

## **Education and Training Voucher (ETV) FAQs**

Q: What is the Education and Training Voucher program (ETV)?

A: The ETV program assists youth with Cost of Attendance post-secondary education related expenses not covered by financial aid grants or the DCFS Tuition & Fee Waiver.

Q: What is Cost of Attendance?

A: Cost of Attendance is the amount it costs a student to go to school, it includes:

- Tuition and fees
- Books, course materials, supplies and equipment
- Cost of housing and food
- Transportation expenses
- Loan fees
- Miscellaneous personal fees

The COA for the school attending can be located on the school's website.

Q: Am I eligible to participate in the ETV program?

A: To be eligible for the ETV program youth must meet one of the following criteria:

- DCFS has legal guardianship.
- Youth has aged out of care at age 18 or older.
- Youth achieved permanency through adoption or guardianship at age 16 or older.

Q: What are the benefits of the ETV program?

A: Payments of up to \$5,000 annually for education related expenses such as, tuition, fees, books, supplies, uniforms, equipment and/or transportation not covered by other financial aid, grants, or scholarships. The program also supplies or reimburses students for the purchase of a laptop.

Q: What schools qualify for ETV funding?

A: Any post-secondary school/institution listed as accredited by US Department of Education. The ETV Program can be used for both in-state and out-of-state schools.

Q: How do I determine if a school is accredited by the US Department of Education?

A: A school's accreditation status may be checked by visiting the link listed below.

<https://ope.ed.gov/dapip/#/home>

Q: How long can I participate in the ETV Program?

A: Students can participate in the ETV Program for five years (consecutive or not) or up to age 26, whichever occurs first. Participants must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to remain eligible for the program. A student's school will determine if the student is making Satisfactory Academic Progress.

Q: How do I apply for the ETV Program?

A: To apply, students must submit a complete application at [Application for Illinois Education and Training Voucher Funds \(mykaleidoscope.com\)](https://mykaleidoscope.com)

Students must also:

- File a FAFSA annually.
- Complete any additional paperwork required by the school.

Q: How will I be notified if I will receive an ETV award:

A: If awarded ETV funding, the student will receive notification via an email disclosing the amount of the award. The email will come from [DCFS.ETVCoordinator@illinois.gov](mailto:DCFS.ETVCoordinator@illinois.gov).

Q: Will my school be contacted regarding my ETV eligibility?

A: Once a student has been determined to be eligible for ETV funding a “Letter of Intent” is emailed to the school’s financial aid representative alerting them of the student’s eligibility and requesting the student’s current invoice. The ETV Coordinator will determine if ETV funding can be awarded and will notify the school accordingly. The student will be copied on all email correspondence.

Q: If I’m receiving a Youth in College or Scholarship board payment, can ETV also assist with my room and board costs?

A: A student could potentially receive additional assistance with room and board costs from ETV if they are receiving a Youth in College or Scholarship board payment. The ETV coordinator will determine this and notify the student.

Additional Questions:

Please email [DCFS.ETVCoordinator@illinois.gov](mailto:DCFS.ETVCoordinator@illinois.gov)