

DSHS-Children's Administration

Educational & Training Voucher (ETV) Program Newsletter

Important Dates:

- The 2009 Independent Living Conference will be held Saturday, April 18th, 2009. Workshops will be held from 9-4 and a block party will be held from 4-6 at the 2100 Bldg. located at 2100 24th Ave. South, Seattle, WA. 98144
- "Knowing Your Rights" Training will be held at Casey Family Programs in Yakima, WA. On April 18th from 2:00-4:00. For more information go to: <http://wingit.ning.com/>
- May is National Foster Care month.
- Passport to College Program Training will be held May 5-7. For more information go to: www.hecb.wa.gov
- Foster Youth & Alumni Leadership Summit June 27 & 28th. For the application and information go to: www.mockingbirdsociety.org
- Make it Happen! Will be held at Seattle University, July 22-25th. For the application and more information go to: www.collegesuccessfoundation.org



"Foster Parent Proud of First Year Student"

Daniela kept calling home to ask her foster mom "Miss Margaret", "What else can I do to feel better?" She was living in the dorm in her freshman year at college, and was hoarse, sick and feeling terrible. Miss Margaret read between the lines: Daniela was sick but she was homesick, too. So she gathered her other foster daughters, called her sister who has foster children, and asked Grandma Gwen to come along too. They brought balloons and fun things to Daniela's dorm room and had a surprise Valentine's Day party.

As they were leaving the

dorm room a friend saw them all and asked Daniela who they were; they were a mix of African American, Caucasian and multi-ethnic adults and children, and Daniela responded "This is my family." Miss Margaret said she knew then they had "made it." When you have a "United Nations family like that, and a foster child calls them her family, you know you've done something right."

Daniela is just finishing her freshman year and has a 3.3 GPA. Next year she'll be an R.A. (Resident Assistant) on her dorm floor. Daniela and Miss Margaret have a deep, trusting relationship now, but

it wasn't always like that. Daniela and her younger sister did some adolescent acting out and ended up in respite care with Grandma Gwen. Before they moved back in with Miss Margaret they had to work together in counseling and come up with ways they could all live together and get their needs met. It wasn't easy and Miss Margaret says it would have been easier just to give it all up. But she wasn't ready to give up, she saw something special in the girls and they have all grown closer and become a family. Daniela is currently an ETV student.

Dependency Status Definition Changes on FAFSA

Good news for adopted youth! The recently enacted College Cost Reduction & Access Act (CCRAA) expands the criteria under which an undergraduate student is considered independent for federal financial aid purposes.

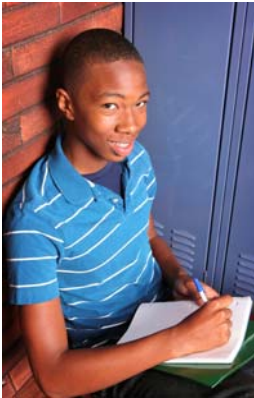
Effective **July 1, 2009** the orphan/ward of the court criterion is expanded to include any student who is an orphan, is in foster care, or is a ward of the court at any time after turning 13 years of age.

Under this new law, youth who are adopted after their 13th birthday will not need to include their adoptive parents' income, assets, or other information for determining need for federal student finan-

cial aid.

This change to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will make it much easier for youth who were adopted on or after age 13, those in guardianships, and homeless youth to receive federal grant funding.

This new federal change does not pertain to the Educational & Training Voucher (ETV) Programs age eligibility requirement. Youth still must have been adopted on or after their 16th birthday in order to be eligible for ETV.



Running Start Youth Are Now Eligible for ETV

Running Start Youth are now eligible to receive Educational & Training Voucher funds to help pay for costs such as books & supplies, transportation, and some approved fees.

Youth are only eligible to receive ETV funding for these costs if they are taking 100 level courses and above.

The ETV Running Start application is on our web site at:

www.independence.wa.gov/program/etv.asp.

For questions please contact the ETV Program at:

etvwash@dshs.wa.gov or call 1-877-433-8388.

*“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.”
~ David Thoreau*

How Do ETV Expenses Get Paid?

There are three ways ETV eligible expenses can be paid:

1. **Reimbursement:** Meaning youth complete the ETV payment request form and turn in their receipts for reimbursement.
2. **Voucher:** This process is typically for setting up books, supplies, tuition and bus pass accounts with the college. The college then sends the ETV program an invoice to pay; and
3. **Direct Vendor Payment:** A vendor can be a business, college, landlord, utility company etc.

If the ETV program is making a payment directly to a vendor, the vendor must complete and turn in a W-9 form. Expenses cannot get paid without this form.

In order to receive ETV payments quickly it's important to complete the ETV payment request form in its entirety. If you are writing on the form please write neatly. Also, please remember to sign and date the form.

If all the paper work has been turned in and completed properly and no follow up is necessary, payments typically are received within 10-14 business days.

For the ETV payment request form and a list of ETV eligible expenses you can go to our web site at:

www.independence.wa.gov or you may contact the program at 1-877-433-8388 or by email at: etvwash@dshs.wa.gov.



Washington State Department of Social & Health
Services-Children's Administration
ETV Program
1115 Washington St. SE
P.O. Box 45710
Olympia, WA. 98504-5710

Phone: 1-877-433-8388
FAX: 360-902-7588
E-mail: etvwash@dshs.wa.gov

ETV Program Staff

Juliette Knight, Program Manager
Khris Blumer, Program Coordinator
Helen Schwartz, Program Coordinator

Resources

Information about summer programs for High School & College students:
<http://www.fastweb.com/fastweb/resources/articles/index/102582>

For a list of accredited Washington State College & Universities go to:
<http://www.hecb.wa.gov/links/colleges/collegesindex.asp>

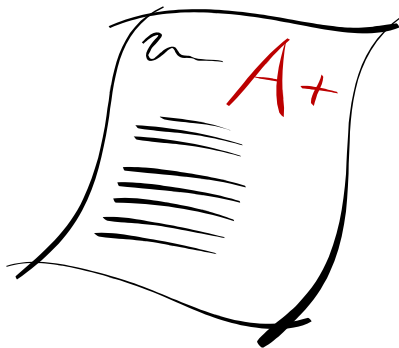
Washington Information & Networking Group In support of Transitioning Youth:
<http://wingit.ning.com/>

Governor's Scholarship-College Success Foundation:
<http://www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/gf/index.htm>

We're on the Web
www.independence.wa.gov

Congratulations ETV Youth!

The Educational & Training Voucher (ETV) Program Staff would like to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate the following youth for their hard work during the 2008-09 fall quarter.



- Zematra B.
- Daniel B.
- Amber B.
- Claudia C.
- Tiffany D.
- Tina E.
- Travis F.
- Brittany F.
- Victoria G.
- Cherie G.
- Joshua H.
- Lisa I.
- Ira J.
- Otabia L.
- Shayla M.
- Noemi M.
- Jessica M.
- Marisela O.
- Mark P.
- Karra P.
- Betty W.
- Roni Z.

Congratulations also to all ETV youth who had good grades fall quarter, but did not want to have their name listed in the newsletter.

Turning your grades in after each quarter/semester is a requirement of the ETV Program.

Please remember winter quarter grades are due no later than **Friday, April 17th, 2009. Failure to submit your grades may result in an interruption to ETV payments.** If you need an extension please contact the ETV Program.