The California Chafee Grant for Foster Youth Program (Chafee Grant)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Eligibility

What are the eligibility requirements to receive the Chafee Grant?

To be eligible for the Chafee Grant, a student must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Not have reached your 26th birthday as of July 1st of the award year.

    AND

- Be a current or former foster youth who was a dependent or ward of the court, living a in out-of-home foster care placement, between the ages of 16 and 18.

    OR

- Be a youth who was placed in out-of-home care by a tribe or tribal organization between the ages of 16-18.

I was adopted, am I eligible for the Chafee Grant?

Youth who are/were in Kin-GAP, a non-related legal guardianship or were adopted, are not eligible unless the youth was a dependent or ward of the court, living in foster care, at some point between the ages of 16 and 18.

How long can I receive the Chafee Grant?

In accordance with California Education Code 69519, a student's receipt of a Chafee Grant award shall not exceed five years (whether or not consecutive).

What Institutions qualify for the Chafee Grant?

All institutions that are eligible to participate in the Cal Grant program may participate in the Chafee Grant program. Vocational and technical schools may also participate in the Chafee Grant if Cal Grant eligible.
Out-of- state institutions who provide at least two Title IV financial aid programs, have a three-year cohort default rate that is less than 15.5 percent and a graduation rate greater than 30 percent.

Can I attend a school outside the State of California?

Yes, if the out-of-state institution provides at least two Title IV financial aid programs, has a three-year cohort default rate that is less than 15.5 percent and a graduation rate greater than 30 percent. Keep in mind out-of-state school participation is voluntary.

Application Status on WebGrants

When I login to WebGrants it says I am missing my FAFSA or California Dream Act Application, but I know I did it.

Our system can only see your financial aid application if you list a California institution. Please update your FAFSA and include a California institution. You may send a secure email to chafee@csac.ca.gov and include a copy of your Student Aid Report (SAR).

When I login to WebGrants it says I am missing a Chafee application, but I know I did it.

Please email chafee@csac.ca.gov regarding this issue. You may have two Chafee applications on file.

Awarding

What does the "Eligible – Not Awarded" status mean on my WebGrants for Students account?

"Eligible – Not Awarded" status means we have received all components for the Chafee Grant application. The Commission will review the FAFSA or CADAA and Chafee Grant Application for award consideration.

Awards for the upcoming academic year begin processing in July. Your status can change as awards are processed weekly. Your award status can also change based on how awards are prioritized.

The majority of Chafee Grant awards are initiated during the fall term and additional awards are offered year-round based on available federal and state funding each year.

How are awards prioritized?

Student's completed applications are sorted by application date, and awards are offered based on the following priority selection criteria:

1. Paid renewal students who have not reached their 26th birthday as of July 1st of the award year.

2. New and non-paid renewal students who will be 25 years old as of July 1st of the award year.
3. New and non-paid renewal students who have dependents.
4. New and non-paid renewal students who have an unmet need of $5,000 or more.
5. New and non-paid renewal students who have an unmet need of less than $5,000.

Students selected for an award will be notified via email.

Payments

WebGrants for Students says that I am "Awarded", now what?

"Awarded" status means your institution will verify payment eligibility, request funds, and disburse the check. The financial aid office will have to certify your award and request payment. Please allow three to four weeks before the grant arrives at your campus.

Will I receive $5,000 all at once?

No, your award will be determined based on your financial need. We also divide your award by the terms attended. For example:

Students attending a semester term school will receive 2 payments, if they attend both semesters. Students attending a quarter term school will receive 3 payments, if they attend all three quarters. Students in a year-round term program will receive 4 payments if they attend every quarter (including summer) in the academic year.

Below is an example of a student's payout at various institution types assuming the student has $5,000 in unmet need, attends all required terms, and is enrolled at least half time.

Attending a semester school	Semester 1 $2,500	Semester 2 $2,500			Total: $5,000
Attending a 3-quarter school	Quarter 1 $1,667	Quarter 2 $1,667	Quarter 3 $1,666		Total: $5,000
Attending a 4-quarter school	Quarter 1 $1,250	Quarter 2 $1,250	Quarter 3 $1,250	Quarter 4 $1,250	Total: $5,000

I had over $5,000 in need but only attended one semester. How much will I receive?

$2,500. Consult the chart above. For each term, you successfully complete you will qualify for the corresponding award amount. If you only attend a single semester or a single quarter, you will only receive a single payment that academic year.

I looked at the chart and my term payment is less than what is listed.

If you receive a term payment less than what is in the chart above, it is most likely due to insufficient need. If your need is below $5,000 then the term payment will be prorated. For example, if your unmet need is $4,000 and you attend a semester term school, you would receive $2,000 per term.

Not Eligible

WebGrants for Students says that I am "Not Awarded", now what?

"Not Awarded" status means your institution updated your status to not enrolled, enrolled less than half time, or not meeting satisfactory academic progress. Please contact your financial aid office for clarification.

WebGrants for Students says that my application has been withdrawn, now what?

All foster care eligibility is verified by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). Your eligibility will be confirmed prior to payment. Questions regarding your foster care eligibility should be sent to CFSChafeeETV@dss.ca.gov.

My 'Status' in WebGrants for Students says that I am, 'Not Awarded – Ineligible – Not Enrolled'. Can I get the award back?

The most common reason for this status is an incorrect school of attendance listed on your account. Please double check your school of attendance on WebGrants for Students. Once corrected, you will be reconsidered for an award.

My 'Status' in WebGrants for Students says that I am, 'Enrolled Less than Half-time'. Can I get the award back?

Please work with your financial aid office. If they determine that you are now eligible to receive the Chafee Grant, they can update your account on the payment roster.

My 'Status' in WebGrants for Students says that I am, 'Not Maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress'. Can I get the award back?

Please work with your financial aid office to determine what steps you need to take to regain eligibility for the Chafee Grant.

<p align="center">**Renewing the Chafee Grant**</p>

Do I have to submit the Chafee Application and CDSS verification every year?

No, to renew your Chafee Grant, you must complete a financial aid application for the upcoming school year.