

Youth Educational Assistance Fund and Learning for Future Grant Transition

Frequently Asked Questions

Youth Educational Assistance Fund (YEOF)

Q1. 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 transition plan is for all existing eligible YEOF recipients, as well as those who apply on or before July 31, 2023.
- Eligible YEOF recipients will continue to receive YEOF at the \$5,500 amount 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.

Q2. 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 up by July 31, 2023 (see Q3).

Q3. What deadlines do I need to be aware of?

- YEOF applications for study start dates in both the 2022-2023 application program year and the 2023-2024 application program year will be accepted up to July 31st, 2023.
- After July 31st, 2023, **NO** new YEOF applications will be accepted regardless of study start date since the new Learning for Future Grant will be open for people.

Q4. 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 25th birthday, or for the 4-year maximum, whichever comes first.

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Q5. How will I apply for YEAF during the transition?

- Apply up to July 31st, 2023, by following the existing application process. Visit [Youth Educational Assistance Fund for Former Youth in Care | StudentAid BC](#).
- More information on how to apply after July 31st, 2023, will be provided on the StudentAid BC website in the near future.

Q6. 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 31st, 2023).

Q7. Can I access the Learning for Future Grant and YEAF at the same time?

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

Q8. I am studying at a private or out-of-province post-secondary institution and am not eligible for YEAF, 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.

Learning for Future Grant

Q9. Who is eligible for the Learning for Future Grant?

- Individuals who are eligible for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program and studying at the undergraduate level in an eligible course or program at one of 25 public post-secondary institutions, Native Education College, or an eligible union trades training provider.

Q10. What can I use the Learning for Future Grant for?

- The Learning for Future Grant is intended to support education related costs not covered by the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program, such as books, computers, and internet services.

Q11. When will the Learning for Future Grant be available for students to receive?

- The Learning for Future Grant will be available starting August 1, 2023, for programs that begin on or after August 1, 2023.

Q12. 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 Q6.)

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Q13. I received a 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 payments will not be issued to people whose studies begin before August 1, 2023.

Q14. I have already accessed all four years of YEAF funding, am I still eligible for the Learning for Future Grant?

- Yes, if you are eligible for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program.

Q15. 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.

Q16. Where can I find more information about the Learning for Future Grant?

- Once available, you will be able to find all the information at [StudentAid BC](#).

Q17. 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 or reach out to your school.