



INDEPENDENT GRANT GUIDELINES

Orangewood Foundation's Independent Living Grant provides up to **\$500** per fiscal year (July 1st – June 30th) to provide financial assistance for former Orange County, CA, foster youth engaging in the pursuit of independent living. For those who are prepared to get their driver's license, up to an additional **\$300** may be available for driving school as a reimbursement upon *proof of completion of driving school and proof of a state issued driver license*.

Applicants must demonstrate a pattern of achievement, which would indicate that they would make good use of the additional support from the grant. Submitting an application does not guarantee funding. Not all applicants are eligible. Along with the Grant application, eligibility will be verified.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES:

In order to be eligible for an Independent Living Grant, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Declared a dependent of Orange County, CA
- Non-ILP eligible former foster youth considered on a case by case basis
- Between the ages of 18 up to 21 (not after your 21st birthday)
- Orange County 602 Probation Placement youth who are ILP eligible
- Emancipated or aged out of the foster care system and case was closed **or** declared **AB12 Non-Minor Dependent (NMD)**

APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. **Application Submission:** Submit a new Independent Living Grant application (required each fiscal year, July 1st - June 30th). Application may be submitted anytime during the year, *but no later than June 1st*. Otherwise, the application will apply to the following fiscal year. The Independent Living Grant application can be found at <https://www.orangewood4you.org/childrens-trust-fund/childrens-trust-fund-emancipated-grant/>.
2. **Application Approval/Denial:** Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-serve basis and funding is approved at the discretion of the Scholarships and Grants Coordinator. Funding is not guaranteed. Applicants will be contacted to inform them of application status and grant process if approved.

Commonly Funded Items:

- Groceries/Food (no fast food)
- Household Items/Toiletries/Hygiene Items
- Work/Training Expenses (clothes, tools, training, certificate, etc.)
- Bus Pass (if not ILP eligible)
- Rental Assistance (*Transitional Housing Only. One time per funding period and only if able to maintain future sustainability*)
- Utilities - Gas/Electric/Water (*one time per funding period and if able to maintain future sustainability*)
- High School Expenses (if attending high school)
- Organized Extracurricular Activities (if attending high school)
- Medical/Dental/Vision Expenses (*special circumstances*)
- Counseling (*special circumstances*)
- Birth Certificate/Social Security Card
- Bicycle, Helmet, & Lock for School/Work Transportation
- Passport/Travel (for family visitation)
- Naturalization Fees
- State Identification/Driver License
- Driver's Education (after earning the Driver's License)
- **Gift Cards** (dependent on our available cards)

Ways to Receive Approved Funding:

Submit a Request - There are 3 types of requests included below (after an Independent Living Grant application has been submitted and approved):

1. **Gift Card:** To request a gift card after you have been approved, contact the Scholarships and Grants Coordinator. State your purpose of the request (Ex. food, hygiene items, work clothes, etc.). Gift cards you may request depend on available gift cards at that time and up to \$100 per month.
2. **Check Request for Vendor:** To request a check for a specific person or vendor, contact the Scholarships and Grants Coordinator and present Vendor's W9 document with vendor name, vendor address. Along with invoice with description of item or service, and cost of item or service.
3. **Check Request for Reimbursement:** To request a check for reimbursement, contact the Scholarships and Grants Coordinator and provide who the check should be made out to, description of item or service, cost of item or service, and purpose of request. Receipts are required for reimbursements.

Always provide the person's / vendors mailing address.

Gift cards can be given digitally or must be picked up from Orangewood Foundation.

Additional Funding Information:

- **Alternative Sources of Funding:** Alternatives may need to be considered before grant funds are expended.
- **Previous Academic Year Funding:** The annual fiscal year funding period is from July 1st to June 30th. All grants expire each year on June 30th. Funding does not roll over into the next funding period.
- **Employment Certificates:** Funding up to the age of **25** may be available for job related certificates only. Such as food handler certificate, forklift operator certificate, guard card, etc.
- **Driver's Education:** Approved recipients qualify for driver's education funding up to an additional \$300 if they don't currently have a driver license. Driver's Education funding will be offered as a reimbursement to eligible students with proof of completing driver's education and proof of their state issued driver license. When Training is purchased, receipt must be submitted to the Scholarships and Grants Coordinator. Further details will be given regarding reimbursement once Training receipt is submitted. Reimbursement is not guaranteed, it is not granted until the Driver's License is earned within the time frame.

CONTACT US:

For questions please contact the Scholarships and Grants Coordinator.

- Orangewood Foundation Address: 1575 E. 17th St., Santa Ana, CA, 92705
- Orangewood Foundation Website: www.orangewoodfoundation.org
- Orangewood Youth Website: www.orangewood4you.org
- Scholarships and Grants Coordinator, Carla Etzold: Office: (714) 619-0165 CEtzold@orangewoodfoundation.org

