

Good morning,

Please see below for information and resources related to your work with older youth.

- Older Youth Retreat Focus Group Reports are now available on the YAB website <https://www.payab.pitt.edu/Resources-FocusGroupReports.htm>
- Credit Check Resource [Credit Check Steps - CBA - Foster Credit Check](#)
- Scholarship Opportunity for those who have been in Foster Care
- February is Financial Aid Awareness Month!

Scholarship Opportunity for those who have been in Foster Care

The First Community Foundation Partnership of PA (FCFP) is announcing a scholarship available to students who have been in foster care at some point in their lives. Please pass along this information to anyone who might be eligible.

Taylor J. Ertel Scholarship for Foster Children:

- PA resident who has been placed in foster care by a child welfare agency at some point in their lives
- Admitted to a program of study: training may range from short vocational courses such as cosmetology, data entry or welding, through college and graduate study

For more information:

1. [FCFP Website Scholarship page](#)

Scholarship opportunities can be viewed here, and students apply from this page.

2. [The application portal](#)

Students create an account and complete a universal application here.

3. [Tutorial](#)

Step-by-step instructions to apply for a scholarship.



February is Financial Aid Awareness Month!

For youth and young adults experiencing homelessness or foster care, higher education can be a pathway to stability and long-term success.

Completing the FAFSA is often the first and most critical step toward accessing financial aid and making college attainable. When students understand the process and receive the support, they need to complete it, they are better positioned to enroll in postsecondary education and break the cycle of homelessness.

New Financial Aid Resources

Use these new resources to help students experiencing homelessness or foster care to submit the FAFSA and navigate the processes of getting financial aid.

1. **Q&As** Questions and answers from all our FAFSA webinars in 2025 and 2026.
from our https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fbPNHVpbPjTK_jccRKSIIeqohYulrvCTFLFDHD3gvmU/edit?emci=44cdabb8-6c07-f111-832e-0022482a9733&emdi=57f3ed24-2d08-f111-832e-0022482a9733&ceid=11618211&tab=t.fdeu2idgxmbly#heading=h.q5dlbx9jgpc3
FAFSA
webinars

[See Common FAFSA Questions](#) ➔

2. Navigating Financial Aid for Immigrant and Mixed-

Use this tool to help immigrant students and students in mixed-status families navigate the FAFSA and determine their eligibility as unaccompanied homeless youth.

Status Students Experiencing Homelessness

Who is it for: High school counselors, liaisons, and financial aid administrators

<https://schoolhouseconnection.org/article/navigating-financial-aid-for-immigrant-and-mixed-status-students-experiencing-homelessness?emci=44cdabb8-6c07-f111-832e-0022482a9733&emdi=57f3ed24-2d08-f111-832e-0022482a9733&ceid=11618211>

See Tips & Recommendations ➞

3. Interactive Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Determination Tool

Use this interactive tool to help determine if your situation meets the definitions of an unaccompanied homeless youth for the FAFSA.

Who is it for: Students, youth, and young adults

<https://schoolhouseconnection.org/article/uhy-determination-tool?emci=44cdabb8-6c07-f111-832e-0022482a9733&emdi=57f3ed24-2d08-f111-832e-0022482a9733&ceid=11618211>

Bookmark This New Tool ➞

Upcoming Webinars



Build Successful High School to College Transitions for Students Experiencing Homelessness

Thursday, April 9, 3:00PM Eastern

Students experiencing homelessness face significant barriers in the transition from high school to college. In this webinar, Cincinnati Public Schools' Project Connect and the University of Cincinnati will share how their cross-sector partnership is improving college retention through coordinated, wraparound support. Participants will learn practical strategies for building K–12 and higher education collaborations and addressing barriers that prevent students from staying enrolled.

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/1817707567889/WN_jb_x3GXWT9W20wqhbbyPgyA2?emci=44cdabb8-6c07-f111-832e-0022482a9733&emdi=57f3ed24-2d08-f111-832e-0022482a9733&ceid=11618211#/registration

Register Now ➞



FAFSA and Homeless Youth: Scenarios and Solutions

Thursday, April 23, 2:00PM Eastern

Back by popular demand, SchoolHouse Connection presents part two (Check out part one [here](#)) of our webinar series, FA

This webinar will give participants the opportunity to explore real-life scenarios and gain an understanding of students' di
independence (dependency override), or as a dependent student.

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HRKM-K43RWeokRv8lgBpXA?_gl=1*10iblg*_gcl_au*MjEwNzAwMjUwMC4xNzY5NjMyOTc4LjEwMTI1OTMyMzkuMTc3MDg0MTMyMS4xNzcwODQxMzI6c07-f111-832e-0022482a9733&emdi=57f3ed24-2d08-f111-832e-0022482a9733&ceid=11618211#/registration

Register Now 

Have a great weekend.

Thank you,