



Foster Youth Fee Waiver

How: Steps to Obtain

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

FAFSA = FEDERAL STUDENT AID APPLICATION FORM (the FAFSA, itself, is NOT a form of financial aid)

To be considered for the **NSHE Foster Youth Fee Waiver** (for course registration/enrollment fees) and other “gift aid” (i.e. financial aid that DOES NOT NEED TO BE REPAYED, provided you are maintaining sufficient attendance in your classes and meeting all financial aid regulations), complete/submit your FAFSA, annually, at fafsa.gov. The FAFSA opens on October 1st 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 in college-level courses.

Indicate if you were in foster care at and/or after age 13 (adjudicated “ward of the court” status). If this applies to you and you provide the required documentation, you will be deemed “financially independent” for financial aid determination purposes. This means that you do NOT need to (and SHOULD NOT) enter any caregiver income information on your FAFSA form, even if someone is claiming you on their taxes. **Make sure that you CHECK BOTH** the “ward of the court” **BOX** and the “foster care” **BOX** in the *Student Personal Circumstances* section of the FAFSA!

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 SCHOOL OF CHOICE, COMPLETE/SUBMIT THE FOSTER YOUTH FEE WAIVER FORM AND YOUR SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION!

FEE WAIVER FORM ACCESS & SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Go to the [fee waiver form hyperlink](#), which always has the most updated version of the fee waiver form, with the correct eligibility and contact information (make sure that you access the current electronic version—NOT an older version, such as an old saved PDF or an old printed copy!).
- 2) Download the form, save it to your computer or phone, and fully/accurately fill it out (it **cannot** be completed/submitted online!). Click the down arrow button ↓ in the top righthand corner of the electronic form, and select the location on your computer or phone where you would like to save the form. Once it's saved, go to that location, open the saved form, complete it, and save the completed version. If you do NOT already have access to Adobe Acrobat Reader—to view, fill, sign, print, and/or share PDF documents—you will first need to access that software by:
 - a) [downloading the free PC version](#) to your computer; b) [downloading the free app](#) to your phone (you can also use the direct [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) links); or c) [accessing it online](#) (if you do not want to download it to your computer or phone), to upload the form and add your digital signature.
- 3) After fully and accurately completing the fee waiver form electronically, you will need to **email the completed form to the contact person for your chosen college/university**, listed on page 2 of the form.
 - **IMPORTANT NOTE ON PHYSICAL PAPER SUBMISSIONS:** While we will accept fully and accurately completed physical paper forms, the form is designed to be accessed, completed, and submitted electronically; so, it is ideal for students to electronically access, complete, and submit it. Electronic completion reduces errors, because the electronic version has drop-down menu answer options that provide clarity; electronic completion also allows you to save your own copy, for your records, which is recommended. Additionally, electronic completion makes electronic submission (which is more efficient and preferred) easier—because you don't need to scan a completed physical copy into your computer or phone, or travel to campus to submit a physical copy.
 - **IMPORTANT NOTE ON SUBMISSION TIMING:** You will need to wait until AFTER YOU ARE ADMITTED to college to submit your form—because you will need to include your assigned NSHE Student ID Number AND identify which college/university you will be attending/seeking fee waiver funding from, on the form (the school personnel CANNOT add this for you, as it presents a legal issue to alter the form after the student has signed it!).

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 (HiSET, TASC, or GED) test scores**; AND
- 2) **CLEAR verification that you were in the custody of a Nevada child welfare agency, at and/or after age 13** (adjudicated “ward of the court” status, for any length of time), which could include (but is not limited to) any of the following options:
 - **PREFERRED VERIFICATION DOCUMENT:** Ward of the Court letter, from a Nevada child welfare agency (*Clark County Family Services, Washoe County Human Services Agency, or Nevada Division of Child and Family Services*), that verifies the dates you were in foster care, in Nevada, at and/or after age 13 (adjudicated “ward of the court” status)
 - **OTHER DOCUMENT OPTIONS:** a) Court document that shows proof of “aging out” of foster care, in Nevada (such as a court order for Extended Foster Care services) OR b) Court document that clearly verifies adjudicated **WARDSHIP** within the Nevada foster care system, at and/or after age 13

STEP 4: USE YOUR RESOURCES AND ASK FOR HELP!

- **Foster Youth Fee Waiver:** [Who, What, When, Where, & Why Fact Sheet](#); [FAQs Fact Sheet](#); [Fee Waiver Form](#) (lists school/agency contacts)
- **Financial Aid:** [Foster Care-Specific Financial Aid Fact Sheet, for Nevada Students](#); [Nevada Fostering Success Financial Aid Guide](#); [Comprehensive Nevada Fostering Success Financial Aid Toolkit](#); [Federal Student Aid Help Center](#)
- **FAFSA:** [Foster Care-Specific FAFSA Fact Sheet, for Nevada Students](#); [Nevada Fostering Success FAFSA Guide](#); [Federal Student Aid Help Center](#)
- **Questions about the fee waiver policy/requirements, or any of the information/resources covered on this fact sheet**
⇒ Contact Laura Obrist, statewide contact for the [NSHE Fostering Success Initiative](#) (lobrist@nshe.nevada.edu; 702-522-7035 - call/text).