

JANUARY 10, 2017



## Scholarship Program Provides Path to College for Iowa's Foster Children

Source: *The Des Moines Register*

A West Des Moines-based nonprofit founded in 2008 has launched its first-ever campaign to raise money to provide college scholarships to students from Iowa's foster care program.

Through the Guardian Scholars Foundation program students can receive up to \$8,000 per year to attend a four-year university.

Approximately 4,500 children enter the foster care system each year in Iowa, according to a news release. Fewer than 3 percent of these children will earn a college degree by age 25 and one in four will be involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving the foster care system. More than one in five will become homeless after age 18, the news release says.

The foundation partners with Drake University, Buena Vista University, Grand View University and Waldorf College, and it pairs each student with a mentor or family. [CONTINUE READING](#)

[DID YOU READ THE TOP 20 PICKS OF 2016?](#)

## FREE CLASSES

### Offer Parents New Solutions to Unique Challenges at Home

IFAPA offers an extensive amount of free trainings to assist foster, adoptive and kinship parents in continuing their education on the unique needs of children in their home. **View sample class below**

Our winter training schedule has been released and covers classes offered in January, February and March. All classes are free to parents, with the exception of our CPR classes.



### SLEEP: HOW TO KNOW WHEN SOMETHING IS WRONG & WHAT TO DO

When we don't sleep well it affects all other aspects of our world. Dr. Joann Seeman Smith will discuss what healthy sleep looks like and what are some red flags to signal there might be an issue. Together we will explore the three major categories of childhood sleep disorders and discuss nightmares, night terrors, nocturnal enuresis, sleep-onset association disorder, separation anxiety and more. Parents will also learn good sleep hygiene techniques and ways to make sure that everyone in the house is getting enough rest! **This free class is scheduled in Cedar Rapids on Sat., March 4 from 9am to 12:15pm. [VIEW WINTER TRAINING CLASSES](#)**

TO REGISTER FOR A CLASS

CALL 800-277-8145 OR [REGISTER HERE](#)



## All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grant

Students who age out of Iowa's foster care system, age out of the Iowa state training school or who are adopted from Iowa foster care after the age of 16 may qualify for the All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grant program. This grant can be used for any college expenses including tuition, fees, books and supplies, dorms and off-campus housing, meal plans, transportation and personal living expenses. Grant amounts are **up to \$9,010 per year**.

Renewal applications who have completed both the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and the Iowa Financial Aid Application by March 1, are considered for funding first. New applications will be considered in date-received order. [LEARN MORE](#)

## Education & Training Voucher (ETV) Grant

The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Grant provides awards of **up to \$5,000 per year** to students who age out of foster care and students who are adopted after age 16. Grant awards are sent directly to the college or university and can be used to pay for tuition/fees, room/board, book/supplies and personal/living expenses.

ETV funds can be used during the summer if the student has not received the entire \$5,000 during the prior academic year. Funding can be used for undergraduate and graduate programs starting in the fall of 2016. Priority for funding will be given to undergraduate students. If funding is available after July 1 of each year, graduate level applicants may be awarded in date-received order. Graduate students need to complete the standard applications and also email the ETV coordinator information on your graduate level program of study. [LEARN MORE](#)

**Watch for details to come soon on upcoming dates for Transition Planning training opportunities for youth and foster parents to attend together to be offered in various locations across the state!**

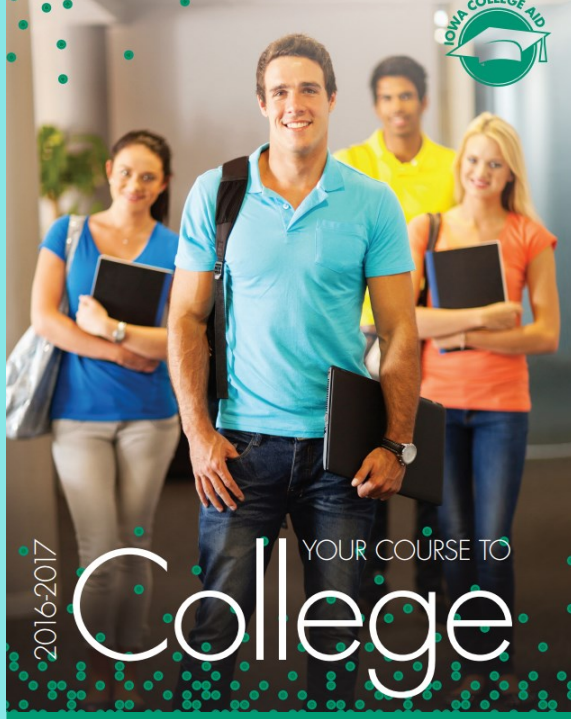
## \$500 GRANTS FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Have you heard? Teens in foster care (age 14 & up) can apply for a Friends grant up to \$500 per fiscal year.

Types of items that will be covered by the Friends of Children in Foster Care program include:

- Sports registrations
- Sporting equipment costs (helmets, gloves, cleats)
- Swimming lessons
- Summer camps
- Music instruments/lessons
- Tae Kwon Do
- Gymnastics/Dance
- Prom attire (dress, shoes and tux rental)
- Senior/class trips
- Class ring
- Senior pictures
- College application fees

For the application and to view the type of items covered by the Friends of Children in Foster Care program, [CLICK HERE](#).



2016-2017

# YOUR COURSE TO College

**This comprehensive guide provides everything you need to know about the college application and financial aid processes, federal and state financial aid programs, colleges and universities in Iowa and selecting a major and future career, as well as tips to help make the transition to college easy.**

[VIEW PUBLICATION](#)

## IOWA AFTERCARE SERVICES NETWORK

You're about to age out of foster care ... so now what? Entering adulthood means making lots of decisions, and it can be a tough time. The Iowa Aftercare Services Network (IASN) is available to help young adults who have experienced foster care move toward stability and self-sufficiency in five key areas: education, employment, housing, health and relationships. [LEARN MORE](#)