higher education institution do I have to enroll in to receive ETV?

A: You may enroll in an accredited or pre-accredited public, private, or non-profit institution of higher education that provides either a graduate degree, 4-year or 2-year degree, or a certificate of training that prepares students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation.

➤ **Institution of higher education:**

- Public or private nonprofit university/college;
- Provides an educational program that awards a bachelor's degree (Example: Bachelor of Science, Arts, or Fine Arts); OR provides a 2-year program, e.g. associate degree, graduate degree (Example: Associate of Culinary Arts, Criminal Justice or Science Studies); OR provides at least a one-year training program to prepare student for gainful employment in a recognized occupation (Example: Line Worker, Mechanic, or Machinist);
- Admits as students only persons who have graduated from high-school, those that have received their GED, or those dually/concurrently enrolled in high-school and college;
- Legally authorized within the State to provide post-secondary education; and
- Accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association that has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, or has been granted pre-accreditation status by such agency or association and the U.S. Department of Education had determined that there is satisfactory assurance that the institution will meet the accreditation standards within a reasonable time.

➤ **Proprietary (For-Profit) institution of higher education:**

- Program of training to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation OR provides a program leading to a baccalaureate degree in liberal arts, and has provided such a program since January 1, 2009 and the accreditation for the organization has been since October 1, 2007 and has been continuous (Example: Southern Careers Institute: Medical Assistant and Medical Billing and Coding Specialist Programs or Aveda Institute or Ogle School: Cosmetology Program);
- Has been in existence for at least 2 years;
- Admits as students only persons who have graduated from high-school, those that have received their GED, or those dually/concurrently enrolled in high-school and college;
- Legally authorized within the State to provide post-secondary education; and
- Accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

➤ **Postsecondary vocational institution**

- Public or private nonprofit university/college;
- Provides a program to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation (Example: Texas State Technical School: Line Worker, Mechanic, or Machinist;
- Admits as students only persons who have graduated from high-school, those that have received their GED, or those dually/concurrently enrolled in high-school and college;
- Legally authorized within the State to provide post-secondary education; and
- Accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association that has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, or has been granted pre-accreditation status by such agency or association and the U.S. Department of Education had determined that there is satisfactory assurance that the institution will meet the accreditation standards within a reasonable time.

Q: How long can I get ETV?

A: You can receive ETV up to age 23, as long as you are making satisfactory progress towards completion of the program you are enrolled in. In no event can you receive ETV beyond 15 semesters.

Q: How do I apply for ETV?

A: Eligible students must apply or re-apply for the ETV funds through the [BFCS ETV program website](#). Students must submit the application and supporting documents, such as the Student Aid report from their completed FAFSA application, when applying. While students are not required to accept loans, they are required to turn in the award letter as part of the application process.

Q: Where can I get assistance with filling out the ETV application?

A: Please contact any of the following resources below for further assistance:

- [PAL Staff](#)
- [Adoption Assistance Eligibility Staff](#)
- ETV Contractor - [BCSF Human and Health Services](#); Hotline: 1-877-268-4063.

Q: Where can I get general information about ETV?

A: For more information on the ETV program, visit the DFPS [Education and Training Voucher \(ETV\) Program webpage](#).