Q1. What is changing with the enhancements to the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program effective August 1st, 2023?

- Tuition and eligible fee waivers will be made available to all former youth in care who meet the time in care requirement, regardless of age. This means the age criteria for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program will be removed and will include students under the age of 19 who are currently in the care of the B.C. government.
- Eligibility for those who turn(ed) 19 under any legal care status regardless of time in care.
- Introduction of a new annual $3,500 Learning for Future Grant to cover additional education costs like books and computers. For more information about the Learning for Future Grant, please read the Learning for Future Grant and Youth Educational Assistance Fund Transition FAQs.

Q2. How do I know if I qualify?

- To determine if you qualify, you will be required to complete and sign a Provincial Tuition Waiver Program application form. Your school will submit your completed application form to StudentAid BC who will obtain verification of eligibility from the Ministry of Children and Family Development or from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. The verification process can take up to 4-6 weeks depending on the complexity of your records search.

Q3. What costs are covered by the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program?

- All tuition and eligible fees required by your institution to register, enroll, and complete your program/course of choice will be covered. Students that qualify for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program may also be reimbursed for their application fees.

Q4. Can I still access financial support through other existing programs?

- The Provincial Tuition Waiver Program provides tuition and eligible fee waivers for students with lived experience in government care and is not intended to replace other existing financial support programs that are available to you. You may be eligible for additional financial supports to help offset educational costs. Contact your school’s Financial Aid Office to determine eligibility for other programs and bursaries.

Q5. What if I am already receiving funding through another program (e.g., Agreements with Young Adults), am I still eligible for a tuition waiver?

- Yes.

Q6. Where can I find more information about the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program?

- Information is available on the StudentAid BC website.

Q7. Tuition is just one cost related to attending post-secondary, what other supports are available?

- Many institutions have various additional supports available to eligible students. Please contact your Financial Aid Office or equivalent for more information. If you are under the age of 27 you may also be eligible for Ministry of Children and Family Development’s Youth Transition Supports and Services, contact your local MCFD office to learn more.
Q8. What happens if I must withdraw from my program or course after my tuition and fees have been paid for?

- If you must withdraw after your course/program drop date, you are not required to repay tuition. Speak to your school’s Campus Navigator or Financial Aid Office for assistance through this process.

Q9. Can I claim a tuition waiver retroactively?

- Students may claim reimbursement for tuition and eligible fees paid at any time during the same fiscal year (April 1 – March 31).
- Enhancements to the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program eligibility criteria are effective August 1st, 2023. Students who become eligible due to these changes may claim reimbursement for tuition and eligible fees for study start dates on or after August 1st, 2023 only.

Q10. What if I am a part-time student?

- Part-time students are also eligible for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program.

Q11. Is successful completion a determinant of whether a tuition waiver is granted?

- No. If you meet eligibility criteria and have been issued a tuition waiver, your tuition and eligible fees will be waived for the duration of your undergraduate studies, regardless of age.

Q12. If I transfer institutions, will my eligibility for the tuition waiver continue at my new school?

- Yes. If you transfer to another eligible school (see full list here), your eligibility for tuition waiver will transfer with you and you will not need to reapply. Contact the System Navigator at tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca to have your tuition waiver transferred to your new school.

Q13. For applicants with exceptional circumstances:

- The Provincial Tuition Waiver Program may on a case-by-case basis approve exceptions to program eligibility through a review of exceptional circumstances. To request a review, contact the System Navigator at tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca.

Categories eligible for review are:

- Time in Care/Legal Status
- Location of Study
- Age

Further information on categories eligible for review can be found on the StudentAid BC website.