

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE TUITION WAIVER FOR FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE CHILDREN**

### **Section 1:**

**The student completes the student information section and Section 1 of the form.**

Please include all information as follows:

- First, middle and last names;
- House number, street name, city, state and zip code;
- Phone number, including area code;
- Month, day and year of birth;
- Social Security number;
- E-mail address;
- Foster or adoptive father's full name, including middle name or initial and foster or adoptive mother's full name including maiden name;
- Indicate date of high school graduation or GED Certificate;
- Indicate date of anticipated entry into public post-secondary institution;
- Indicate whether student has previously applied for the waiver;
- Indicate whether student has served in active duty status in the military;
- Check the correct eligibility criteria box;
- Check box for release of information; and
- Sign and date the form.

After completion of the student information section and Section 1 of the form, turn the form in to the public post-secondary institution. Verification of student information may be requested.

### **Section 2:**

**Completed by public post-secondary institution.**

### **Section 3:**

**Completed by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.**

- Verifies eligibility criteria. Marks the appropriate box;
- If the applicant meets the eligibility criteria, signs the form and mails it to the post-secondary institution within thirty (30) working days from the date of receipt from the requesting institution with a copy to the applicant;
- If the applicant does not meet the eligibility criteria and is found ineligible, returns a copy of the signed form to the post-secondary institution and applicant;
- Forwards to the applicant a copy of the DPP-154A, Notice of Intended Action and the
- DPP-154, Service Appeal Request.



**164.2847 Waiver of tuition and mandatory student fees for Kentucky foster or adopted children.**

- (1) Tuition and mandatory student fees for any undergraduate program of any Kentucky public postsecondary institution, including all four (4) year universities and colleges and institutions of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, shall be waived for a Kentucky foster or adopted child who is a full-time or part-time student if the student meets all entrance requirements and maintains academic eligibility while enrolled at the postsecondary institution, and if:
  - (a) The student's family receives state-funded adoption assistance under KRS 199.555;
  - (b) The student is currently committed to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services under KRS 610.010(5) and placed in a family foster home or is placed in accordance with KRS 605.090(3);
  - (c) The student is in an independent living program and the placement is funded by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services;
  - (d) The student who is an adopted child was in the permanent legal custody of and placed for adoption by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. A student who meets the eligibility criteria of this paragraph and lives outside of Kentucky at the time of application to a Kentucky postsecondary institution may apply for the waiver up to the amount of tuition for a Kentucky resident; or
  - (e) The Cabinet for Health and Family Services was the student's legal custodian on his or her eighteenth birthday.
- (2) Tuition and mandatory student fees for any undergraduate program of any Kentucky public postsecondary institution, including all four (4) year universities and colleges and institutions of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, shall be waived for a Department of Juvenile Justice foster child who is a full-time or part-time student if the student meets all entrance requirements and maintains academic eligibility while enrolled at the postsecondary institution and obtains a recommendation for participation from an official from the Department of Juvenile Justice, and if:
  - (a) The student has not been sentenced to the Department of Juvenile Justice under KRS Chapter 640;
  - (b) The student has been committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice for a period of at least two (2) years;
  - (c) The student is in an independent living program and placement is funded by the Department of Juvenile Justice;
  - (d) The parental rights of the student's biological parents have been terminated; or
  - (e) The student was committed to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services prior to a commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice.
- (3) Upon request of the postsecondary institution, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall confirm the eligibility status under subsection (1) of this section and

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determination

- The Department of Juvenile Justice shall confirm the eligibility status and recommendations under subsection (2) of this section of the student seeking to participate in the waiver program. Release of this information shall not constitute a breach of confidentiality required by KRS 199.570, 610.320, or 620.050.
- (4) The student shall complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to determine the level of need and eligibility for state and federal financial aid programs. If the sum of the tuition waiver plus other student financial assistance, except loans and the work study program under 42 U.S.C. secs. 2751-2756b, from all sources exceeds the student's total cost of attendance, as defined in 20 U.S.C. sec. 10871l, the tuition waiver shall be reduced by the amount exceeding the total cost of attendance.
  - (5) The student shall be eligible for the tuition waiver:
    - (a) For entrance to the institution for a period of no more than four (4) years after the date of graduation from high school; and
    - (b) For a period of five (5) years after first admittance to any Kentucky institution if satisfactory progress is achieved or maintained.
  - (6) The Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall report the number of students participating in the tuition waiver program under subsection (1) of this section and the Department of Juvenile Justice shall report the number of students participating in the tuition waiver program under subsection (2) of this section on October 1 each year to the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Legislative Research Commission.
  - (7) The Council on Postsecondary Education shall report nonidentifying data on graduation rates of students participating in the tuition waiver program by November 30 each year to the Legislative Research Commission.
  - (8) Nothing in this section shall be construed to:
    - (a) Guarantee acceptance of or entrance into any postsecondary institution for a foster or adopted child;
    - (b) Limit the participation of a foster or adopted student in any other program of financial assistance for postsecondary education;
    - (c) Require any postsecondary institution to waive costs or fees relating to room and board; or
    - (d) Restrict any postsecondary institution, the Department of Juvenile Justice, or the Cabinet for Health and Family Services from accessing other sources of financial assistance, except loans, that may be available to a foster or adopted student.

**Effective:** July 15, 2008

**History:** Amended 2008 Ky. Acts ch. 87, sec. 16, effective July 15, 2008. -- Amended 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 99, sec. 137, effective June 20, 2005. -- Amended 2002 Ky. Acts ch. 279, sec. 2, effective July 15, 2002. -- Created 2001 Ky. Acts ch. 48, sec. 1, effective June 21, 2001.

## What are post-adoption placement stabilization services?

Post-Adoption Placement Stabilization Services (PAPSS) is an optional and supportive service offered to adoptive parents on a voluntary basis. Adoptive parents receiving adoption assistance (subsidy) for a Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) adopted child may request services if the placement is close to disruption since suspensions of adoption assistance cannot occur without the concurrence of the adoptive parent(s), designated regional staff ensures there is agreement prior to proceeding. Adoption assistance is temporarily discontinued on the date of the child's placement into a residential facility. Families are eligible for up to 90 days of residential placement for their adopted child per calendar year. Adoptive parents do not have to relinquish custody of their child to receive this service. If the placement exceeds 90 days, then a voluntary commitment is pursued. Please contact your local DCBS office for more information.

## What is the tuition waiver for foster and adopted children?

As a result of KRS 164.2847, which was adopted in February 2001, **tuition and mandatory student fees** for any public postsecondary institution in Kentucky, shall be waived for a **Kentucky foster or adopted child who is a full- or part-time undergraduate student if:**

- (a) The student meets all entrance requirements for the postsecondary institution; and
- (b) The student maintains academic eligibility (i.e. 2.0 GPA) while enrolled at the postsecondary institution; and

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### (c) The student:

1. Is over age eighteen (18) and the family receives state-funded adoption assistance under KRS 199.555; or
2. Is currently placed in foster care by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) or the Department for Juvenile Justice (DJJ); or
3. Is in an Independent Living program; or
4. Was in the custody of CHFS or the DJJ prior to being adopted by a family that resides in Kentucky; or
5. Was in the custody of CHFS or the DJJ on his or her eighteenth birthday.

**Parents of children adopted from Kentucky but not residing in Kentucky will be required to pay the difference between the in-state and out-of-state tuition rates. The waiver does not apply to institutions outside of Kentucky.**

**Public postsecondary institutions include all Kentucky public four-year state universities and colleges. This also includes institutions of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). "Tuition and mandatory fees" means fees for instruction. This does not include room and board or books.**

### How do you apply for the waiver?

The student must complete and process the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine if he or she is eligible for state or federal financial aid programs. The amount of the waiver will be determined by any other free financial assistance (loans excluded) the student receives. The waiver and other free assistance cannot exceed the total costs of attendance.

The "**Tuition Waiver for Foster and Adopted Children**" form must first be signed by the student (or guardian if under 18) and returned to the institution. These forms are available from CHFS or DJJ staff, school counselors,

public postsecondary institution staff and Vocational Rehabilitation counselors.

**How long will a student be eligible for the tuition waiver?**



A student must request the waiver within four years from the date of:

- (a) Graduation for high school graduates; or
- (b) A student's high school peers' graduation date for GED recipients.



A student may receive the waiver for a period of five (5) years after admittance to an institution if satisfactory progress is achieved or maintained. Contact local DCBS or DJJ staff or call (800) 232-5437 for more information.

**What is the Educational Training Voucher (ETV)?**

The ETV is available for children who were adopted from DCBS when they were 16 or older. The maximum amount available is \$5000 per student per year. Students eligible for the Tuition Waiver may also be eligible for an ETV. These funds can be used for expenses related to helping a student stay enrolled. Allowable expenses include but are not limited to the following: books, tuition, child care, transportation, utilities, food and rent assistance.

**Please contact your regional Chafee Independent Living coordinator if you have any questions regarding the tuition waiver or the ETV.**

**Independent Living Coordinators**

Region	Phone
Cumberland	(606) 528-4234 (606) 787-8369
Eastern Mountain	(606) 528-4234 (606) 920-2032
Jefferson	(502) 595-4504
The Lakes	(270) 247-2979
Northeastern	(606) 845-2381
Northern Bluegrass	(859) 292-6340
Salt River Trail	(270) 766-5099
Southern Bluegrass	(859) 246-2266 (859) 734-5448
Two Rivers	(270) 746-7447 (270) 687-7491
Project administrator	(502) 564-2147
Training aide	(502) 564-2147

**What is the Chafee Independence Program?**

The John Chafee Independence Program is a federally funded program designed to teach children and youth in foster care and former foster children the skills that will enable them to be self-sufficient. Services are provided by Independent Living coordinators (See graph above), private child caring contractors and central office specialist Keith Jones, who can be reached at (502) 564-2147 ex. 4497 or keith.jones@ky.gov. Contact your regional Independent Living coordinator to find out more about the program.