

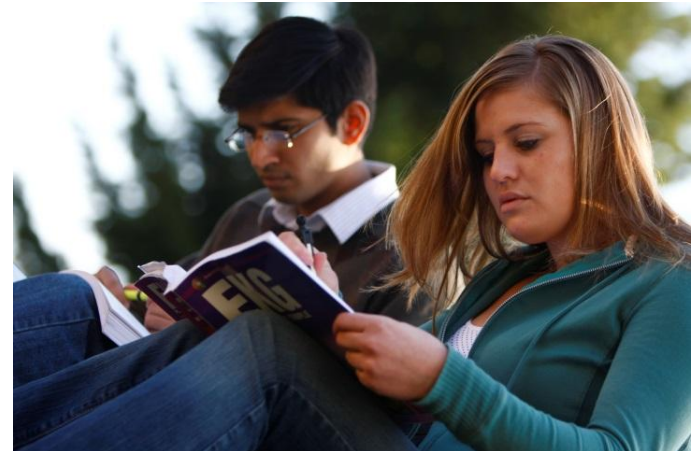
# **Understanding Financial Aid for Passport to College Students**

**2013**

- **Financial Aid Basics**
- **Federal and State Programs**
- **Foster Youth Specific Financial Aid**
- **After Enrollment**
- **Resources**

# **Financial Aid Basics**

- **Need-based aid**
  - Determined by Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and/or other statement of financial need
- **Merit-based aid**
  - Determined by other factors such as: talent, academics, and special interests



# Types of Financial Aid

- **Gift Aid** – No repayment
  - Grants - eligibility based on need
  - Scholarships - eligibility may be based on need, merit only, or combination
- **Loans** – Must be repaid
  - Federal and Private Loans
  - Students do not have to accept all funds offered
- **Conditional Scholarships** (loan repayment or loan forgiveness)
  - A loan that is forgiven for eligible service or require repayment (usually career specific such as teaching or health professions)

- **Employment**

- Work Study
  - Wages subsidized by government
  - Federal Work Study
  - State Work Study
    - *Priority funding for foster youth*
    - *Not considered other state aid for College Bound award*
  - Both programs are part of financial aid award package
- Institution or Private Employer
  - May be on campus or off campus
  - Not part of financial aid package

## Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

*Required by all colleges that participate in the Passport to College Scholarship*

- Helps evaluate student's ability to pay for college
- Calculates the Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- Determines eligibility for financial aid
- Student should file as soon after January 1st as possible and know the college's priority deadline
- Complete a FAFSA every year in college
- Available in English and Spanish



The information reported on the FAFSA is used to calculate EFC, which schools use to determine federal student aid eligibility and financial aid award amount.

*The EFC takes into account...*

- Parents' income & assets\*
- Student's income & assets
- Family size
- Number of family members in college
- Protection allowances

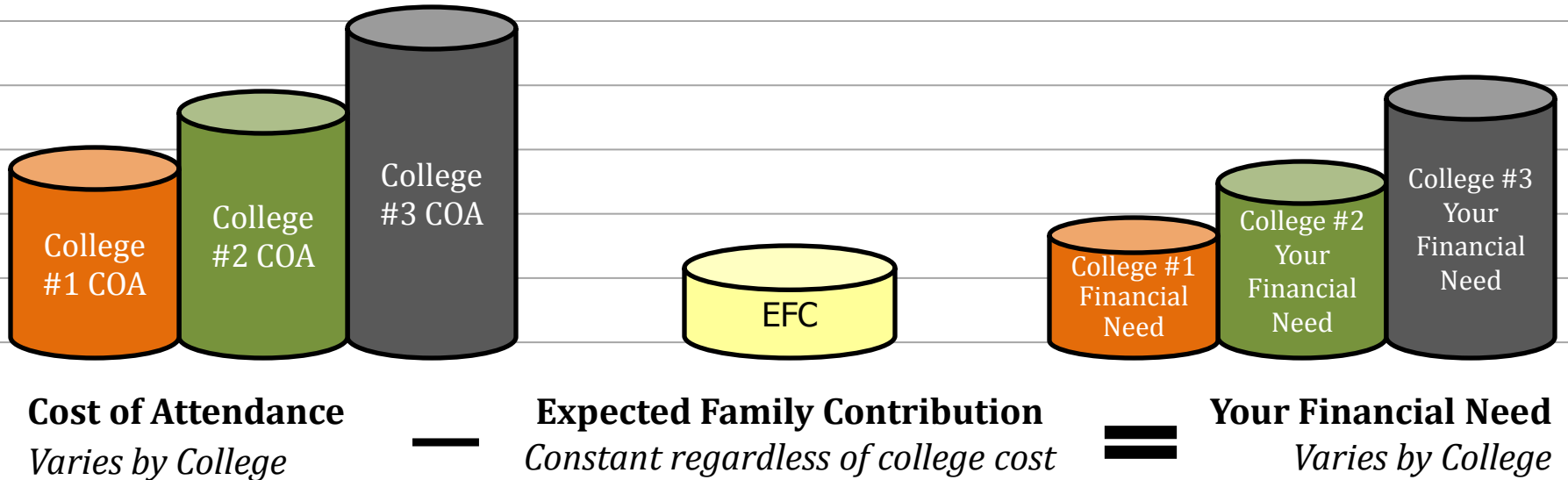


*\*If a student was in foster care at any time after age 13, they are considered independent and do not include parental information.*



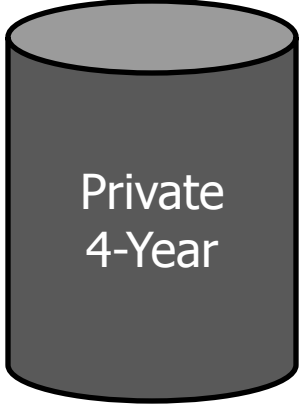


# Financial Need Formula

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{College Cost of Attendance (COA)} \\ - & \text{Expected Family Contribution (EFC)} \\ = & \text{Financial Need} \end{aligned}$$



# Financial Need Formula

<b><i>EXAMPLE</i></b>			
<b>COA</b>	\$15,000	\$21,000	\$40,000
<b>EFC</b>	\$3,100	\$3,100	\$3,100
<b>Financial Need</b>	<b>\$11,900</b>	<b>\$17,900</b>	<b>\$36,900</b>

# **More about Federal and State Financial Aid**

## **To be eligible for federal financial aid a student must:**

- Have financial need
- Be a U.S. Citizen or eligible non-citizen for most programs, and have a valid Social Security Number (SSN)
  - Students who received SSN through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) are not eligible to receive federal student aid because DACA does not change citizenship
- Make satisfactory academic progress (SAP) - as defined by the college
- Not be in default on a student loan or in repayment of grant funds at any college

# Federal Pell Grants

- Available to eligible undergraduate students
- Portable to all participating colleges in the country
- Actual award amount based on COA, EFC, and enrollment status
- Maximum award for 2012-13= \$5,550
- Eligible for up to six years
- Application is the FAFSA



- Serves more than 70,000 undergraduate students
- Need-based aid – for those below 70% Median Family Income (MFI)
  - *Priority funding to foster youth*
- Amount varies by sector, and ranges from \$1,412-\$10,868 (for full-time students in 2012-13)
- Application is the FAFSA



The College Bound Scholarship program was created in 2007, to improve Washington's high school graduation rates and college enrollment for low-income students.

- Early promise of financial aid to qualifying 7th and 8th graders
- Combines with State Need Grant and other state aid to cover tuition (*at public college rates, plus a small book allowance*)
- Can be used at two or four year public colleges and some private colleges in Washington
  - *ACT/SAT test fee waivers for College Bound/Foster youth*



To join the listserv, email: [CollegeBound@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:CollegeBound@wsac.wa.gov)

# College Bound Scholarship Rules

- Graduate from high school with a 2.0 GPA (No GED)
- Be a good citizen with no felony convictions (Must self-report)
- Enroll in college within one year of high school graduation at one of 68 eligible institutions in Washington
- Use the four-year undergraduate scholarship within five years of high school graduation
- Maintain college's satisfactory academic progress (SAP)
- File the FAFSA every year in college and continue to be income eligible
- If ineligible one year (due to income, citizenship, enrolled in a non-eligible institution etc.) eligibility will be re-evaluated in subsequent years



# Foster Youth Enrollment in College Bound

Foster Youth in grades 7-12, or up to age 21 and have not graduated from high school, are automatically enrolled (as of July 1, 2012).

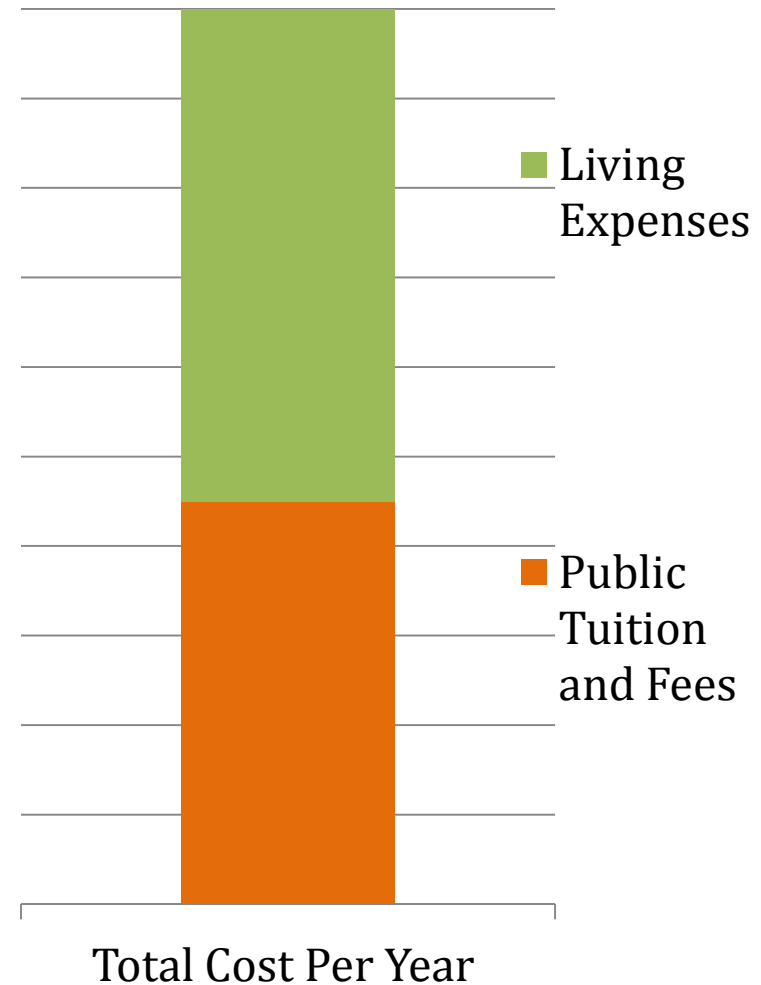
- Information provided by data exchange between Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and the Student Achievement Council
- Youth receive a College Bound Certificate at their school *(they are not identified as foster youth)*
- Youth may contact the Council's College Bound staff to confirm enrollment at 888-535-0747



# College Bound Scholarship Award Amount

## The College Bound Scholarship amount varies for each student

- Tuition rates vary based on type of school attending
- Maximum award is based on tuition and \$500 book allowance at public institution rates
- Maximum awards range from \$4,400 to \$11,900 depending
- Other state financial aid awarded is subtracted
  - State Need Grant, Passport to College Scholarship, Opportunity Scholarship, and SBCTC Opportunity Grant



*Note: Federal aid, private scholarships, and loans may be used for living expenses*

# No College Bound Award

## **Graduates with a 2.0 May Not Receive a Scholarship if:**

- The student's total financial aid is greater than need
  - Example: a student with lower living expenses attending a lower cost college may not have room in their aid package
  - Student is attending part-time
- State promise of tuition and fees fulfilled via other state financial aid
- Student does not meet other requirements such as residency or academic standards
- Student is not attending an eligible institution

# College Bound Program Officers

- Each ESD has a College Bound Program Officer from the College Success Foundation who works with districts and schools on designing and implementing College Bound outreach strategies
- College Bound Program Officers work on FAFSA completion strategies including the marketing and recruitment to January FAFSA completion events
- For more information call (425) 679-5569

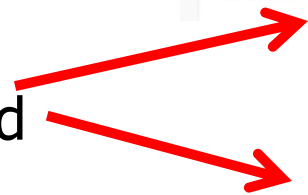


- More than \$48 million offered in scholarships last year
- Scholarships are diverse and support a variety of students, not just high school seniors
  - Only 32% require a GPA higher than 3.0
  - 57% of listings are not based on financial need
  - 28% of scholarships listed are renewable

**Customer Service:** [admin@thewashboard.org](mailto:admin@thewashboard.org)



- Recently completed upgrades, including improved matches and updated screens for easier navigation
- New 30-day test account
- No data retained after account deleted
- Ability to change to permanent account, if the users decides to continue
- Many resources online and saved on the TWB pen.



# **Foster Youth Specific Financial Aid**



Scholarship programs work together to improve outreach to foster youth, encourage their aspiration for college, and to assist with college completion

Financial Aid Programs for Foster Youth:

- Passport to College – Consent form is the application
- Education and Training Voucher – Online app closes in June
- Governors' Scholarship – Online app closes in December





# Passport to College

Passport is state funded and administered by the Council

- Youth must provide consent through FAFSA, Common Application, or Passport Consent Form

Three primary components:

1. SETuP pre-college support for youth ages 14 through 18
2. Scholarship for up to five years (currently \$4,500)
3. Incentive grants provided to institutions offering intensive support services through campus Viable Plan



- Legislation enabled a data sharing between state agencies to identify youth eligible for the program
- Serves about 400 students each year
- Must be a dependant of Washington state
- Students activate award by attending college by age 22
- The scholarship may be used at any eligible college in Washington
- Contract with CSF for additional support services and mentoring-contact [vsmith@collegesuccessfoundation.org](mailto:vsmith@collegesuccessfoundation.org)



# Passport Outcomes

On-time graduation rate for foster youth is 44%



About **1/3** of Passport eligible youth enroll



About **2/3** of Passport students persist to 2<sup>nd</sup> year

- 477 students received SETuP services, 76% of Seniors enroll in college
- 100% of middle and high school youth in care will be enrolled in the College Bound Scholarship

- 525 youth were Passport eligible when they aged out of care in 2011
  - About 60% express an intent to enroll (FAFSA) and about half of those youth do so
  - About 30% of eligible students enrolled
- Most students enroll at a two-year college
  - An additional 4% enroll at an ineligible campus or program

- Passport students are re-enrolling at about the same rate as other low-income students
- 70 community college Passport students earned a credential by Spring 2011





Welcome to the WSAC portal.

Used by financial aid staff and DSS for:

- Identification of Passport eligible youth
- Entering student awards
- Communication through secure messaging function
- <https://fortress.wa.gov/wsac/portal/default.aspx>

- Federally funded and administered by Department of Social and Health Services
- Serves about 300 youth from care each year
- First time applicants apply online and renew each year
- 2013-14 maximum award amount is \$4,000
- Funds may be used for books, supplies, housing, transportation and other eligible educational expenses
- May receive funding up to age 23 if they meet ETV requirements
- May attend an accredited college in Washington, or out of state
- Contact Khris Blumer at [blkh300@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:blkh300@dshs.wa.gov) for more information

# Governors' Scholarship

- Privately funded and administered by College Success Foundation
- Recipients must have open dependency court order in Washington state (includes tribal care, federally recognized unaccompanied minor refugees)
- Each cohort is made up of about 50 youth
- Students must apply in their senior year of high school and have a minimum 2.0 GPA
- Awards range from \$2,000 to \$4,000
- CSF provides intensive support services to recipients
- Students must attend full time in Washington
- Application is on the CSF web site [www.collegesuccessfoundation.org](http://www.collegesuccessfoundation.org)
- Last application cycle closed in December 2012

# **After Enrollment**

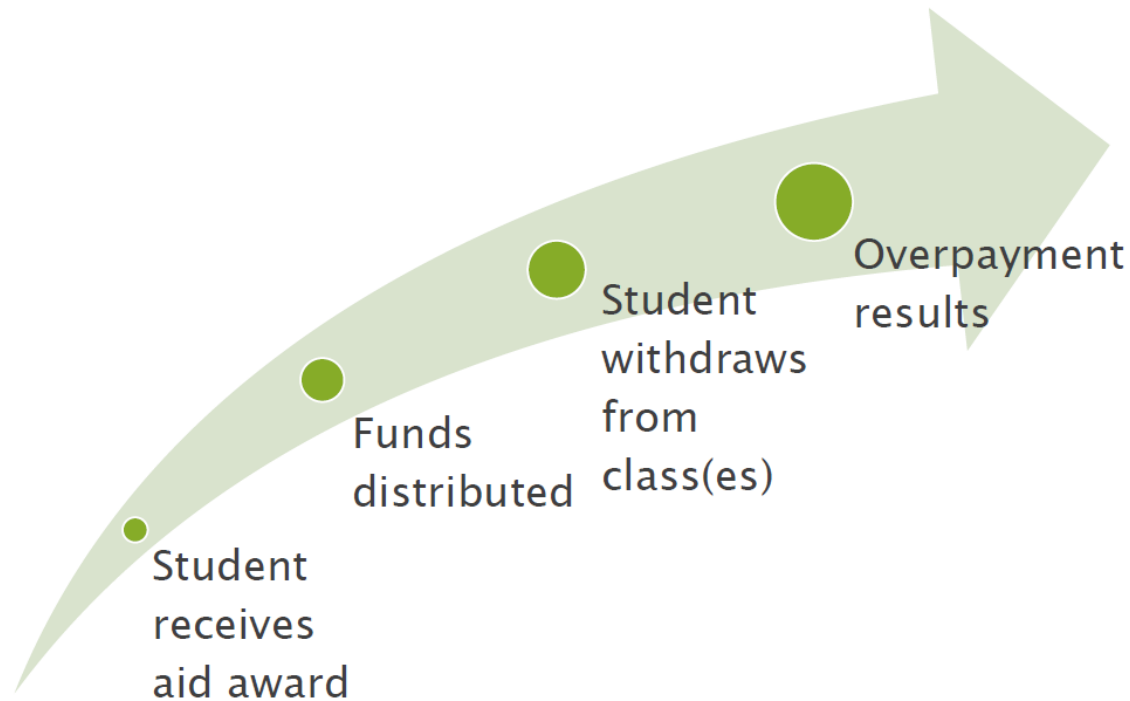
# Know What can Impact Aid

- Be sure students know withdrawal and add/drop dates
- Students must maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP) to receive financial aid
- Grading indicators that could make a student may go into repayment and ineligible for aid:

W	Withdrawal
I	Incomplete
F	Fail
NP	Not pass
SAP	Satisfactory Academic Progress



# Overpayment may Cause Repayment



- Students need to understand that a grant is considered “free money” if it is used for educational expenses
- If a student drops out, they may be responsible for repaying the money they received, even if it was a grant

# What May Not Impact Aid

- Reduction in 1-2 units under some circumstances
- Student receives an “incomplete”
- Full aid has not yet been paid
- A portion of the course is completed even if an “F” is earned
- Other considerations
  - Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
  - Impact on GPA and Transfer Requirements



# Consequences

- Repayment is required and is not dismissible through bankruptcy
- School may place a hold on enrollment and refuse transcript requests
- Repayment status from government aid is reported back to the source who may take action such as liens and garnishments
- Limits ability to receive federal aid at any school

## Lifting a hold on enrollment

- School can repay debt and make arrangements with student for repayment
- Once hold is lifted, student is eligible for aid again

*Even relatively small aid debt can derail a foster youth's academic career if unaddressed!*

*If eligible for Passport talk to the campus Passport Designated Support Staff (DSS), available on most campuses*

- Meet with the financial aid office before dropping classes or withdrawing and respond quickly to requests
- Help the student understand the difference between a withdrawal, incomplete, and failed class
- Consult an academic counselor
  - *Ask if the college has a Passport Navigator or mentors*
  - *Connect with the DSS for help finding a tutor*
- Talk to professors if they are having trouble
  - Ask for extra credit work
  - Ask how they might be able to better their grade

# Resources

A new website for students, families, and educators



- Passport DSS contact list [www.wsac.wa.gov/passport](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/passport)
- College Success Foundation [www.collegesuccessfoundation.org](http://www.collegesuccessfoundation.org)
- NELA Center for Student Success [www.nela.net](http://www.nela.net)
- College Goal Sunday [www.collegegoalsundaywa.org](http://www.collegegoalsundaywa.org)
- Washington College Access Network  
[www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/wcan](http://www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/wcan)
- GEAR UP [www.gearup.wa.gov](http://www.gearup.wa.gov)
- TRIO [www.washingtontrio.org](http://www.washingtontrio.org)



[College Bound Blog](#)



[I Am College Bound](#)

- For students from foster care and to access information on the ETV program: [www.independence.wa.gov](http://www.independence.wa.gov)
- College Success Foundation: [www.collegesuccessfoundation.org](http://www.collegesuccessfoundation.org)
- College Bound information: [www.collegebound.wa.gov](http://www.collegebound.wa.gov)
- Council financial aid programs: [www.wsac.wa.gov](http://www.wsac.wa.gov)
- Washington Scholarships: [www.thewashboard.org](http://www.thewashboard.org)
- Resources for students who are not U.S. citizens: [www.wsac.wa.gov/PreparingForCollege/CollegeBound/2012](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/PreparingForCollege/CollegeBound/2012)





- FAFSA and general financial aid information: [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)
- Financial Aid Counseling Tool for borrowers  
[www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov)
- Shopping Sheet – sample award letter format  
[http://collegecost.ed.gov/shopping\\_sheet.pdf](http://collegecost.ed.gov/shopping_sheet.pdf)
- Publications and workbooks [www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov](http://www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov)
- MyFSA with savings calculator & college finder  
[www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov)
- Campus websites have a “net price calculator” – average aid awards