

# Foster Youth & Higher Education

**Presented by:**

**Massachusetts Department of Children and  
Families**

***Adolescent and Young Adult Services Unit***

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# About MEFA



Not-for-profit state authority created in 1982  
helping families plan, save, and pay for college

# Your Presenter Today

## Kristen Quinlan

### Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF)



Kristen Quinlan has been a licensed social worker with the Department of Children and Families for the past eighteen years. She is currently a Supervisor with the Adolescent Service Unit at Central Office where she provides support to social workers, providers, and youth in transitional planning. She specializes in providing young adults with guidance in navigating the post secondary educational process. This includes the creation of on-campus support networks that are in place today across the Commonwealth to assist students, families and public university staff. In addition to this work Kristen collaborates with Massachusetts Public Community Colleges to provide students academic and financial counseling. Kristen graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Social Work from Plymouth State University and holds a Masters in Education from UMass Boston.

# Objectives

- Know the post secondary options for foster youth
- Be able to assist in accessing DCF supports for post secondary education
- Identify and connect students to DCF staff to assist with post secondary planning

# Before Senior Year

- **Youth Readiness Support**
  - Identify and support long and short term goals
  - Identify continued student support system.
- **PAYA**
  - Life skills necessary to sustain education
- **Post Secondary messages and expectations**
- **Pre-SAT's and SAT's**

# Making the Right Decision

- **Readiness- Social/Emotional needs**
- **Academics**
- **Research colleges and schedule tours**
- **Costs – Return on Investment**
- **Vocational vs. College**
  - Career Assessment – Career Centers

# What is financial aid?

- **Money to pay for college or career school. Understanding the difference.**
- **College is NOT for FREE!**
  - Grants
  - Loans
    - Federal vs. Private
  - Work-study
  - Scholarships



# What types of aid can students apply for?

- Federal student aid: fill out *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- High School Guidance Office – Local Scholarships
- School aid: contact financial aid office at schools being considered
- DCF educational support programs

# FAFSA

Federal **Student Aid**  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of  
*the AMERICAN MIND™*

**FAFSA™**  
Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- Must be completed by all foster youth
- Deadlines are even more important for foster youth
- Take advantage of existing resources:
  - **DCF Programs**
  - **MEFA**
  - **FAFSA DAY Massachusetts**

# FAFSA

## SECTION 2 - STUDENT DEPENDENCY STATUS

If you can check ANY of the following boxes, you will not have to provide parental information. Skip to page 4.

If you check NONE of the following boxes, you will be asked to provide parental information. Go to the next page.

<input type="checkbox"/> I was born before January 1, 1994	<input type="checkbox"/> I am married	<input type="checkbox"/> I will be working on a master's or doctorate program (e.g., MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, graduate certificate)	
<input type="checkbox"/> I am serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces	<input type="checkbox"/> I am a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces	<input type="checkbox"/> I now have or will have children for whom I will provide more than half of their support between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018	
<input type="checkbox"/> Since I turned age 13, both of my parents were deceased	<input type="checkbox"/> I was in foster care since turning age 13	<input type="checkbox"/> I have dependents (other than children or my spouse) who live with me and I provide more than half of their support	
<input type="checkbox"/> I was a dependent or ward of the court since turning age 13	<input type="checkbox"/> I am currently or I was an emancipated minor	<input type="checkbox"/> I am currently or I was in legal guardianship	<input type="checkbox"/> I am homeless or I am at risk of being homeless

# FAFSA

**FAFSA**<sup>®</sup>

FREE APPLICATION *for* FEDERAL STUDENT AID

**July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018**

**Federal Student Aid**

An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

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Answer **“Yes”** if at any time since you turned age 13:

- You had no living parent, even if you are now adopted; or
- You were in foster care, even if you are no longer in foster care today; or
- You were a dependent or ward of the court, even if you are no longer a dependent or ward of the court today. For federal student aid purposes, someone who is incarcerated is not considered a ward of the court.

The financial aid administrator at your school may require you to provide proof that you were in foster care or a dependent or ward of the court.

# FAFSA

## FAFSA<sup>®</sup>

FREE APPLICATION *for* FEDERAL STUDENT AID

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### Student Eligibility

Are you a foster youth or were you at any time in the foster care system?

Yes

### 2015-2016 Confirmation Page

You reported that you are or were in Foster Care. You may be eligible for assistance through federal programs for foster youth, such as the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and/or the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program.

For more information contact your [state ETV coordinator](#).

If you have questions, visit [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) and click the "Help" icon on the FAFSA home page.



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF  
**Children & Families**

# Types of DCF Care and Custody

- Protective Custody
- CRA
- Adoption (Before/After 13)
- Guardianship Placement
- Voluntary Placement Agreement

Other Types of Possible Independents:  
Probate, Homeless, Runaway, DYS

# Documentation for Independents

- **DCF Can Assist**
- **Proof of Custody Status**
  - Look at Dates of custody compared to DOB
- **Ward of Court Letter**
- **Guardianship proof from DCF or Probate**

# What happens next?

- **Students will receive financial aid packages from each college**
  - *Often does not include DCF educational programs*
- **Review Financial Aid Packages with students**
- **Explain the difference between grants and loans.**
- **Mass Health and Insurance Waivers**
  - Identify on-campus health centers and counseling centers for additional student support



# DCF Financial Supports

- **Foster Child Tuition and Fee Waiver**
- **Adopted Child Tuition and Fee Waiver**
- **Massachusetts Foster Child Grant**
- **Massachusetts Education and Training Voucher**
- **William Warren Scholarship**

# Tuition & Fee Waiver

## Eligible Youth

- In DCF Custody until the age of 18 (at least six months)
- Unable to return home
- Have not yet turned 25
- Adopted
- Guardianship

The Waiver waives the cost of tuition and fees of state supported classes only at Mass public colleges, community colleges, and universities. Does not cover: books, application fees, or room and board.

# Mass Foster Child Grant

## Eligible Youth

- Permanent legal Resident of Mass
- US citizen or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regs.
- DCF protective custody
- Not yet reached 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday
- Enrolled Full-time (12 credits or equivalent)
- Has completed FAFSA
- Meets schools requirements for satisfactory academic progress

# Education and Training Voucher

## Eligible Youth

- Youth who were in DCF custody until age 18.
- Unable to return home
- Until the age of 26
- Adopted after the age of 16
- Guardianship with Kin after the age of 16
- Must have High School Diploma or GED

# DCF – College Support Programs

- DCF College Fair “Think College Early”
- DCF Educational Open Houses - Statewide Area DCF Office
- Education and Training Support
- College Advising Days - One on one planning and reviews
- College Connections
  - Fin Aid Staff
  - Student Support Services
  - Student Account Staff
  - Admissions
  - Housing

# On Campus Networks



## SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY RESOURCE LIST

### Student Advocacy Office

Chris Sullivan, Director  
Ellison Campus Center, rm. 219  
978-542-7207  
[csullivan@salemstate.edu](mailto:csullivan@salemstate.edu)  
[www.salemstate.edu/studentadvocacy](http://www.salemstate.edu/studentadvocacy)

\*Answer questions, make referrals  
\*Assist students with major life issues impacting educational success

### Student Navigation Center

Classroom Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> flr. Central Campus  
978-542-8000  
[www.salemstate.edu/students/](http://www.salemstate.edu/students/)

#### •Financial Aid Office

Amy Stewart, Associate Director  
[astewart@salemstate.edu](mailto:astewart@salemstate.edu)

#### •Bursars Office

\*Billing  
\*Loan Repayment

#### •Registrars Office

\*Class registration  
\*Transcripts/grades  
\*Transfer credit

#### •Clipper Card Office

\*Lost card  
\*Questions about funds  
\*T-pass program

### Center for Academic Excellence

Berry Library, 1<sup>st</sup> flr.  
978-542-6215  
[www.salemstate.edu/sass/](http://www.salemstate.edu/sass/)  
\*Academic advising, tutoring  
\*Upward Bound/Trio

### Health Services

Kim Daly, Health Services Coordinator  
Ellison Campus Center, rm. 107  
978-542-6413  
[www.salemstate.edu/chs/health.php](http://www.salemstate.edu/chs/health.php)

### Counseling Services

Elisa Castillo, Director  
Ellison Campus center, rm. 107  
978-542-6410  
[www.salemstate.edu/chs/counseling.php](http://www.salemstate.edu/chs/counseling.php)

### Disability Services

Lisa Bibeau, Director  
Berry Library, Learning Commons, rm. 20  
978-542-6217  
[disability-services@salemstate.edu](mailto:disability-services@salemstate.edu)  
[www.salemstate.edu/chs/counseling.php](http://www.salemstate.edu/chs/counseling.php)

### Residential Life

Neil Andrito, Director  
Atlantic Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
978-542-6416  
[housing@salemstate.edu](mailto:housing@salemstate.edu)  
[www.salemstate.edu/student\\_life/265.php](http://www.salemstate.edu/student_life/265.php)

### Student Involvement & Activities

Becky Jimenez, Director  
Ellison Campus Center, rm. 218  
978-542-6436  
[www.salemstate.edu/8236.php](http://www.salemstate.edu/8236.php)  
\*Student Organizations, Leadership

### Career Services

Lauren Hubachek, Director  
Ellison Campus Center, rm. 105  
978-542-6406  
[www.salemstate.edu/careersvs](http://www.salemstate.edu/careersvs)

## JANUARY 2016

### Diversity & Multicultural Affairs

Rebecca Comage, Director  
Ellison Campus Center, rm. 202  
978-542-2404  
[www.salemstate.edu/student\\_life/429.php](http://www.salemstate.edu/student_life/429.php)

### College Deans

College of Arts & Sciences  
Christopher Boucher 978-542-7267  
Bertolon School of Business  
Linda Nowak 978-542-6640  
College of Health & Human Services  
Neal DeChillo 978-542-6630  
School of Education  
Joseph Cambone 978-542-6266

### MA Department of Children and Families

Kristen Quinlan  
Education and Training Specialist  
DCF Adolescent Services  
617-748-2204  
[Kristen.Quinlan@state.ma.us](mailto:Kristen.Quinlan@state.ma.us)

### Key dates:

Jan. 19 First day of class  
Jan. 25 ADD/DROP period ends  
Apr. 15 Last day to withdraw from courses  
Mar. 1 Room Deposit due (opens 1/8/16)  
May 21 Undergraduate Commencement  
[www.salemstate.edu/students/27582.php](http://www.salemstate.edu/students/27582.php)

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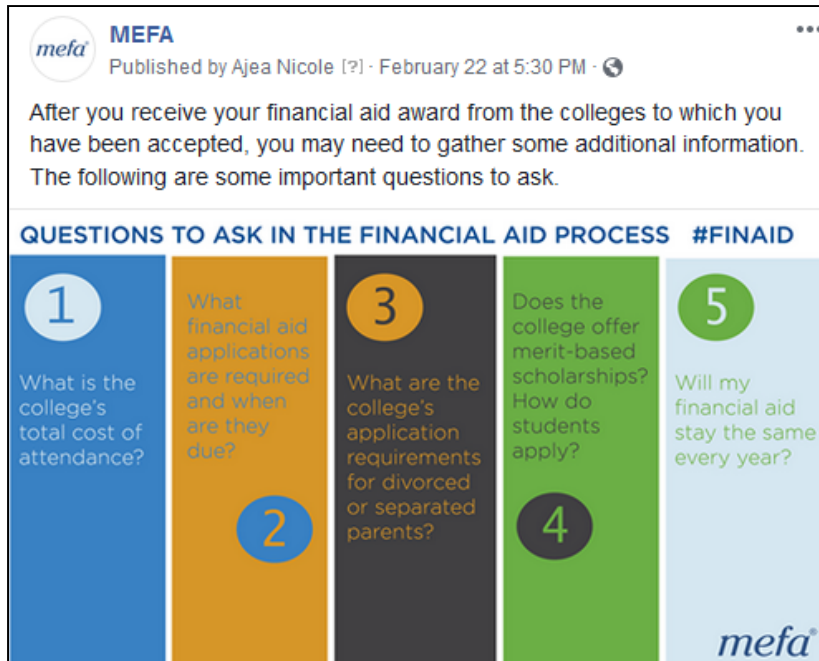
# DCF Contact Information

- Kristen Quinlan– DCF Program Supervisor  
Phone: (617)-748-2204
- Ana Maria Tormes– DCF Education and Training Worker  
Phone: (617)-748-2309
- Laurie Hernandez– DCF Education and Training Worker  
Phone: (617)-748-2421  
Fax: (617)-748-2156

**Grant & Scholarship Information can be found through  
Adolescent Services and Education**

[www.mass.gov/dcf](http://www.mass.gov/dcf)

# Connect with MEFA on Social Media



**MEFA**  
Published by Ajea Nicole [?] · February 22 at 5:30 PM · 🌐

After you receive your financial aid award from the colleges to which you have been accepted, you may need to gather some additional information. The following are some important questions to ask.

**QUESTIONS TO ASK IN THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS #FINAID**

- 1 What is the college's total cost of attendance?
- 2 What financial aid applications are required and when are they due?
- 3 What are the college's application requirements for divorced or separated parents?
- 4 Does the college offer merit-based scholarships? How do students apply?
- 5 Will my financial aid stay the same every year?

*mefa*



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[linkedin.com/company/mefa](https://linkedin.com/company/mefa)



[youtube.com/MEFAcounselor](https://youtube.com/MEFAcounselor)



# Thank You

## Questions?

(800) 449-MEFA (6332)

[collegeplanning@mefa.org](mailto:collegeplanning@mefa.org)

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