

## Learning for Future Grant

### Q1. Who is eligible for the Learning for Future Grant?

- Individuals who meet the eligibility requirements for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program and studying at the undergraduate level in an eligible course or program (see Q2.) at one of 25 public post-secondary institutions, Native Education College, or an approved union-based trades training provider.

### Q2. What is considered an eligible course or program for the Learning for Future Grant?

- A course or program is considered eligible if it:
  - Is provided through an eligible institution, and
  - Leads, or will lead, to a credential at the undergraduate level.
- This includes:
  - Courses and programs at an approved union-based trades training provider;
  - Courses taken during unclassified qualifying years and;
  - Continuing Education Courses that lead to a certificate that will support a student in entering the labour market or transitioning to a credentialed program at an eligible institution.

Adult Basic Education courses and single non-credit courses that do not lead to a certificate that will support the student in entering the labour market or transitioning to a credentialed program at an eligible institution are not eligible.

### Q3. What can I use the Learning for Future Grant for?

- The [Learning for Future Grant](#) assists with education related costs not covered by the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program, such as textbooks, computers, and supplies etc.

### Q4. How do I apply for and receive my Learning for Future Grant?

- For those who have never applied for the Provincial Tuition Wavier Program or Learning for Future Grant previously, please complete sections 1 and 3 of the [Provincial Tuition Waiver Program and Learning for Future Grant application form](#) and submit the signed form to the Financial Aid Office at your institution so section 2 can be completed. Your institution will then submit your completed application form to StudentAid BC, who will verify your time-in-care with the Ministry of Children and Family Development and/or the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.
- For those who have previously established eligibility for the Provincial Tuition Wavier Program and/or the Learning for Future Grant, please complete and sign the [Learning for Future Grant Declaration Form](#) and submit your signed declaration form to your institution's Financial Aid Office so they can verify your eligibility.
- Students attending a public post-secondary institution in B.C. or the Native Education College can connect with the Financial Aid Office for support with applying for and receive their grant.
- Students attending at an approved union-based trades training provider or an out-of-province public post-secondary approved through a Provincial Tuition Wavier Program exceptions review, can apply directly to StudentAid BC.

**Q5. My tuition and fees are being covered through a different source; can I still receive a Learning for Future Grant if I do not apply for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program?**

- Yes, you do not need to be receiving the Provincial Tuition Waiver to apply for the Learning for Future Grant. You only need to have your eligibility for the Learning for Future Grant verified through the [Provincial Tuition Waiver Program and Learning for Future Grant application form](#) and be enrolled in an eligible course or program (see Q.2) To apply for the Learning for Future Grant and not the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program complete the [Provincial Tuition Waiver Program and Learning for Future Grant application form](#) and select only the Learning for Future Grant in section 1.

**Q6. What if I am already receiving funding through another program (e.g., Youth Futures Education Fund or Agreements with Young Adults), am I still eligible for the Learning for Future Grant?**

- Yes, with the exception of the Youth Educational Assistance Fund (see Q18.)

**Q7. I received the Provincial Tuition Waiver for studies before August 1, 2023, can I apply for the grant for those studies and receive a retroactive payment?**

- Unfortunately, during this transitional period, retroactive grant payments will not be issued to people whose studies completed before August 1, 2023.

**Q8. How long will it be before I receive the money from my Learning for Future Grant after I have signed my declaration?**

- Learning for Future Grant funding will be issued after the declaration is signed and the institution is able to verify your enrollment in eligible studies.

**Q9. Do I need to reapply for the Learning for Future Grant?**

- You will need to sign a declaration form annually.
- Students attending a public post-secondary institution in B.C. or the Native Education College will sign the declaration at their institutions.
- Students attending at an approved union-based trades training provider or an out-of-province public post-secondary approved through a Provincial Tuition Waiver Program exceptions review, will sign the declaration with Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills staff.

**Q10. I have already accessed all four years of YEAF funding, am I still eligible for the Learning for Future Grant?**

- Yes, if you meet the eligibility requirements for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program and are enrolled in a program or course that leads, or will lead, to a credential at the undergraduate level.

**Q11. Is the Learning for Future Grant amount based on my economic need?**

- No. The grant amount is not dependent on your financial situation. Students who meet the eligibility criteria will receive the full \$3,500 annually.

### Q12. Where can I find more information about the Learning for Future Grant?

- Information will be available on the [Learning for Future Grant webpage](#).

### Q13. I still have questions or am unsure if I am eligible, who can I contact?

- You can contact the Ministry System Navigator at [tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca](mailto:tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca) or reach out to your school.

### Q14. Is the funding received through the Learning for Future Grant (LFG) considered taxable income?

- LFG may be considered taxable income depending on your individual circumstances.
- LFG is treated as bursaries for taxation purposes and are reported on a T4A issued by your post-secondary institution. Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) offers a scholarship exemption, which allows eligible taxpayers to exclude all or part of the amounts they receive from scholarships, fellowships, or bursaries from their income. There is a “basic” scholarship exemption which exempts the first \$500 of total scholarships, fellowships, and bursaries. However, an exemption of more than \$500 may be permitted for students who meet certain criteria outlined by CRA.
- If you are a full-time qualifying student (as defined by CRA) you may exclude the full amount of a scholarship, fellowship or bursary (e.g., PTWP and LFG) from your income, if the amount is received in connection with your enrolment in an educational program.
- If you are a part-time qualifying student (as defined by CRA), you may only exclude an amount equal to the tuition paid plus the costs of program-related materials. Program-related materials include items that are necessary for completing your course or program such as books, lab coats, brushes, paints, etc. It doesn’t include items such as personal computers, generic software, or musical instruments. To determine what portion of your LFG should be included as taxable income, please refer to the chart provided on the CRA [Scholarship Exemption – Part-time enrolment](#) webpage.
- To better understand the tax implications of receiving LFG, and to ensure you are correctly calculating your scholarship exemption based on your personal circumstances, please refer to the CRA [Line 13010 – Taxable scholarships, fellowships, bursaries, and artists’ project grants](#) webpage or seek personalized advice from a tax professional.

### 15. I am applying for a student loan from StudentAid BC. Do I need to declare the Learning for Future Grant on my student loan application?

- No. The Learning for Future Grant is considered exempt as is the case with the Youth Educational Assistance Fund.

### 16. How will receiving the Learning for Future Grant affect my other Government benefits such as Income or Disability Assistance?

- Receiving the Learning for Future Grant may impact other government benefits you receive (e.g., income and disability assistance). Before you begin receiving the Learning for Future Grant, it is important to contact the government agency(ies) responsible for delivering the benefits you

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receive, to discuss how the Learning for Future Grant will impact your benefits and to avoid unexpected financial consequences (e.g. benefit claw backs).

## Youth Educational Assistance Fund (YEOF) Transition Plan

### Q17. What is the Youth Educational Assistance Fund Transition Plan?

- As part of the government's Future Ready Action Plan to break down barriers to post-secondary training so more people can get the training they need for in-demand careers and employers can access the talent they need, StudentAid BC is implementing a new Learning for Future Grant available to eligible Provincial Tuition Waiver recipients resulting in a transition plan to phase out the Youth Educational Assistance Fund.
- The Youth Educational Assistance Fund Transition Plan is available to all YEOF students who have applied for YEOF by July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, and are approved.
- Eligible YEOF recipients may continue to receive YEOF at the \$5,500 amount through the YEOF Transition Plan for:
  1. The remainder of the program of study they were approved for YEOF.
  2. Until their 25th birthday, or
  3. Until they have reached the 4-year maximum.

Whichever comes first.

### Q18. Who will be eligible for YEOF during the transition?

To be eligible for this grant you must meet **ONE** of the following legal criteria:

- Be in the continuing custody of a director designated under Section 91 of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)* pursuant to that act; or
- Be under the guardianship of a director pursuant to section 51(1)(a) of the *Infants Act*; or
- Be under the guardianship of a director of adoption pursuant to the *Adoption Act*; until you turned 19 years of age or for at least five years immediately prior to your adoption or permanent transfer of custody to a person other than a parent under s.54.1 of the CFCSA.
- In addition, you must **ALSO**:
  - Be a full-time student, or a student with a permanent disability, or a persistent or prolonged disability studying at a 40 percent course load.
  - Be registered to take post-secondary-level courses from a designated institution in an eligible program leading to a certificate, diploma or degree that is at least 12 weeks long.
  - Be between 19 and 24 years old, and
  - Submit an application by July 31, 2023.

### Q19. I am partway through my program and currently receiving YEOF, how will this impact my funding?

- All current YEOF recipients will be eligible for the remainder of the program of study they were initially approved for, until their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday, or for the 4-year maximum, whichever comes first. This includes YEOF students who were approved for YEOF by July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 in a program or school that is not eligible for the Learning for Future Grant.

# Learning for Future Grant and Youth Educational Assistance Fund Transition Plan

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### Q20. How will I apply for YEAF during the transition?

- Students who are eligible to receive the YEAF amount through the YEAF Transition Plan may apply by submitting the [YEAF Transition Plan application form](#) and the [YEAF Transition Plan Confirmation of Enrollment form](#) to StudentAid B.C.

### Q21. Can I switch from my program of study during the YEAF transition period?

- The YEAF transition plan is only available for your initial program of study (the program of study indicated on your YEAF application received on or before July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023).

### Q22. Can I access the Learning for Future Grant and the YEAF Transition Plan at the same time?

- No. Students cannot access both the Learning for Future Grant and the YEAF Transition Plan in the same program year.

### Q23. I am studying at a private or out-of-province post-secondary institution and I do not meet the eligibility criteria for the YEAF Transition Plan. What are my options for funding?

- You may be eligible to apply for other student financial assistance provided by StudentAid BC and can learn more about financial supports such as student loans, grants, and scholarships by visiting [StudentAid BC](#) and [Aged Out | Empowering youth in and from government care in BC](#).
- You may be eligible for youth transition supports and services such as the Agreements with Young Adults Program. Visit [Agreements with Young Adults - Government of British Columbia](#) to learn more.