



Welcome, Cohort 25!

2026 Governors' Scholars

COLLEGE
SUCCESS
FOUNDATION



Today's Presenter:

Laura Lydia – CSF Program Manager

In my previous role, I worked at Washington State University where I managed a program called Passport to College, providing direct support services for students that have experienced foster care and homelessness without a parent/guardian. I oversaw a case management of 200 eligible students attending WSU at all satellite campuses (Pullman, Spokane, Tri-Cities, Vancouver, Everett, and Global).

Currently, I am a program manager at College Success Foundation where I work closely with a state government agency, providing trainings, technical assistance, and other professional services on supporting foster youth and homeless youth to 46 colleges and universities in Washington. Additionally, my team provides emergency funding to Passport eligible students facing unexpected financial situations.

Goals for today



History of the Governors' Scholarship Program



Basics of your scholarship



Using your support network



Passport Program benefits



Q&A

The History of Governors' Scholarship

The Washington State Governors' Scholarship for Foster Youth is a scholarship program that helps young men and women from foster care continue their education and earn a college degree. The program was started by the Honorable Gary Locke (former governor), and it is supported by Gov. Jay Inslee, The Honorable Chris Gregoire (former governor), and other former governors in Washington State.



Over the past 25 years, CSF and Foster Care Initiatives have been a leader in supporting and increasing graduation rates for youth of care. We have awarded 571 scholars over \$8 million in scholarships.

Our unique approach includes a system of supports and scholarships to inspire students, like you, to finish high school, graduate from college, and succeed in school and life.

The Basics



- \$2,000 at community college
- \$3,000 at public universities
- \$4,000 at private universities
- Awarded for up to 5 years → renewable by June 30
- Must file a FAFSA or WAFSA every year as soon as possible (Oct 1)
- Must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) at your school

Timeline & Processing



- Funds mailed or electronically transferred 10 days prior to each term
- Disbursement checks mailed to the Financial Aid office
- Reasons why your scholarship may not be disbursed:
 - Not enrolled full time
 - Financial Aid application not complete
 - Change of school without notifying us
 - Not meeting SAP
 - Renewal not completed

2026-27 Academic Year Disbursement Schedule



School Term	Date funds will be sent
Fall Semester	7/22/2026
Fall Quarter	7/22/2026
Winter Quarter	11/11/2026
Spring Semester	11/11/2026
Spring Quarter	2/24/2027
Summer Term	4/21/2027

Disbursement Timeline & Amount

SEMESTERS	1st Disbursement Fall Semester	2nd Disbursement Spring Semester	Summer Term (let us know before July if you want funds split into 3 terms)
Date	July 22, 2026	November 11, 2026	April 21, 2027
Amount <small>(Assuming you take 12 credits each term)</small>	\$1,250	\$1,250	

QUARTERS	1st Disbursement Fall quarter	2nd Disbursement Winter Quarter	3rd Disbursement Spring quarter	Summer Quarter (let us know if you want us to split funds into 4 terms)
Date	July 22, 2026	November 11, 2026	February 24, 2027	April 21, 2027
Amount <small>(assuming 12 credits per quarter)</small>	\$834	\$833	\$833	

Enrollment & SAP



- Enrollment
 - Prefer you enroll full time (12+) each term
 - Contact us if you will not be enrolled full time
 - Contact us and your financial aid office **BEFORE** you drop
- Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
 - Must meet college's SAP policy and continue to be eligible for financial aid
 - Not meeting SAP = No scholarship

Renewing Your Scholarship



- Renew your scholarship annually
- Open May 1 – June 30
- We send reminder email end of April
- Required to turn in unofficial transcript, donor update note
- When graduating, you'll fill out a graduate survey
- You can request a deferment or leave of absence for a year when completing the renewal form
- No renewal = no funding

Using your support system



- Reach out to the Scholarship Services team for extra support and questions.
- Connect with your assigned college coach
- Connect with the DSS at your campus, they have a lot resources and connections.

Updating Your Information



Please make sure to let us know if anything changes

- Change of address, phone number, email
- Transferring Colleges*
 - Need to know the college and term transferring
 - Must work with college to process new financial aid award EARLY
- Need support of any kind

ScholarshipServices@collegesuccessfoundation.org

Additional support for Passport Students: Passport to Careers Scholarship

- The Passport to Careers program helps students who were in foster care prepare for and succeed in college, apprenticeships, and pre-apprenticeship programs.
- Scholarship is for youth who have experienced foster care at any point after the age of 13 or have experienced homelessness without a parent/guardian – up to \$2,300/year for 6 years
- Passport students receive extra support from college staff
 - [Click here](#) to find the Designated Support Staff (DSS)/Passport Advisor on your campus
- Passport students also have access to [additional funds](#) to address unforeseen barriers
- To check if you're eligible, visit the [Passport guide](#)





Q&A

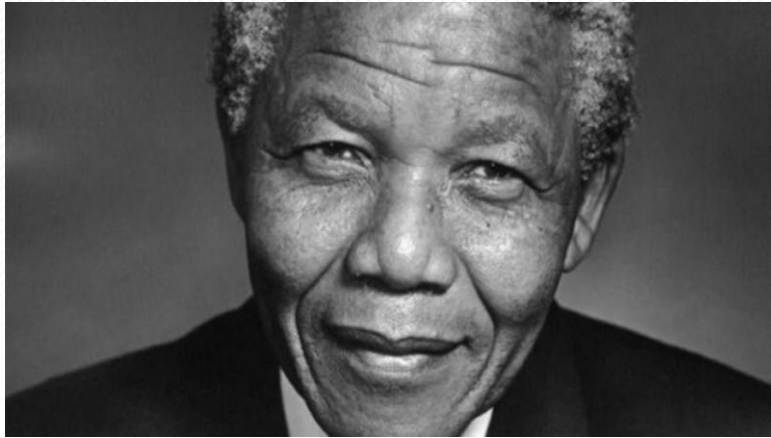


We are here to help!

- Kerrie Moss – kmoss@collegesuccessfoundation.org
 - In charge of disbursing your scholarship. Coordinates your financial aid with your school. Can also help you with your financial aid questions.
- Osbaldo (Ozzy) Arroyo – oarroyo@collegesuccessfoundation.org
 - In charge of the Passport Scholar Persistence Fund and can provide support in connecting students to the DSS.

ScholarshipServices@collegesuccessfoundation.org

Closing & Thank You



“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.”

— Nelson Mandela