



2025 Scholarships Guide

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Please note that only young people who are in foster care or were in foster care at age 16 are eligible for most of these. If you are a relative caregiver, this means that your kinship youth had to be placed with you on a Child in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) order. If you have informal placement instead, don't worry! There are still many other scholarships that are available; feel free to contact us at adam@kidsmatterinc.org if you have any questions.

Akerman Academic Excellence Scholarship

Final Deadline: Friday, April 18, 2025 (7 p.m. CT)

Offered by the National CASA/GAL Association, this scholarship is designed to help foster youth pursue post-secondary education. The award is focused on academic achievement, and each year's recipient receives \$2,500 per year towards educational expenses. If recipients remain in good academic standing, they can receive the scholarship for up to four years (\$10,000 total)!

Youth who have experience in foster care can be nominated by CASA volunteers or Kids Matter staff members. Check out the application at https://nationalcasa.formstack.com/forms/2025_akerman_scholarship, and contact us at adam@kidsmatterinc.org if you have any questions.

Brighter Star: Wisconsin's ETV Fund

Wisconsin recognizes that planning for post-secondary education is important, and Brighter Star is the state's Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program that now includes all funding from the former DCF scholarship program. Brighter Star is open to all youth who participate in their county's independent living program, and it is a more flexible funding source that can be used for tuition, fees, books, transportation to school, housing, childcare, uniforms, testing fees, and more. Visit <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youthservices/college> for more information.

Brighter Star funds are awarded through Transition Resource Agencies, and the application process differs by county. For Milwaukee County, contact Christine Woods from WellPoint at ETV@wellpointcare.org or 414-465-5750. (For other regions, check out the contact list at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/youthservices/pdf/brighterstarcontacts.pdf>.)

Foster Love Scholarships

Opportunity #1: BrandSource Scholars

Early Admissions Deadline: March 28, 2025

Priority Deadline: April 25, 2025

Final Deadline: May 30, 2025

Is your student planning to pursue a high-demand trade like plumbing, welding, real estate, or culinary arts? Foster Love and AVB BrandSource are offering a \$12,000 trade scholarship for applicants who are attending a two-year



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trade school. Learn more at <https://academics.fosterlove.com/brandsource-scholars/>, and submit applications soon for the best chance at receiving funds.

Opportunity #2: American Industries Scholarship

Early Admissions Deadline: March 28, 2025

Priority Deadline: April 25, 2025

Final Deadline: May 30, 2025

Here is another opportunity for students who are getting a trade certification or vocational degree! Recipients will receive up to \$10,000 in academic funding over two years to help with financial hurdles. If your youth is considering pursuing one of these educational pathways, visit <https://academics.fosterlove.com/american-industries/scholarship/>.

Opportunity #3: Family Fellowship

Final Deadline: May 9, 2025

The Family Fellowship aims to change the statistics on the number of foster youth who graduate from college through a much more comprehensive approach that goes far beyond tuition support. Fellows get *everything* they might need, from move-in dorm support to quarterly care packages to stress management coaching. Applications are now open, so apply today at <https://academics.fosterlove.com/family-fellowship/application/>. *Note: The application will close as soon as all 10 fellows have been selected.*

Opportunity #4: Vet Tech Scholarship

No set deadline

Does your youth love animals and show an interest in veterinary studies? This scholarship provides up to \$12,000 annually for two years and is designed to tackle the financial roadblocks that often come with pursuing a veterinary technician certification, licensure, or vocational degree. Learn more at <https://academics.fosterlove.com/american-industries/vet-tech-scholarship/>.

Fostering Success at UWM

Is your youth thinking about or already attending the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM)? The mission of Fostering Success at UWM is to provide guidance and support to foster students beginning with the admission process and continuing through to graduation. This program offers scholarship and grant assistance, computer discounts, an academic supplies starter kit, life skills workshops (cooking, money management, etc.), and much more. Read about the program at <https://uwm.edu/undergrad-admission/fostering-success-at-uwm/>.

One Simple Wish Education Fund

We are excited to share that One Simple Wish (<http://www.onesimplewish.org>) created an Education Wish Fund dedicated to providing tuition fees, certification classes, and specialized educational equipment to current or former foster and kinship youth. If your student needs additional support with their education, email adam@kidsmatterinc.org to discuss submitting a wish on their behalf.