

Community Resource People

For more information, please contact a Community Resource Person near you.

NORTHERN/CENTRAL REGION

Agency: Lutheran Social Services
Phone: 605.229.1500 or 1.800.584.9248
Cell Phone: 605.380.5488
Serving: Aberdeen, Huron, Mobridge, Pierre, Sisseton-Wahpeton and Watertown

WESTERN REGION

Agency: Lutheran Social Services
Phone: 605.348.0477 or 1.800.206.1439
Serving: Custer, Deadwood, Eagle Butte, Hot Springs, Martin, Pine Ridge, Rapid City, Belle Fourche, Spearfish and Sturgis

EASTERN REGION

Agency: Lutheran Social Services
Phone: 605.221.2346 or 1.888.201.5061
Serving: Chamberlain, Mitchell, Mission, Sioux Falls, Vermillion, Winner, Yankton and Lake Andes

You can also apply for ETV funding by calling 605.773.3227 or online at dss.sd.gov/childprotection/independentlivingprogram/educationtraining

The ETV Program is a service of the Department of Social Services Division of Child Protection Services

The Family First Prevention Service Act issued on July 9, 2018, allows South Dakota to assist young adults who were in foster care at age 18 through the Education and Training Voucher program. The young adult remains eligible until the age of 26, as long as the young adult is enrolled in a post-secondary education or training program, maintains a 2.0 grade point average, and is making satisfactory progress toward completion of the program. In no event will a young adult participate in the program for more than five years, however, participation in the program need not be consecutive years to maintain eligibility.



Division of Child Protection Services
605.773.3227

CPS@state.sd.us
dss.sd.gov/childprotection/independentlivingprogram/educationtraining

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Education & Training Voucher Program



Financial Assistance for Youth in Foster Care for Post-Secondary Education and Training

Education & Training Voucher Program

The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program provides funding to assist South Dakota youth in foster care with continued education and training after high school or a GED equivalent.

ETV funds are financial assistance that can aid youth in reaching their goals and successful independence through education and training. If youth are eligible for the program, they could receive up to \$5,000 a year to attend college or vocational school or to learn a trade.

ETV funds can be used to help pay for:

- Tuition and Fees
- Books and Supplies
- Room and Board
- Tools and Uniforms
- Tutoring
- Parking Permits
- Meal Plans
- Transportation Costs
- Employment-Related Needs
- Child Care
- Health Insurance
- Mental Health Services



Eligibility Requirements

Current and former foster care youth eligible for Independent Living Program services are eligible for ETV funds. Youth must have a financial need in order to receive funding.

Requirements include:

- A high school diploma, GED Certificate of Completion, or equivalent.
- ETV funds assist youth who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age prepare for and enter post-secondary training and education institutions.
- Enrolled in or accepted to a post-secondary or vocational school program.
- ETV funds can be received by youth who enter into a kinship guardianship after reaching the age of 16 or older or who are adopted from foster care after reaching the age of 16 or older.

Applying for ETV Funds

To apply for ETV funds, an application must be completed. When applying, all school and training expenses are considered.

Youth must also submit the following when applying for funding:

- A one-page essay describing qualifications for a scholarship based on academic performance, financial need, and plans for education.
- A copy of acceptance letter from the college or vocational school.
- A cover letter from a Family Services Specialist or adoptive parent.
- Stanford Achievement Test (SAT), American Collegiate Test (ACT), or Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) test scores as required by the school.
- A copy of Free Application for Student Financial Assistance (FAFSA), if appropriate.
- “Cost of Attendance” completed and signed by the financial aid officer.

If approved for funding, youth must reapply every semester. Requirements include:

- A transcript of prior semester’s grades.
- At least a 2.0 grade point average.
- A letter describing how the money was used and why the need for financial assistance should continue.