

## What is the Tuition Waiver Law?

This law took effect in New Mexico on May 21, 2014. This legislation gives transition age foster youth access to free college tuition to pursue education and career goals.



“ My future is brighter than before. I know life is hard, but with higher education, all things are possible. ”

--Zintathu  
South African marketing graduate



## Tuition Waiver Law



Look inside for more details.

visit [nmcan.org](http://nmcan.org)

Read the legislation!

[nmcan.org/SB206](http://nmcan.org/SB206)

**Building Futures & Foundations** is a project of:  
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## Free College Tuition

for  
Former Foster Youth  
in New Mexico

# Eligibility

## ✓ You were in foster care\*...

...on the day before your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday

**or**

...on or after the day of your 14<sup>th</sup> birthday and your parents' rights were relinquished or terminated

**or**

...on the day you graduated from a high school or received your GED in New Mexico

\*Foster care means you were in the legal custody of the State of New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department or a New Mexico Indian nation, tribe or pueblo or the United States department of the interior bureau of Indian affairs division of human services.

## ✓ You must be enrolled in a school of higher education\*\* before your 25<sup>th</sup> birthday

\*\*A school of higher education includes any **accredited** state college or university or any of their branches, a community college or a technical and vocational institute in NM.



If you qualify, take the following steps to access your free college tuition:

### 1 Request your tuition waiver letter.

Contact your CYFD Youth Transition Specialist (YTS) and request the Tuition Waiver Letter that verifies that you were in foster care.\*

**If you do not currently have a YTS:**

Eligible young people who currently do not have a YTS may contact the CYFD Youth Services Bureau Chief, Maya McKnight, at 505-841-7786 to request a tuition waiver letter.

### 2 Give the tuition waiver letter to your school.

A copy of the "Tuition Waiver Letter" must be given to the Admissions and Financial Aid departments of the school you are planning to attend.

#### Note:

The waiver only covers tuition costs and some fees.

#### Note:

This law does not cover fees such as lab fees, art fees, books, food or housing. You can apply for grants and scholarships to cover these costs.

#### Note:

If you transfer to a different college, university or trade school, you will be required to submit a new tuition waiver letter to the new school you are attending.

Need additional support?

Have Questions?

Confused?

We're here to walk you through it. Every step of the way.

### Building Futures & Foundations (BFF)

has a goal to increase opportunities and improve the path for young people transitioning from foster care to adulthood.



We are currently developing support networks on the CNM and UNM campuses in Albuquerque to support you in:

- getting into college
- succeeding in college
- and becoming a college graduate!

For questions and guidance with your educational and career goals, contact:

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