

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

Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program

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

The ETV Program:

- Funds can be applied towards a technical school, college, university, or program that meets the ETV criteria
- Can receive funding for up to 5 years

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

- 18-26 years old, and
- Currently in foster care, or
- In custody of the Department of Social Services (DSS) at 18 years old, or
- Left care and were reunified after age 14, or
- Left care to adoption/kinship/legal guardianship after age 16

South Carolina Tuition Grant Programs

The [South Carolina Commission on Higher Education \(CHE\)](#) and the [South Carolina Need-Based Grant](#) provide financial assistance to students who are in independent living or foster care through the Department of Social Services (DSS).

South Carolina Tuition Grant Programs offers:

- For full-time students, up to \$3,500 per year and up to an additional \$2,000
- For part-time students, up to \$1,750 per year for part-time students

To be eligible for South Carolina Tuition Grant Programs, the youth/young adult must:

- Complete and file the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) Form
- Complete a [Foster Care Waiver Form](#)
- Attend an eligible South Carolina public institution

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Employment Programs

South Carolina offers various resources and programs to help students, including students with disabilities with employment goals after high school. See the list below.

South Carolina Works/Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

[South Carolina Works/Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\)](#) offers services at no cost to youth in foster care and young adults who have aged out of foster care. WIOA can provide financial assistance in obtaining a high school diploma/GED, one-on-one assistance with a Youth Workforce Consultant, tutoring and study skills training, occupational skills training, resume and interview preparation, soft skills training, career exploration, job referrals and placements.

South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

[South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department](#) helps eligible youth and young adults with disabilities overcome barriers to education or employment. Programs focus on building communication skills, developing leadership skills, and preparing youth and young adults for employment success. Services include post-secondary education, job training, job search assistance, job placement, and ongoing support.

Youth Apprenticeship Carolina

[Youth Apprenticeship Carolina](#) partners with employers to provide apprenticeship opportunities across various industries. Participants receive on-the-job training, earn a paycheck, and may obtain industry-recognized credentials.

Check out these other resources:

[Registered Apprenticeships](#)

[SC Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs \(GEAR UP\)](#)



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



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