



Youth In College/Vocational Training Program

Eligibility Requirements:

- DCFS must have court ordered legal responsibility for youth.
- Youth must be enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited university, college, or a vocational training program.
- Must complete the CFS 449 (Youth in College/Vocational Training Program application).
- Must be at least 16 years old and not yet 21, at time of application.
- Maintain at least "C" average each semester.
- Maintain full-time status (12 hours Fall & Spring, 6 hours in Summer, or an approved summer internship). Enrollment will be verified through the National Student Clearinghouse.
- Submit class schedule at the start of each semester and grades at the end of each semester
- Report any change of address promptly to your YIC Coordinator.
- Apply for financial aid every year to cover tuition or room and board costs.
- Youth transitioning to the YIC program at age 21 must have completed at least one semester of a post secondary program at full time status with a 2.0 GPA or higher.

Benefits:

- Youth may choose to attend an accredited vocational school, four-year college or community college.
- A monthly board payment in the amount of \$1,273. These funds are to assist the student with campus based room and board costs or off campus rent and utilities, and personal expenses. Direct deposit is strongly recommended.
- Reimbursement available for books not covered by financial aid.
- OETS Post-Secondary Education Specialists are available for assistance.
- Benefits available for 5 consecutive years or through age 25 whichever occurs first.
- Youth are eligible for a one-time start-up payment to be used for initial living expenses
- If attending an Illinois public university or community college (in-district), a tuition and fee waiver letter will be sent on the student's behalf.

Important Plans To Consider:

- Arranging transportation to the school location
- Planning for housing when school is closed for breaks and holidays
- Devising a backup plan for finances if your monthly board payment is lost or stolen.
- Seeking tutorial assistance through the school, and meeting with OETS staff if your grades are low, if you are having problems in a particular course, or if you must withdraw from any classes.
- Education and Training Voucher Program for expenses not covered by YIC/VT Program.

What the Youth In College/Vocational Training Program DOES NOT Cover:

- Orientation fees
- Computers or Internet services
- Room/board costs
- Laboratory fees
- Supplies
- Study abroad
- Study enhancement programs
- Phone bills
- Library fines
- Dorm room damages
- Repayment of student loans
- Transportation to and from school
- Tuition