Chafee Grant

The Chafee Grant is free money for current or former foster youth to pay for college costs and does not have to be paid back. The Chafee Grant is a need-based grant and is subject each year to availability of limited funding, so it is important to apply early and accurately. The current Chafee Grant amount is up to $5,000 each academic year. If you receive a Chafee Grant, it may be renewed through your 23rd birthday. You do not need to reapply for your Chafee Grant each year, but you must file the FAFSA every year. The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) administers the Chafee Grant program in California.

How do I qualify?
- You must be a current or former foster youth;
- Not have reached your 22nd birthday as of July 1 of the award year;
- The court must have established your dependency when you were between the ages of 16 and 19. This does not include KinGap youth, adopted youth, guardian placement and voluntary placement. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) verifies your foster youth eligibility status during the application process.

How do I apply?
1. You must complete the Chafee Grant Application at www.chafee.csac.ca.gov AND
2. You must complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov

What happens after I apply?
1. CSAC will review your FAFSA and Chafee Grant application AND
2. CDSS will verify your foster youth status through the Independent Living Program

What happens at Sacramento State?
1. Sacramento State receives weekly notifications from CSAC regarding eligible applicants
2. If you have completed the FAFSA process and have received your Award Letter, Sacramento State will (electronically) complete the Financial Needs Analysis requirement with CSAC
3. If eligible, you will be awarded an Estimated Chafee Grant. This grant will remain in "Offer" status until Sacramento State receives your Chafee Grant funds (check).

How do I receive my Chafee?
- You must be enrolled in at least half-time (6 units) in an eligible program leading to a degree;
- You must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards;
- You must complete the FAFSA process to the point where you have received your Award Letter and have financial need

Your Estimated Chafee Grant does not guarantee you will receive these funds. CSAC makes the final determination based on the availability of funds for students meeting the priority selection criteria. You should receive a Preliminary Award Announcement from CSAC regarding your Chafee Grant award. You can verify your award status on webgrants4students.org or contacting CSAC Student Support at 1-888-224-7268 and selecting option 3.

If you have been funded the Chafee Grant by CSAC, they will send Sacramento State a paper check each semester. After we review your eligibility, your Estimated Chafee Grant will change to an actual Chafee Grant award. We will contact you to pick up your check at the Student Financial Services Center.

Sacramento State begins to receive disbursements for Chafee Grant awards usually after the semester has begun. You will also need to take into account that this grant may not be available based on the availability of state funds. Remember to notify the Commission if you have moved, changed your name or are attending another school.

Have questions? Contact the Financial Aid Office for assistance.

Rev 2/28/13