

Foster Youth & Higher Education

Presented by:

Massachusetts Department of Children and Families

Adolescent and Young Adult Services Unit

Agenda

- **Post-secondary preparation for foster youth**
- **FAFSA**
- **Documentation Requirements**
- **DCF Education programs**
 - Tuition Waivers (TW)
 - Foster Child Grant (FCG)
 - Education and Training Voucher (ETV)
 - William Warren Scholarship
- **DCF adolescent and young adult support services**
- **Sample on campus support network**

Before Senior Year

- **Youth Readiness Support Tool**
 - 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

- **Social/Emotional needs**
- **Academic standing**
- **Upcoming/recent transitions**
- **Affordability**
- **Vocational vs. College**
 - Career Assessment – Career Centers
 - DCF Intranet- Adolescent Services Page

FAFSA

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

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FAFSA™
Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- **Must be completed by all youth**
- **Deadlines are even more important for foster youth**
- **Take advantage of existing resources:**
 - DCF Programs
 - MEFA (Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority)
 - 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

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

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 and click the "Help" icon on the FAFSA home page.



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
Children & Families

Verification Documents

- **DCF Can Assist with documentation requirements:**
 - Proof of Custody Status
 - Ward of Court Letter
 - Guardianship proof from DCF or Probate
- **Students may be flagged for need of verification after filing FAFSA:**
 - Income verification
 - Non-tax filer verification
 - Immigration/citizenship status

DCF Education Programs

- **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
- Unable to return home
- Not yet reached 25th Birthday
- Adopted
- Guardianed

The Waiver waives the cost of tuition 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 25th Birthday
 - Enrolled Full-time (12 credits or equivalent)
 - Meets school's requirements for satisfactory academic progress

Education and Training Voucher

- **Eligible Youth**

- Youth who were in DCF custody until age 18
- Unable to return home
- Not yet reached 26th birthday
- Adopted/Guardianed after the age of 16
- Must have High School Diploma or GED
Eligible Youth

William Warren Scholarship

- **Eligible Youth**

- In DCF care or custody or have been in the past for a minimum of one year.
- Not yet reached 25th birthday
- Enrolled in a post-secondary Title IV eligible program
- Applicants must demonstrate significant unmet financial need

PAYA | Preparing Adolescents for Young Adulthood

Life skills curriculum designed to assist youth in building concrete skills and relationships to support health and well-being in adulthood. PAYA is based on the premise that all youth need at least one connection to a permanent, caring adult along with life skills to be successful. DCF staff, foster parents and contract providers assist youth in locating, building, and maintaining relationships with caring adults and aid them in learning about money management, personal care, job seeking, parenting, healthy relationships, housing, and other essentials skills through community based, real-life experiences. PAYA certification training is available through the Department to address policy, strategies and ways to incentivize youth.

Emerging Futures Program

DCF works with community partners to help youth gain employment experience through supported paid internships and volunteer opportunities. Staff assist youth in identifying career interests and internship placements that will provide career building experiences.

Life Skills Support Program

Provides funds for youth ages 14–22 in placement to support positive youth development, such as bus passes, SAT fees, athletic uniforms, sports fees, senior class expenses, etc.

THE WAVE

DCF youth newsletter written by and for agency youth. It includes articles, poems, and artwork, resource information. Youth share their experiences, observations, suggestions, challenges and achievements with others who may benefit. THE WAVE is also an effective means of informing youth of the many youth sponsored activities in which they can participate, i.e. Peer Support Groups, Higher Education Fairs, Employment and Mentoring Programs.

Joint Youth Advisory Committee

Provides a platform for DCF youth to voice their ideas / recommendations to the administration on issues facing youth served by the agency. There are five Regional Advisory Boards; representatives from each region sit on the Central Office Advisory Board, representing their peers from across the state.

Discharge Support Program

Provides financial and outreach support to youth discharging from DCF placement at or after age 18, including funding toward first and last months' rent, security deposit, initial utilities charges, as well as support with budgeting, home management and employment.

Adolescent Outreach Program

Provides intensive individualized life skills assessment, training and transition support to youth and young adults from foster care to prepare them to live healthy and connected lives while pursuing their goals in young adulthood.

Contact Us

DIRECTOR

Michelle Banks
michelle.banks@mass.gov | 617.748.2430

CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF

Program Coordinators

Mary Brown
mary.brown@mass.gov | 617.748.2232

Richard Doria

richard.doria@mass.gov | 617.748.2398

Supervisor

Kristen Quinlan
kristen.quinlan@mass.gov | 617.356.6334

Edu. & Training Specialists

Ana Tormes,
ana.tormes@mass.gov | 617.356.6319

Laurie Hernandez

laurie.hernandez@mass.gov | 857.278.6334

REGIONAL SUPERVISORS

Central Region

Stephanie Cassano
stephanie.cassano@mass.gov | 617.872.3960

Western Region

Justin Lak
justin.lak@mass.gov | 617.571.1806

Southern Region

Cheryl Penney
cheryl.penney@mass.gov | 857.262.5785

Michelle Escobar

michelle.escobar@mass.gov | 857.292.8841

Northern Region

Dawn Holdsworth
dawn.holdsworth@mass.gov | 617.645.8832

Boston Region

Jillian Bulger
jillian.bulger@mass.gov | 617.872.3942

Sample 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
www.salemstate.edu/studentadvocacy

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

Student Navigation Center

Classroom Building, 2nd flr. Central Campus
978-542-8000
www.salemstate.edu/students/

•Financial Aid Office

Amy Stewart, Associate Director
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, 1st flr.
978-542-6215
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

Counseling Services

Elisa Castillo, Director
Ellison Campus center, rm. 107
978-542-6410
www.salemstate.edu/chs/counseling.php

Disability Services

Lisa Bibeau, Director
Berry Library, Learning Commons, rm. 20
978-542-6217
disability-services@salemstate.edu
www.salemstate.edu/chs/counseling.php

Residential Life

Neil Andrito, Director
Atlantic Hall, 1st floor
978-542-6416
housing@salemstate.edu
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
*Student Organizations, Leadership

Career Services

Lauren Hubachek, Director
Ellison Campus Center, rm. 105
978-542-6406
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

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

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

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<https://www.facebook.com/salemstateuniversity>

Salem State Athletics
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/SSC-VIKINGS/203032806913>

DCF Contact Information

- **Laurie Hernandez– Education and Training Specialist**
Phone: (617) 748-2421
- **Ana Maria Tormes– Education and Training Specialist**
Phone: (617) 748-2309

Email: youth.support@mass.gov

Grant & Scholarship Information can be found through Adolescent Services and Education: www.mass.gov/dcf