

# CHAPTER 15

## Education and Training Voucher Grant

### Overview

The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Grant is a federally-funded program to provide postsecondary education and training opportunities to students who are currently or who have been in foster care. Recipients must make satisfactory academic progress to receive awards. Awards are prorated for students enrolling less than full-time.

**Date Established:** 2004

### A. ELIGIBILITY

#### 1. College and University

Colleges and universities must meet the definition of 'institution of higher education' as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Colleges and universities may be located outside of Iowa.

#### 2. Student

To receive an ETV Grant, a student must have been:

- In a licensed foster care placement under a court order as described in Iowa Code chapter 232 under the care and custody of the Department of Human Services or Juvenile Court Services on the date the youth reached the age of 18 or during the 30 calendar days before or after that date;
- Under court order under Iowa Code chapter 232 to live with a relative or other suitable person on the date the youth reached the age of 18 or during the 30 calendar days before or after that date;
- In a licensed foster care placement under an order entered under Iowa Code chapter 232 prior to being legally adopted after reaching the age of 16; or,
- In a court-ordered Subsidized Guardianship after the age of 16.

In addition, the student must:

- Enroll, or plan to enroll at an eligible college or university;
- Submit a FAFSA;
- Complete the Iowa Financial Aid Application by December 1.

## **B. STUDENT APPLICATION PROCESS**

Students must file both the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Iowa Financial Aid Application to be eligible to receive the ETV Grant.

Students must be under the age of 21 the first time they submit an application and begin attending college. Students must re-apply each year to be considered for an annual award. Students can be funded until the age of 23 if the student received an award at age 21; and has been,

- Continuously enrolled in postsecondary education;
- Continuously receiving an ETV award;
- Maintaining satisfactory academic progress as defined by the eligible college or university.

## **C. SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS**

Awards will first be made to returning students who submit applications by the March 1 priority deadline. Once all on-time renewal applications are awarded, new applications and late renewal applications will be considered in date-received order.

Once funds have been committed for an academic year, any unfunded applicants will be added to a waiting list based on the date and time the online application was received.

## **D. AWARD AMOUNTS AND LIMITS**

All ETV Grant recipients are eligible to receive awards of up to \$5,000 per year based on the student's enrollment status. Students enrolled less than full-time can receive pro-rated ETV awards. These awards are not subject to the Commission's gift aid regulations (Chapter 2), as the award can cover a recipient's EFC.

Proration for semester schools:

	Award per semester
Full-time	\$2,500
$\frac{3}{4}$ time	\$1,875
$\frac{1}{2}$ time	\$1,250
< $\frac{1}{2}$ time	\$ 625

Proration for quarter schools:

	Award per quarter
Full-time	\$1,250
$\frac{3}{4}$ time	\$ 938
$\frac{1}{2}$ time	\$ 625
$< \frac{1}{2}$ time	\$ 313

Eligibility for assistance under this program ends when the student reaches the age of 23.

Payments are disbursed on a per term basis and may be used by college or university officials to pay tuition, fees, books and room and board charges. If credit balances remain after charges are paid, college or university officials may distribute grant balances to students. Students must use the proceeds for other bona fide education expenses such as books, equipment, and transportation.

#### **E. AWARD NOTIFICATION**

The Commission will provide award notices to ETV Grant recipients. Award notices will clearly indicate award maximums.

#### **F. RENEWAL ELIGIBILITY**

Students must complete and file annual FAFSAs and Iowa Financial Aid Applications for the ETV Grant by the deadline established by the Commission. If funds remain available after the application deadline, the Commission will continue to accept applications. To be eligible for a renewal award, a student must maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by the college or university.

#### **G. CHANGES/CORRECTIONS**

Any changes in awards must be provided to Commission staff electronically via the State Scholarship and Grant Reporting System (see Chapter 3 and Appendix A).

## **H. VERIFICATION/COMPLIANCE**

College officials are responsible for completing required federal verification procedures and for coordinating all aid to ensure compliance with student eligibility and allowable award amounts.

For students selected for federal verification, one disbursement of state-funded student financial aid may be made prior to completing the verification process as long as college or university officials have no reason to believe application information is inaccurate. If students become ineligible for aid due to verification activities, refunds must be made to state-funded programs.