



The OH ETV Program www.statevoucher.org

Eligibility criteria:

- Youth must be 17-20 years old to enter the program
- They must be in foster care or aged out of foster care OR they were adopted from foster care after the age of 16
- They must have a high school diploma or GED
- They must be accepted into or enrolled in an accredited college or vocational/technical training program for post-secondary education.
- To maintain eligibility they must show continued progress towards their degree or certificate
- Participation is renewable until age 23 if they are enrolled by their 21st birthday

Program specifics:

- OH ETV has the capacity to serve 600 youth attending in-state and out of state colleges and vocational training programs
- voucher funding is based on the student's unmet financial aid need - the maximum amount a student can receive is \$5000 per academic year
- funds may be used for: tuition & fees, room and board, books, a computer, transportation, health insurance, child care, living expenses

Please note in year 1 (2004) repayment of student loans expended after October 1, 2002 (Spring semester 2002) may be repaid on behalf of students – up to the maximum award of \$5000. In subsequent years, an ETV may only be used to cover education costs for the academic year it is awarded.

Application process:

The streamlined application process is easy for youth and it will collect the documentation necessary to determine each student's financial need and a disbursement plan.

- Students apply online at www.statevoucher.org
- After completing a short application they are required to print out two Microsoft Word documents
 - a **financial aid** form that they sign and take to their school's financial aid office, authorizing the school to release the necessary financial aid documentation
 - a **student budget** form that is faxed to OH ETV – toll free 1800-757-0862
 - Please note if repayment of student loans is required the student will have to provide the name and mailing address of the lender, the loan amount and the loan number.
- During the application process students who do not already have an email address will be advised to set up a free email account – this is the most efficient communication tool for busy youth and it provides the necessary paper trail for program reporting.

Lack of online access is not a deterrent to applying. Youth may complete the application from any computer with Internet access including the public library, high school guidance office, or a friend's computer.

Verifying Eligibility

It would be helpful if each PCSA or PCPA agency designates a specific worker to verify that the young person emancipated from foster care while in the agency's custody or was adopted at the age of 16 or older from the agency's custody. Once a young person has completed an application with OFA, OFA will contact the agency to verify the young person's status with that agency.

From start to finish, the application and funds disbursement can take as little as five days IF the student completes the two attachments – financial aid release form and the student budget form – and checks their email or has a working phone number in case clarification is required. However, some students need more encouragement to complete the process, which in addition to delaying the award may also diminish their chances of being funded since awards are made on a first-come, first-served basis. Please work with your clients to ensure that they respond with all materials in a timely manner.

We have enclosed a copy of an information notice on the OH ETV Program which you can distribute to staff, as well as a copy of the application and forms so you can better understand the process. We request that your agency make copies of the financial aid release form and student budget and distribute them to students when they are advised to apply. Please note all applications must be completed online. Paper copies of the application will not be accepted. However, if a student has a disability that prevents them from completing the online application, arrangements will be made to accommodate that student.

For additional info please contact:

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