COLLEGE WITHIN REACH

Tuition grants for community college courses, both credit and non-credit are available for students who were in foster care, the custody of social services or who were special needs adoptees at time of graduation or GED.

TUITION GRANTS

WHAT IS THE PROGRAM?
In 2000, legislation passed that created the Tuition Grant program to provide tuition and fees at any Virginia community college for high school graduates or GED completers in foster care or the custody of a social services agency, or considered a special needs adoption. This legislation was revised in 2009 and again in 2017. See below for provisions.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?
Anyone certified to be in foster care, in the custody of a social service agency or a special needs adoption at the time they received their high school diploma or equivalency, or was formerly in foster care when turning 18 and subsequently received a high school diploma or equivalency is eligible as long as he or she:

- Enrolls in and maintains at least half-time enrollment (with a minimum of six credits) in an eligible program of at least one academic year in length or enrolls in a non-credit workforce program
- Is a resident of Virginia according to Section 23-7.4 of Code of Virginia
- Meets the satisfactory academic standards of the college for federal student student financial aid
- Has not been previously enrolled full-time in a post-secondary institution more than five years and does not have a prior bachelor's degree
- Demonstrates financial need

HOW DO STUDENTS APPLY?
Potential students who fall in one of the three categories listed above must:

- Complete and submit to the U.S. Dept. of Education the FAFSA (credit programs) or complete financial aid forms required by the college's workforce development office (non-credit programs)
- Complete and submit an application for admission to the community college of your choice
- Submit documentation from the Department of Social Services regarding dates in foster care, or assistance received for a special needs adoption to the college's financial aid or workforce development office

HOW MUCH IS THE AWARD?
Awards will be provided to eligible applicants who are not already receiving sufficient grants to pay for their tuition and fees. Students who are already receiving grant funds that cover tuition and fees are not eligible for these awards.

DOES THE GRANT HAVE TO BE REPAID?
If a student's enrollment level drops below six credits or they drop out of their non-credit workforce program, eligibilty for the grant is lost, and therefore, needs to be repaid.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
To find a Great Expectations coach:
www.greatexpectations.vccs.edu
For social services, visit:
http://dss.virginia.gov/family/fc/etv.cgi
For: **Code of Virginia § 23.1-601 https://bit.ly/2Mp35Lx**

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