

## FAFSA Form Now A Prompt For Foster Youth Assistance

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"The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, better known by its acronym, FAFSA, will now lead to notifications for current and former foster youths about educational assistance programs. And it was a former foster youth, who came to Washington for a summer internship, that started the ball rolling," *The Chronicle of Social Change* reports.

"The FAFSA form already has a box that current and former foster youth are encouraged to check, which excuses them from the sections of the form that address parental income. The omnibus appropriations bill for fiscal year for 2014 includes instructions for the Department of Education to use that box as a prompt for more.

The department is instructed to utilize the box as 'a tool to notify students who are foster youth or were in the foster care system of their potential eligibility for Federal student aid, including post-secondary education programs through the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and any other Federal programs under which such students may be eligible to receive assistance.'

The Chafee independence program offers support services and housing assistance for youths transitioning out of foster care. A second component, the Educational and Training Vouchers program, offers up to \$5,000 per year for current and former foster youths attending college."

*NASFAA's "Financial Aid in the News" section highlights media coverage of financial aid to help members stay up to date with the latest news. Inclusion in Today's News does not imply endorsement of the material or guarantee the accuracy of information presented.*

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