

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

A student is considered to be **“independent”** when completing their FAFSA if he or she was a ward of the court at **ANY** time after their 13th birthday.

### This includes:



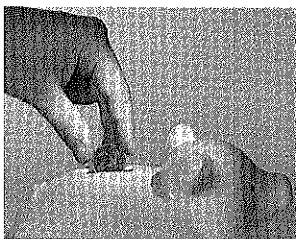
- A youth that was a ward of the court for **ANY** length of time after their 13th birthday.



- A youth that is no longer in foster care at the time of high school graduation due to reunification, adoption or guardianship.

### *What Does All This Mean?*

With an independent status you are eligible to receive funding for your college expenses!



## WHEN & HOW . . . DO I GET THIS INFORMATION?

*Your foster care worker will:*

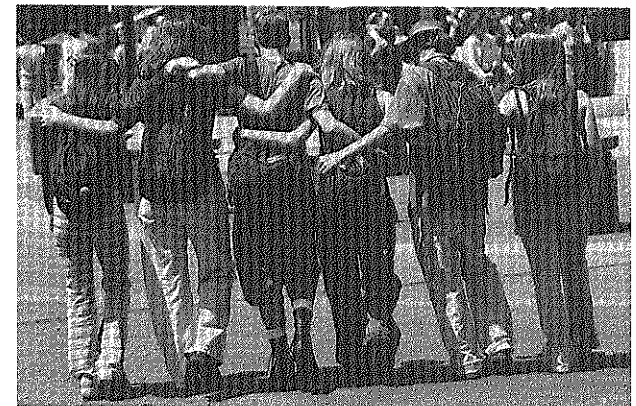
1. Provide a copy of the Financial Aid Form (DHS-945) to you at the time of high school graduation or receiving your GED. (This form is given to the college financial aid office and proves your independent status.)
2. Give you the reference sheet - “Foster Youth: Tips for Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).”
3. Supply you with a list of potential college financial resources.

You can also receive any of the above information by calling the Youth Services Unit number on the back of this brochure!

## NOW WHAT?

*You should:*

1. Keep your DHS-945 form until you are ready to enroll in college.
2. Complete your FAFSA in January of your senior year of high school. Mark **yes** to the question, **“At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?”**
3. Take your signed DHS-945 form to the college financial aid office. Keep a copy for your records.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q. What is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)?**

A. FAFSA is a free form that students must complete annually to apply for federal and state financial aid to pay for college.

**Q. What is the Financial Aid Form (DHS-945)?**

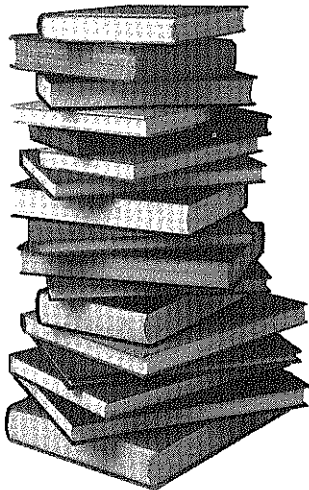
A. A form developed by the Department of Human Services and the Department of Treasury for foster care youth planning to enter college. This form is used to verify court wardship for financial aid purposes.

**Q. I graduated from high school or received my GED after my case was closed. How do I get a copy of the DHS-945?**

A. You may contact a local DHS office or the Youth Services Unit to obtain the signed form.

**Q. Does this change the eligibility requirements for the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program?**

A. No. The eligibility requirements for the ETV program available to youths in foster care after their 14th birthday, does not change.



## RESOURCES

### DHS Local Offices

<http://www.michigan.gov/dhs>  
Click on "County Offices" link

### ETV Website

<http://www.mictv.lssm.org>

### FAFSA Website

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

### Foster Youth in Transition

<http://www.michigan.gov/fyit>

### Youth Services Unit

235 S. Grand Ave., Suite 415  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
Phone: 517-373-2851



Department of Human Services (DHS) will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political beliefs or disability. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to a DHS office in your area.

Quantity: 7500  
Cost: \$828.95 (.11 ea.)  
Authority: DHS Director

## NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE?

## THEN CHECK THIS OUT!

### Financial Aid Information For Foster Youth

As of July 1, 2009,  
**a foster youth is now**  
considered "independent"  
when completing the  
Free Application for Federal  
Student Aid (FAFSA)  
if he/she was a ward of the  
court at any time after the  
**13th birthday!**

