



FOSTERING SUCCESS: WORKING WITH YOUTH IN CARE



ABOUT US

- Foster Care Non-Profit located in Princeton
- Cover all of New Jersey
- Provide services to resource parents and youth to help them navigate foster care.
- Started in 1974 as the NJFPA
- Became Foster and Adoptive Family Services, then umbrella

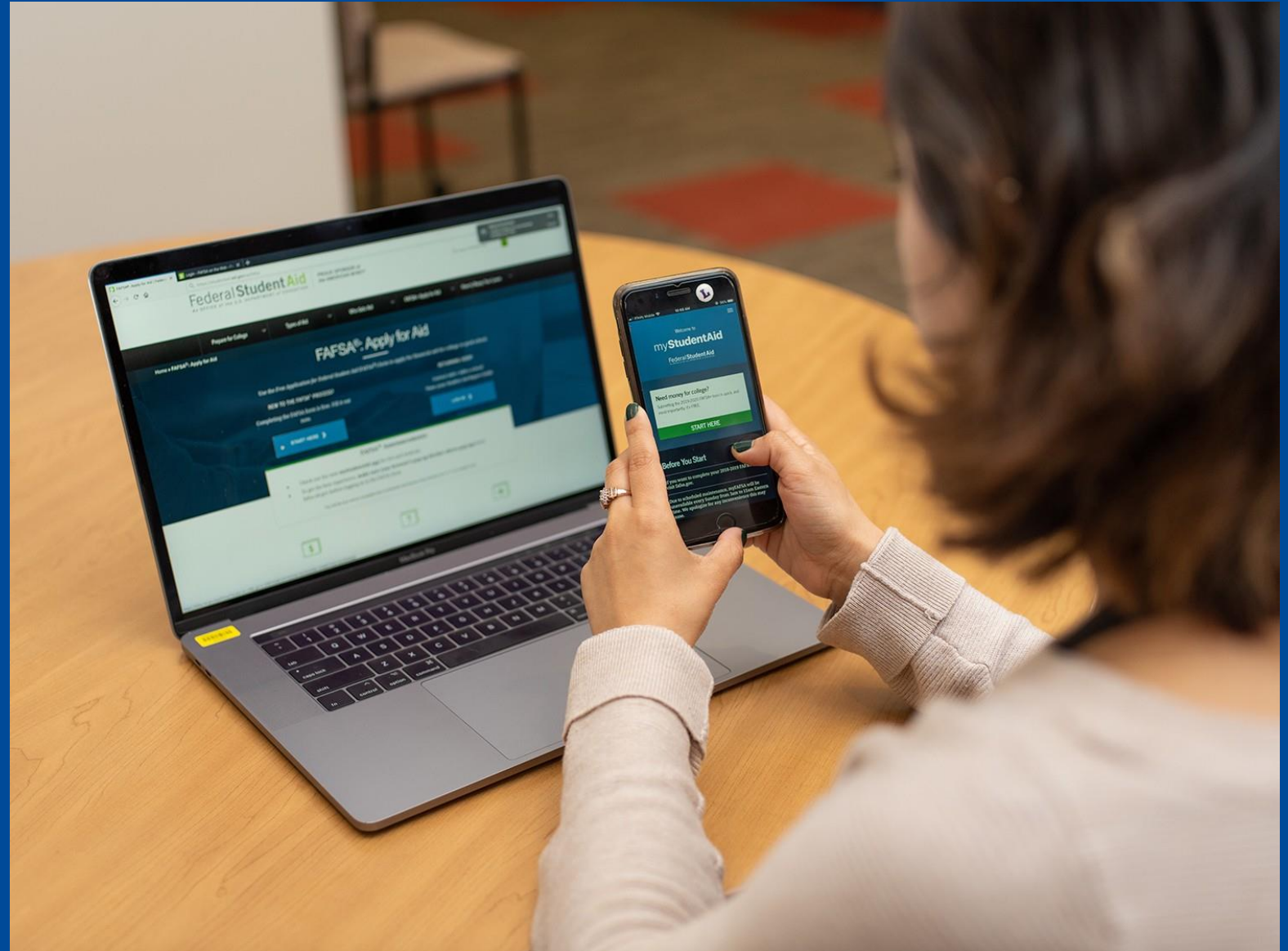


TODAY'S AGENDA



- Post-Secondary Education Funding
 - *The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*
 - *New Jersey Financial Aid/ Educational Programs*
 - *Financial Aid Verification*
- The New Jersey Foster Care Scholars Program
- Pathways to Academic & Career Exploration to Success
- Additional Resources & Support Services
- Questions

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)



COMPLETING THE FAFSA

In order to complete the FAFSA online, students will need the following items:

- Working email address
- Social Security or Alien Registration #
- Driver's license number
- Prior prior years tax returns
- FSA ID

FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST



CREATE AN FSA ID



FILE YOUR FAFSA



APPLY FOR STATE AID



ACCEPT YOUR AWARDS



COMPLETE LOAN REQUIREMENTS



COMPLETING THE FAFSA

Dependent students – must report parent's financial information

Independent students – only report their own financial information

- To qualify one of the following must be met:
 - Married
 - Veteran or member of US Armed Forces
 - Orphan or Ward of the Court after 13th birthday
 - Has legal dependents
 - Emancipated Minor
 - Homeless or at risk of becoming homeless

COMPLETING THE FAFSA

Question 52: “At any time since you turned age 13, were both of your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?”

- Selecting “yes” qualifies student as independent
- Do not need to submit parental financial information

Ward of the Court Letters

- OESP/OAS Office can verify, create and submit to post-secondary institution or financial aid office

COMPLETING THE FAFSA

Questions 53 & 54: Emancipated Minor & Legal Guardianship “Has it been determined by a court in your state of legal residence that you are an emancipated minor or that someone other than your parent or stepparent has legal guardianship of you?”

- Student must be able to provide a copy of a court’s decision that as of today they are an emancipated minor or are in legal guardianship. Or they can provide a copy of a court’s decision they were an emancipated minor or were in legal guardianship immediately before they reached the age of being an adult in their state. The court must be located in their state of legal residence at the time the court’s decision was issued.

COMPLETING THE FAFSA

Questions 55-57: Homeless & Unaccompanied Youth

- “Homeless” means lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing. Youth may be homeless if they are living in shelters, parks, motels, hotels, public spaces, camping grounds, cars, abandoned buildings, or temporarily living with other people because you have nowhere else to go. Also, if they are living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent, they may be considered homeless even if their parent would otherwise provide a place to live.
- “Unaccompanied” means youth are not living in the physical custody of their parent or guardian.

STUDENT AID REPORT

Federal Student Aid FAFSASM



Form Approved
OMB No. 1845-0001
App. Exp. 12/31/2019

2018-2019

Electronic Student Aid Report (SAR)

The SAR summarizes the information you submitted on your 2018-2019 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Application Receipt Date: | 10/01/2017 | XXX-XX-0001 DE 03 |
| Processed Date: | 10/01/2017 | EFC: 001702 * |
| | | DRN: 5913 |

Comments About Your Information

Learn about [federal tax benefits for education](#), including the *American Opportunity Tax Credit* (AOTC).

Based on the information we have on record for you, your EFC is 001702. You may be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant and other federal student aid. Your school will use your EFC to determine your financial aid eligibility for federal grants, loans, and work-study, and possible funding from your state and school.

Your FAFSA has been selected for a review process called verification. Your school has the authority to request copies of certain financial documents from you (and your spouse).

There is a limit to the total amount of Federal Pell Grants that a student may receive, which is the equivalent of 6 school years. Once a total amount of Pell Grant eligibility has been received, a student can no longer receive Pell Grant aid.

There is a limit to the total amount of subsidized Federal student loans that you may receive. Visit <https://StudentAid.gov> and select Types of Aid/Loans for more information.

WHAT YOU MUST DO NOW (Use the checklist below to make sure that all of your issues are resolved.)

If you need to make corrections to your information, click 'Make FAFSA Corrections' on the 'My FAFSA' page using your FSA ID. If you need additional help with your SAR, contact your school's financial aid office or click the 'Help' icon on the FAFSA home page. If your mailing address or e-mail address changes, you can make the correction online.

Based on your EFC of 001702, you may be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant of up to \$4,170 for the 2018-2019 school year provided you have not met or exceeded the lifetime limit established for the Federal Pell Grant program.

NJ STATE TUITION AID GRANT

After completing your Free Application for Federal Student Aid, HESAA will send an email to the email address listed on the FAFSA which will contain your NJ State/HESAA ID. You will be instructed to create a NJFAMS User ID and password to log into your NJFAMS Student Portal.

- Available to NJ residents with financial need
- Students must attend an approved New Jersey college, university or degree-granting proprietary school
- Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA)



New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application

Allows NJ Dreamers enrolled in eligible New Jersey colleges and universities to apply for state financial aid.

Students must meet the following criteria:

- Attended a New Jersey high school for at least three (3) years
- Graduated from a New Jersey high school **or** received the equivalent of a high school diploma in New Jersey
- Registered for Selective Service (male students only)
- Are able to file an affidavit stating that you have filed an application to legalize your immigration status **or** will file an application as soon as you are eligible to do so



3 + 1 DEGREE COMPLETION PROGRAMS

- Student enrolls in a 3 + 1 major/degree program
- Student completes the first two years at the community college and earns an Associate Degree
- Pays community college tuition and fees for the associate degree and the third year of their program
- Attends and pays the four-year institution tuition and fees in the final year



NJ COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANT (CCOG)

- New Jersey students enrolled in any one of the State's 18 county colleges may be eligible.
- Covers tuition and approved educational fees less any other Federal, State, and institutional aid.
- No separate application; Must complete a FAFSA or NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application.
- Student must attend home county community college in most instances.
- Household Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) must be \$0 - \$65,000
- Take at least six credits
- Students will be able to view if they are CCOG eligible on NJ FAMS.



GARDEN STATE GUARANTEE

- Beginning Fall 2022 at New Jersey State Colleges and Universities
- Available for students in their third and fourth years of enrollment
- Tuition and Approved fees free for AGI between \$0-\$65,000
- Guaranteed pricing structure for all students throughout their academic program
- Must be NJ resident for at least 12 months prior to the start of college, includes NJ Dream Act students
- Must File FAFSA or New Jersey Alternative Application
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)



FINANCIAL AID VERIFICATION

As part of the financial process, students may be required to verify their independent status. Once a student receives notification that they have been selected, they should contact their financial aid office to confirm what information is needed. This may include:

- Ward Of The Court Letter (Most Common)
- Verification Worksheet (Most Common)
- IRS Tax Return Transcript (Most Common)
- Marriage Certificate
- Social Security Or Alien Registration Card
- Other Information/Documentation



THE NEW JERSEY FOSTER CARE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

NJFC SCHOLARS

This program is made possible through:



NEW JERSEY FOSTER CARE SCHOLARS PROGRAM



The New Jersey Foster Care Scholars (NJFC) Program provides funding for eligible foster, adoptive, kinship, and homeless youth to pursue a post-secondary education.

- This program is reviewed on an annual basis and therefore is subject to change.
- Updated information is always available on the embrella website: www.embrella.org

TWO FUNDING SOURCES

Federal Education & Training Voucher Program (ETV)/ State Option (SO)

**Can be used at any U.S. schools that accept
Federal Financial Aid (Title IV Funding)**


•Students may receive Educational Supports for :

- Tuition & Fees
- Room & Board
- Books & supplies
- Transportation
- Computer/Tablet
- Child care costs

**Maximum of \$5,000 per year, split between terms.
Not every student will receive full \$5,000**

TWO FUNDING SOURCES

New Jersey State Tuition Waiver (TW) Program

- 
- Tuition & Fees ONLY after grants
 - & scholarships have been applied
 - Does not include Room & Board
 - Full-Time at a NJ Public School

No Dollar Cap Amount

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?



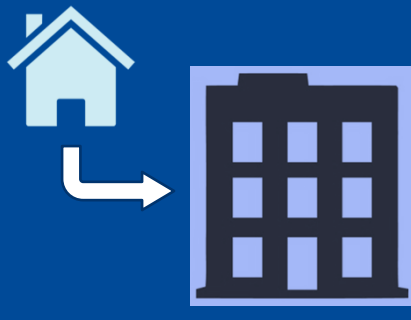
CP&P Out-of-home Paid Placement

- 9 months or more after 16th birthday
- 18 months or more after 14th birthday



Adoption & Kinship Legal Guardianship

- Adopted through CP&P after age 12
- Entered KLG after age 16



Youth Experiencing Homelessness

- Reside or have resided in a Transitional Living Program or independent living arrangement (State funding only)

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS



- ✓ **Be between the ages of 16 and 23**
- ✓ **Have a High School diploma or certificate of High School equivalency (GED)**
 - Graduating High School Seniors may apply, but award is contingent on graduation.
- ✓ **Be granted admission to a college or vocational program**
 - School must accept Federal financial aid

A COMPLETED APPLICATION MUST HAVE:

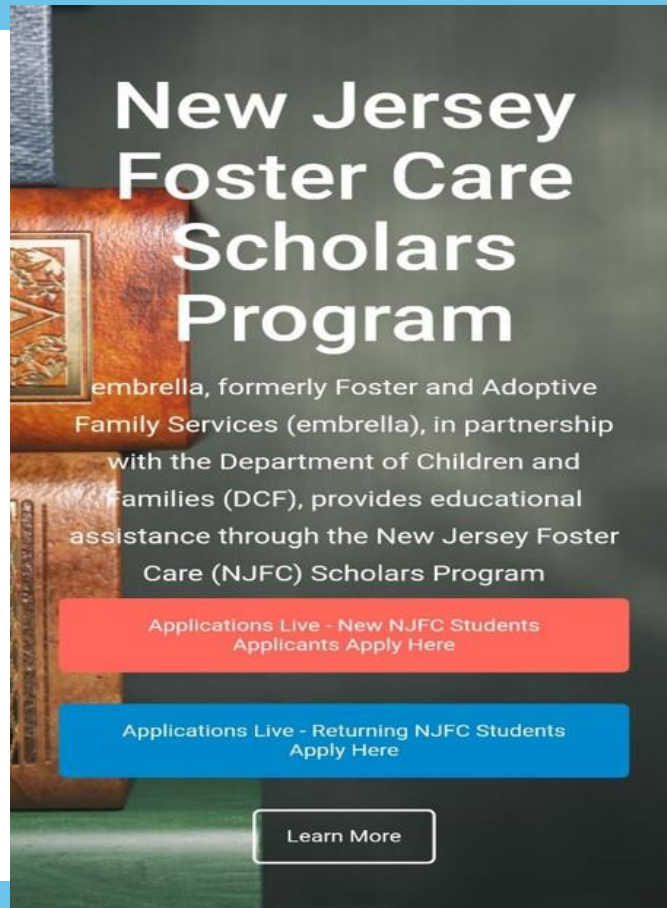
Completed and Signed Application and Waivers

FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR)

Proof of Acceptance or Enrollment

Email Verification (New Applicants Only)

NJFC SCHOLARS PROGRAM APPLICATION



Only the application for the academic year the youth is planning to attend will be accepted. All students are required to complete a new application each academic year.

Application Deadlines for the 2022-2023 academic year:

- **July 1st, 2022 Priority Deadline for Fall & Spring Semesters**
- **September 1st, 2022 for Fall & Spring Semesters**
- **February 1st, 2023 for Spring Semester**

NJFC TIMELINE

**Student submits
completed
application.**



Eligible students
are mailed a
Welcome Packet
containing their
funding type and
further
information.



Application forwarded to DCF and eligibility is determined.

NJFC TIMELINE

Inquiry Forms are sent to schools requesting information about student's account and academic progress.



Schools return completed inquiry forms with registration and account information.

THEN WHAT?

ETV/ State Option students

- Check mailed to school for current balance (tuition & fees/room & board).
- Requests for educational supports can be honored.
- Students will not receive more than \$2,500 per semester.

TW only students

- Checks mailed to school for tuition & fees only.
- If student's tuition is covered by grants, no funding can be sent.

ACADEMIC POLICY



The NJFC Scholars program does not have a GPA policy to be accepted into the program.

Once accepted, a student must meet the NJFC Academic Policy and obtain a 2.0 term GPA every semester they are active with the program.

Students must also be mindful of the GPA policies at their respective post-secondary schools. Loss of financial aid, or academic dismissal from their school will also impact their standing with NJFC Scholars.

GAP HOUSING



Gap Housing - assist students that are homeless, at-risk of homelessness, or who simply need assistance to maintain stable housing during the Summer.

To be eligible for Gap Housing, a student must:

- Be an active and enrolled 2022-2023 NJFC Scholar
 - ✓ Students removed from NJFC during the 2022-2023 academic year are not eligible.
 - ✓ Students who age out of funding or who graduate during the 2022-2023 academic year are eligible to apply for Gap Housing

**** NJFC provides financial assistance only. We do not have housing available for students.****



PATHWAYS TO ACADEMIC AND CAREER EXPLORATION TO SUCCESS (PACES)

PATHWAYS TO ACADEMIC & CAREER EXPLORATION TO SUCCESS (PACES)

The Pathways to Academic and Career Exploration to Success (PACES) Coach is responsible for supporting youth in foster care, ages 16-21, in their successful transition to and retention in post-secondary education, career technical education and workforce readiness.

- Region 1: Warren, Sussex, Passaic, Bergen, Hudson and Morris – *Care Plus*
- Region 2: Hunterdon, Somerset, Middlesex – **embrella**
- Region 3: Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean – **embrella**
- Region 4: Essex and Union – *Community Access Unlimited*
- Region 5: Burlington and Camden – *Acenda Integrated Health*
- Region 6: Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem, Atlantic and Cape May – *Acenda Integrated Health*

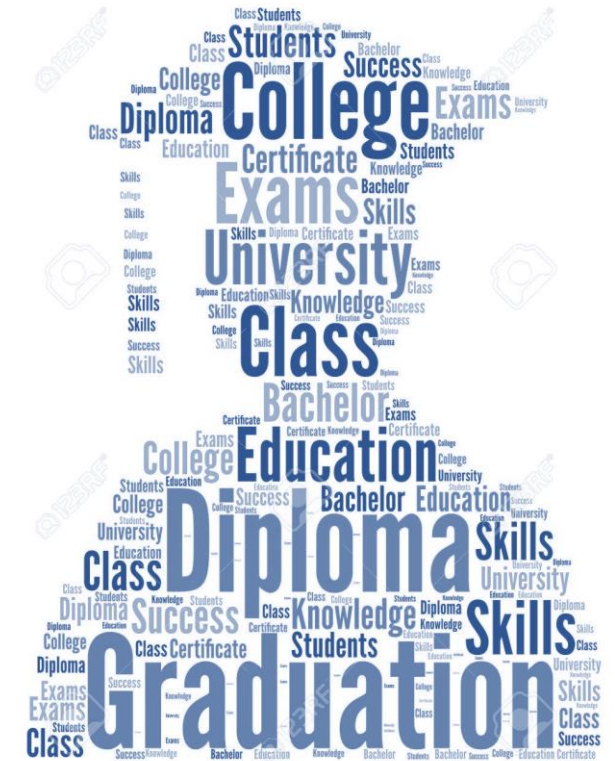
HOW EMBRELLA'S PACES COACHES CAN HELP

- Concrete connection to a supportive adult
- 1:1 meetings and assessments
- Individualized needs-based plans for education/employment success
- Coordination with support systems
- Development of self-direction, social networks and communication skills
- Group engagement workshops



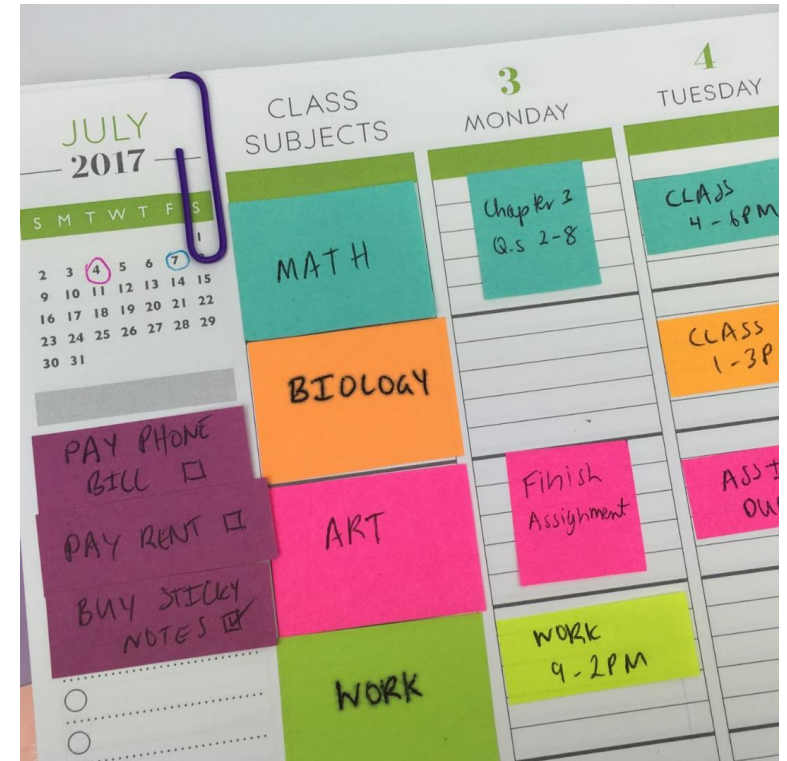
EDUCATION SERVICES

- High school tracking towards graduation
- FAFSA assistance
- Grant and scholarship research tools
- College preparatory course referrals and test centers
- College application and college search assistance
- Non-traditional post-secondary education options exploration



EDUCATION SERVICES, CTD.

- Development of academic skills and behaviors
- Coordination of educational testing opportunities
 - *Supplemental instruction*
 - *College admissions prep*
 - *Standardized testing*
- Collaboration with CP&P and educational institution (secondary, postsecondary, etc.)



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

- Exploring interests and skills through case management and career inventories
- Intentional connections to county- and state –based employment agencies
- Referrals to employment agencies
- Employment application assistance
- Resume, cover letter and interview prep
- Facilitation of internships, job shadowing, volunteer or community service options



COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

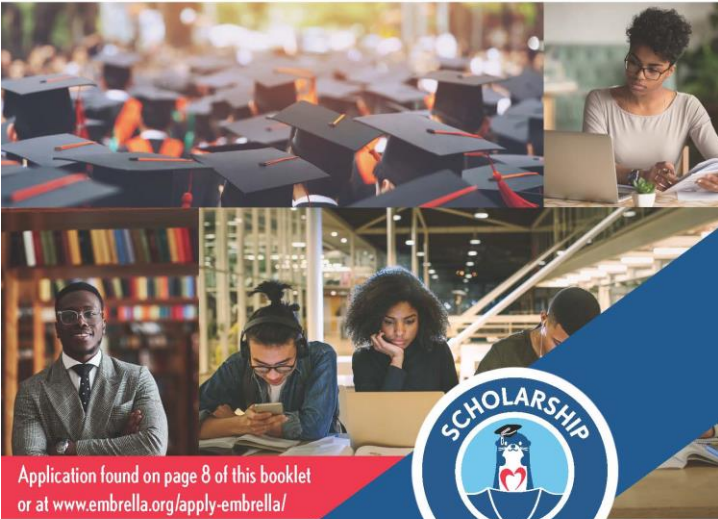
- **Misconception: PACES is a mandatory program**
 - PACES is completely voluntary.
 - PACES Coaches will reach out to adolescents, and other supports as identified to coordinate services.
 - If an adolescent does not engage in active services for 60 days, PACES services may be closed.
- **Misconception: All adolescents involved in the PACES program receive a laptop**
 - Educational Supports may be provided to adolescents in the PACES program; however, these are not guaranteed
- **Misconception: PACES is a scholarship program**
 - PACES Coaches will assist adolescents in applying for federal and state aid, as well as to scholarships, such as NJFC Scholars and other application-based providers.
 - PACES does not fund educational programs or schools directly.
- **Misconception: PACES Coaches are tutors**
 - PACES Coaches will coordinate with educational supports, such as tutors, guidance counselors and advisors.
 - PACES Coaches may review and edit documents but are not experts in subject-related fields that would require a professor, teacher or certified tutor.



ADDITIONAL EDUCATION RESOURCES



Private Scholarships & Grants



Application found on page 8 of this booklet
or at www.embrella.org/apply-embrella/

DEADLINE!

Your Application is due by
MARCH 1st, 2020.

EMBRELLA

embrella, offers privately funded, academic scholarships & opportunity grants for youth who are or were in foster care, were adopted or have entered Kinship Legal Guardianship through the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) in New Jersey.

These awards are separated into two distinctions:

- Academic Scholarships
 - Opportunity Grants
- Visit www.embrella.org for more information

NJFC SCHOLARS APPLICATION WORKSHOPS



Each year, **embrella** hosts workshops and webinars throughout New Jersey to help eligible students complete their FAFSA and NJFC Scholars Program applications.

For more information:

- Contact Ebony Lenard, Scholarship Programs Manager: 609-250-6425

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FUND



The New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund, also known as the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) or Educational Opportunity Scholars (EOS).

- Provides financial assistance and support services to NJ residents from “economically and educationally disadvantaged” backgrounds
- Offered at many NJ schools

www.nj.gov/highereducation/EOF

NEW JERSEY CAREER ASSISTANCE NAVIGATOR



NJCAN is a free web-based guidance system, designed to support lifelong career exploration, career planning and decision-making through easy to use straight forward search and sorting utilities.

- Various assessments such as the “career cluster inventory” or “interest profiler”.
- Students can research and save information on various schools, careers, and find additional resources to help fund their education

NJYRS: NJ YOUTH RESOURCE SPOT



NJ Youth Resource Spot Features:

- New Jersey Youth Events
- Resources
 - *By County*
 - *By Need*
- Announcements
- National Youth Transition Database (NYTD)
- Wraparound Funds
- Videos
- FAQs

KEY POINTS



- Students can complete their FAFSA beginning October 1st.
- Students in foster care **any time after 13** - are eligible to complete the FAFSA as an independent student.
- Remember to apply for NJ State Aid- Tuition Aid Grant or New Jersey Alternative Aid Application.
- The New Jersey Foster Care (NJFC) Scholars Program priority deadline is July 1st.
- A student's case history will determine NJFC funding eligibility.

KEY POINTS



- The PACES provider is based on the county in which the adolescent is currently living.
- A CP&P Caseworker or the RDS must submit the referral to participate in PACES.
- PACES is not a mandatory program.
- NJCAN is a useful tool for youth to explore education and career options.

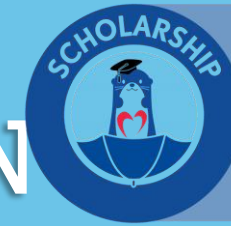


YOU MIGHT
BE TEMPORARY IN THEIR LIVES.
THEY MIGHT
BE TEMPORARY IN YOURS.
BUT
THERE IS NOTHING TEMPORARY ABOUT
THE LOVE OR **THE LESSON**

-TONIA CHRISTLE

SCHOLARSHIP DEPARTMENT

PACES: CONTACT INFORMATION



PACES

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**Quanisha Green, Scholarship Coordinator
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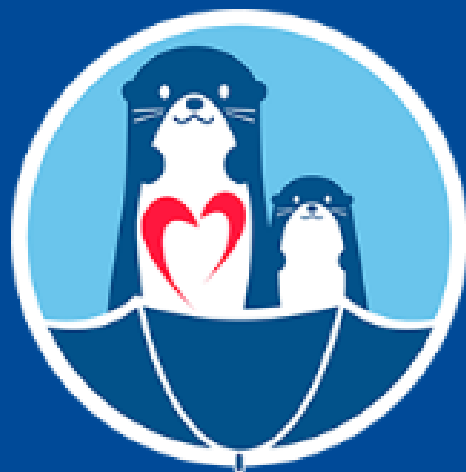
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Embracing & Empowering Families

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