

MARYLAND FOSTER CARE TUITION WAIVER

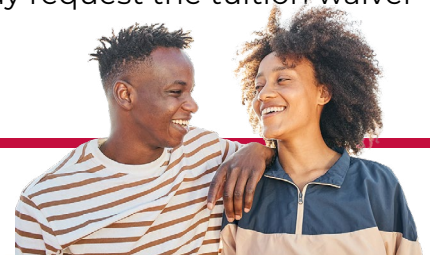
Important Update Effective July 1, 2026

Eligibility Age Lowered to Age 8

Due to HB 982 / SB 864, more youth may now qualify for the Maryland Foster Care Tuition Waiver. Any youth who meets the eligibility requirements below may request the tuition waiver if attending a Maryland public college or university.

WHO QUALIFIES?

A youth qualifies if they were placed by the Maryland Department of Human Services and lived in out-of-home care:



OPTION 1

In care on their:

- 18th birthday, **OR**
- high school graduation date
- OR**
- GED completion date

OPTION 2 NEW EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY

In care for at least 1 year on or after their 8th birthday, **AND LATER:** reunified with a parent,

- adopted, **OR**
- placed into guardianship completion date

SIBLING ELIGIBILITY

Younger siblings also qualify if they were:

- placed together in the same guardianship, **OR**
- adopted by the same adoptive family from out-of-home care

WHAT DOES THE WAIVER COVER?

- Tuition
- Registration fees
- Required enrollment fees

The waiver applies to:

- Fall
- Winter
- Spring
- Summer terms

Eligible programs include:

- Degree programs
- Certificate programs
- Credit and non-credit courses

WHAT IS NOT COVERED?

- Room and board
- Books
- Transportation

IMPORTANT REQUIREMENTS

- Enroll in a Maryland public college or university by age 25
- File FAFSA and Maryland State financial aid applications every year
- Inform the college financial aid office of tuition waiver eligibility
- Meet the academic standards of the college

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The waiver may be used for up to 10 years after first enrollment in a Maryland public institution, or until a bachelor's degree is earned
- The waiver cannot be applied retroactively
- Previously paid educational expenses cannot be reimbursed