

## 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 is available by calling 605-773-3227 or online at: [dss.sd.gov/cps/independentlivingprogram](http://dss.sd.gov/cps/independentlivingprogram).

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

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**PHONE:**  
(605) 773-3227

**EMAIL:**  
CPS@state.sd.us

**WEBSITE:**  
[www.dss.sd.gov/cps/independentlivingprogram](http://www.dss.sd.gov/cps/independentlivingprogram)

# Education & Training Voucher Program



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

**DSS**   
Strong Families - South Dakota's Foundation and Our Future

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## Education & Training Voucher Program Eligibility Requirements

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

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.