

Transition Checklist



When a youth goes through the process of transitioning out of foster care, they will need to present a variety of documents to care providers, school officials, and case workers. Carlos Daniels, 23, is an alumni of foster care and currently in college from Detroit, Michigan. He developed and uses this reference list and an accordion file to keep the documents organized and easy to find.

- Social Security Card
- Birth Certificate
- State/Driver's ID
- Medical insurance card
- Current immunization records
- Official State Department letter (DHS, Education, CPS, Criminal)
- Official letter of current status of parents or ward of court
- All educational transcripts
- Letter of college admission
- Receipts for tuition payment
- Registrar documents
- Titles to all major Assets (i.e. car, mobile devices)
- Receipts of all major purchases
- Auto Insurance documents
- Auto work records from mechanic
- Utility bills and receipts
- Phone bills (up to 6 months)
- All taxes (7 years if possible)
- All Court documents
- Pay check stubs for 1-2 years (one for every month)
- All signed contracts of any kind
- Durable Power of Attorney and/or Health Care Directive

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Exploring Higher Education: Questions to Ask...



In Michigan, many institutions of higher education offer youth and alumni of foster care access to programs, scholarships, and services. You can use this list of questions to determine what support services are available at the colleges, community colleges, and universities you are researching.

On-Campus Support

- Does the school have a structured support program for first-year students or for students from foster care?
- What advising and academic support services are available?

Financial Aid

- What Financial aid package is used for alumni of foster care at your college? Does it consider the added costs of attending college for youth and alumni of foster care (i.e. year-round housing)?
- Is the school familiar with financial aid for students from foster care, such as tuition waivers, scholarships, or Chafee Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs)?
- Does the financial aid package cover the college's health insurance program?
- Do youth in foster care need to do anything special to be considered independent students at your school other than complete the FAFSA?
- What is the FAFSA priority deadline?

Housing

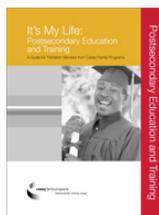
- Are there year-round housing options available?
- If I'm an alumni of foster care, do I have access to that housing even if I'm not an upper-class student or 21?
- Is family housing available (for married students and/or those with children)?

Additional questions

- How do students get involved with a program like the Educational Opportunity Program or TRIO on campus?
- Is family/parent orientation open to foster parents, guardians and/or case workers?
- Are there any classes, faculty and staff who have a focus on working with or educating about issues related to foster care and youth and alumni of foster care?

Adapted from University of Washington's Champion Program and the Casey Foundation's "It's My Life: Postsecondary Education and Training"

The Casey Foundation offers "It's My Life: Postsecondary Education and Training" for free on line. This valuable publication provides a wealth of web links to online resources, a step-by-step plan for applying for financial aid, and much more. This comprehensive guide also provides recommendations and numerous strategies for helping young people begin and succeed in postsecondary programs. You can obtain your free guide by visiting <http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/ItsMyLife/Education.htm>



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