



What is it?

The Ohio Department of Higher Education administers the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) program, which provides grant money to Ohio residents in a degree or nurse diploma program at an eligible Ohio community college who demonstrate the highest levels of financial need, as determined by the results of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Eligibility Requirements

In order for a community college student to be considered for OCOG, they must:

- Be an Ohio resident in a degree or nurse diploma program;
- Have a Student Aid Index (SAI) of 3750 or less and a maximum household income of \$96,000;
- Be making satisfactory academic progress, as determined by the institution;
- Have terms of eligibility remaining (students are limited to 10 semesters or 15 quarters of state, need-based grant aid; and
- Receive an official eligibility form from the ETV program.

Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) *Available to Former Foster Youth at Community Colleges*

Qualified foster youth at community colleges continue to be eligible for OCOG

Process of Applying Funds (for the institution)

Statute maintains that for otherwise OCOG eligible students, eligible foster youth can have their living expenses added to their tuition/general fees to determine their OCOG eligibility. Qualified foster youth should receive a letter from the Ohio Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program that lists their ETV award.

The living expenses to consider are the full amount contained in each student's institutional cost of attendance. If housing costs and living expenses are not included on the student's billing statement, documentation of how the student's charges were calculated or how the average cost was arrived at must be kept. In keeping with federal guidelines, the institution must keep this documentation in the event of an audit. Note that since living expenses are included in these students' state cost of attendance, in this case, OCOG is not tuition specific and the student may be eligible for the maximum public main campus OCOG award amount.

To override the \$0 OCOG eligibility that will normally populate all community college students on the eligibility query, a student list must be sent to our office via the secure file transfer site, which can be found at: <https://heifx.ohiohighered.org>. The ETV letter does not need to be sent to our office but should be documented in case of an audit.

Questions about OCOG?

Visit highered.ohio.gov/ocog or contact:

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