

Postsecondary Options for Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities in Foster, Kinship, or Adoptive Families in North Carolina



A WAZE To Adulthood Fact Sheet

Thank you to **Formed Families Forward** for their partnership in this resource

Graduation from high school can be a time of uncertainty, especially for youth and young adults in foster care, but it can also open a world of opportunities. There are some postsecondary options that might be helpful as youth and young adults in foster care plan for the transition from high school to college or employment. Here are some of the options and resources available in North Carolina.

Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program

The [North Carolina Education and Training Voucher \(ETV\) Program](#) provides funding for education, training, and services needed for employment. The student can receive up to \$5,000 for qualified school-related expenses.

The ETV Program:

- Must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited degree, certificate, or program in college, university, technical, or vocational school
- Can receive funding for up to 5 years (ongoing or as needed)

To be eligible for the ETV Program, the youth/young adult must be:

- 18-26 years old
- Currently or formerly in foster care
- In care on or after their 17th birthday, adopted from foster care after their 16th birthday
- Entered a kinship placement from foster care after their 16th birthday

NC NextGen Program

The [NCWorks NextGen Programs](#) help youth and young adults facing significant barriers to employment secure high-quality jobs and careers.

NCWorks NextGen offers:

- Career exploration
- Apprenticeships and work experiences
- Life skills training including managing finances, setting and reaching goals, and relationships with others
- Supportive services like transportation, work attire, and referrals to outside resources

To be eligible for NCWorks NextGen, the youth/young adult must:

- Be between 16-24 years of age
- Need assistance with finding a career path and planning for the future
- Have at least one barrier to employment including having a disability, dropping out of high school, low income, experiencing foster care, experiencing homelessness, or being an English Language Learner

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NC Reach

[NC Reach](#), a state-funded scholarship, provides comprehensive support to youth/young adults attending college. Funds are awarded after financial aid, public funds, and other scholarships have been applied.

NC Reach:

- Covers tuition and fees
- Matches students with a coordinator who provides academics, personal, and professional mentorship and counseling
- May provide funds for school-related living and transportation expenses
- Provides money management, time management, and study skills
- Delivers care packages to the student each school year

To be eligible for NC Reach, the youth/young adult must be:

- A legal resident of North Carolina and eligible for in-state tuition rates
- Enrolled in at least 6 credit hours at a public community college or university in North Carolina
- Under the age of 26 (participants remain eligible until their 26th birthday)
- Adopted from NC foster care after the age of 12 or aged out of foster care at age 18 (must have been in care on their 18th birthday) or exited foster care through the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program ([KinGAP](#))

NC Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities Services

[Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities](#) is a program that helps youth and young adults with physical, sensory, mental, emotional, or learning disabilities overcome barriers to employment. Programs focus on building communication skills, developing leadership skills, and preparing individuals for employment success. Services include postsecondary education, job training, job search assistance, job placement, and ongoing support.

Check out these other resources:

[College Foundation of North Carolina \(CFNC\)](#)

[Strong and Able Youth Speaking Out \(SaySo, Inc\)](#)



PEATC's mission is to build positive futures by empowering individuals with disabilities through education and training.



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