

Helping our young people get ahead.

The Youth Education Assistance Fund makes a difference in the lives of young adults who have spent time in care. Melissa Finley from Oyama writes,

“This support has greatly increased the success of my pursuit of post secondary education.”

To donate to this fund, call the Victoria Foundation, Canada’s second oldest community foundation, at 250-381-5532 or visit www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca

Contact us.

For more information on YEAF, its eligibility requirements, how to access it and application information, please:

- > visit our website: www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/other_services/yeaf/index.htm
- > call: 1-800-561-1818 (toll free anywhere in Canada or the US), 604-660-2610 (in the Lower Mainland), 250-387-6100 (in Victoria) or 250-952-6832 (TTY line for the deaf or hearing impaired)
- > email: AVED.SpecialPrograms3@gov.bc.ca

Application assistance is also available from the Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks at: 1-800-565-8055 (toll free) or info@fbcyicn.ca



The Youth Education Assistance Fund is a partnership between the Ministry of Advanced Education Ministry of Children and Family Development and the



VICTORIA FOUNDATION

CONNECTING PEOPLE
WHO CARE WITH CAUSES
THAT MATTER

Bigger, Brighter,
Better Futures.



The Youth Education Assistance Fund (YEAF) was established in 2002. Its goal is to help young adults – formerly under the care of the provincial government or an Aboriginal agency – pursue post-secondary education or training.

The Province of British Columbia is the legal parent of about 600 youth who reach age 19 each year. If this description fits you, this fund can give you access to education and help you get the professional skills needed to get ahead.

How the fund works.

YEAF provides grants for 19 to 23 year olds attending university, college, a university-college, institute or designated private school. Grants can be provided for up to four years, with the grant amount varying from year to year. For example, the grant was \$5,000 in 2005/06.

Grants from the fund can be used for tuition, books or living expenses.



Who can apply.

Generally, you can apply for a YEAF grant if you:

- > are between the ages of 19 and 23,
- > were in government care or an Aboriginal agency's care until you turned 19 or were adopted, or your guardianship transferred to someone other than a parent,
- > are registered to take courses leading to a degree, diploma or certificate that is at least 12 weeks long at a qualifying educational institution, and
- > if you will have at least 60% of a full-time course load, or 40% if you have a permanent disability.

Note: To receive a grant from YEAF you do not have to be eligible for student financial aid.

For specific information on eligibility requirements and the qualifying educational institutions, please contact us.

How to apply.

To apply for a YEAF grant, you need to:

- > complete an application form (available on our website),
- > have a financial aid officer at your educational institution complete a *Confirmation of Enrollment Form*,
- > obtain a letter from any Ministry of Children and Family Development office or Aboriginal agency stating you are a former youth in care, and,
- > submit the package to: Ministry of Advanced Education, Student Services Branch, Attn: Special Programs Unit, PO Box 9173 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9H7

Other ways to obtain funding.

There are a number of other organizations and funds that provide financial assistance. For a complete list and descriptions, please visit our website.

