

## EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

For young adults who were in licensed foster care at the age of 18 and had spent at least 6 months in licensed care during their lifetimes, there are two types of educational support available - **regardless of their participation in Extended Foster Care.**

**PESS:** The Post-secondary Educational Services and Supports (PESS) program provides \$1,256 in financial assistance monthly for young adults ages 18 through 22 who meet the eligibility requirements below:

- has earned a standard high school diploma or its equivalent.
- is enrolled full time in a **Bright Futures approved**, postsecondary educational institution (college, community college, and vocational education programs).
- has spent at least 6 months in licensed care before reaching 18th birthday.
- was living in licensed care on their 18th birthday **OR** was adopted or placed with a court-approved dependency guardian after age 16 **AND** had spent at least 6 months in licensed care within the 12 months immediately preceding adoption or placement.
- has applied for other grants and scholarships for which he or she may qualify and has submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- has signed an agreement to allow the department and the community-based care lead agency access to all necessary records, including school records.

**ETV:** Educational and Training Vouchers Program (ETV) for Youths Aging out of Foster Care are part of the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. ETV provides vouchers of up to \$5,000 per year to a young adult for post secondary education and training.