

TUITION WAIVER FOR FOSTER AND ADOPTED CHILDREN PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: If am planning on attending college this year when do I apply for the tuition waiver?

Answer: For priority consideration for an award the application must be completed and submitted to DCYF by May 1st in the year when you will be attending college in the fall.

Question: When will I know if I have been selected to receive an award?

Answer: Notification is typically made by June 30th.

Question: When if the institution I am applying to requires a housing deposit prior to completion of the tuition waiver selection process?

Answer: Tuition waiver applicants may request to delay payment of their housing deposit until final waiver awards have been determined.

Question: If I complete the application and meet my institutional financial aid deadline, will I receive an award?

Answer: Applicants are not guaranteed an award. Each system-the University System of New Hampshire (USNH) and the Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH)-will provide a maximum of 35 tuition/fee waivers to eligible students each year. Returning waiver recipients and those attending full time will be prioritized.

Question: How will it be determined if I am an eligible foster child for purposes of this program?

Answer: The New Hampshire Division of Children, Youth and Families will determine applicant eligibility under the rules of the program. Applicant must be under 26 years of age as of May 1st prior to the academic year for which aid is sought and is or was:

- (a) In state foster care for the immediate 6-month period prior to his or her 18th birthday;
- (b) In state guardianship or custody at the time of his or her 18th birthday;
- (c) In guardianship, after being in state foster care or guardianship, at the time of their 18th birthday.
- (d) In placement out-of-state, through the interstate compact for the placement of children, at the time of their 18th birthday.

Question: Are there additional requirements by the schools that participate in the waiver program?

Answer: Yes. They require you to meet their requirements for being a resident of the state of NH based on your eligibility criteria. To find out more about what those requirements are please contact the institution that you will be applying to.

Question: If I was in the legal custody or guardianship of another state like Massachusetts or Maine and placed into a foster or group home in New Hampshire would I be eligible for a waiver?

Answer: No. Only youth that were placed into or adopted from foster care/out of home placement through the New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families are eligible for a waiver through this program.

Question: Are there any requirements regarding enrollment?

Answer: Yes. Students who receive the waiver must attend full or part-time as defined by their institution (usually between 6 and 12 credits or more per semester) and be enrolled in a program leading to a certificate, associates or bachelor's degree at any New Hampshire public postsecondary institution.

Question: What costs are covered by the waiver?

Answer: The waiver covers both tuition and mandatory fees at New Hampshire public institutions.

Question: If I receive a waiver will it be in addition to the financial aid I have already received from my institution?

Answer: The Foster Care Tuition Waiver will be awarded by the institution at which the recipient is enrolled and will be applied directly to the student's financial account before other financial aid, including grants, scholarships, and loans, is applied. If you have further questions regarding the impact the waiver would have on your financial aid award, contact the financial aid office at the institution where you plan to enroll.

Question: If I received a waiver must I reapply each year or is it automatically renewed?

Answer: You must apply each year by completing:

1. NH Tuition Wavier for Foster Children application
 2. File the FAFSA by the financial aid deadline of your institution
- Note that to continue to be eligible you also must be making satisfactory academic progress as defined by the school you are attending.

Question: If I do not receive an award in my freshman year, am I eligible to apply in future years.

Answer: Yes, eligibility will be awarded on an annual basis.

Question: How many awards may I receive?

Answer: The maximum number of waivers a student may receive is 6 annual.

Question: If I miss the financial aid-filing deadline at my institution by a day am I still eligible?

Answer: No. You **must** meet your school's deadline.

Question: What schools may I attend to receive a waiver?

Answer: You must be attending either a 2-year or 4-year New Hampshire public institution: University of New Hampshire College of Professional Studies Online, Keene State College, Plymouth State University, University of New Hampshire—Manchester or Durham, New Hampshire Technical Institute, White Mountains CC, River Valley CC, Lakes Region CC, Great Bay CC, Manchester CC or Nashua CC.

Question: If I have a question about the program or completing the application whom should I contact?

Answer: Please contact Beth Nee, Youth Engagement Specialist-Adolescent Program, Elizabeth.L.Nee@dhhs.nh.gov 603-724-4487