

FOSTER CARE TUITION WAIVER FACT SHEET

During fiscal year 2000, West Virginia legislation was enacted (HB-4784) which allows eligible youth in foster care to receive tuition waivers for the purpose of attending a West Virginia public higher education institution.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Within limitations of the governing boards, the waiver program is available to ANY youth who:

- ✓ Graduated from high school or passed the GED examination while in the legal custody of the Department of Health and Human Resources;
- ✓ And was in foster care or residential care for at least one year immediately preceding graduation;
- ✓ Applies for the waiver within two years of graduating from high school or passing the GED;
- ✓ Has been accepted to a West Virginia public higher education institution, and
- ✓ Applies for other student financial aid, other than student loans, in compliance with federal financial aid rules, including the federal Pell Grant.

WHAT DOES THE WAIVER COVER?

- ✓ The waiver covers tuition and fees after other sources of financial aid dedicated solely to tuition and fees are exhausted.

WHAT DOES THE WAIVER NOT COVER?

- ✓ The waiver does NOT cover room and board or the cost of books.

WOULD A YOUTH HAVE TO APPLY FOR A WAIVER EACH OF THE FOUR YEARS?

- ✓ Yes. The youth must continue to meet the academic progress standards established by the West Virginia higher educational institution they are attending in order to receive a waiver renewal.

WHERE DOES THE YOUTH APPLY FOR A WEST VIRGINIA FOSTER CHILD TUITION WAIVER?

- ✓ At the financial aid office of the college or university where accepted. A letter on DHHR letterhead, signed by the Social Service Manager or designee, will be required as proof of foster/residential care placement one year prior to the waiver application.