

## Student Assistance Programs for Youth Leaving the Care of Ontario's Children's Aid Societies

### Ontario Access Grant for Crown Wards

Expands the standard Ontario Access Grant<sup>1</sup>:

- Students in programs that are two or more years in length may receive Access Grants for Crown Wards for 50% of tuition fees to a maximum of \$3,000/year for up to four years;
- Students in a one year program may receive an Access Grant for Crown Wards for 100% of tuition costs to a maximum of \$3,000.

*Who is eligible?*

- Students who are currently a Crown ward or were a Crown ward (at any age); or
- Students who are receiving Continued Care and Support for Youth allowances<sup>2</sup> or were previously eligible to receive these allowances;
- Students who are eligible to receive Living and Learning Grants;
- Student must be enrolled in first-entry postsecondary program (e.g., not law or graduate studies), but not necessarily their first attempt at postsecondary studies;
- There is no limitation based on the student's age or number of years out of high school.

*How to apply:*

- Students must apply for OSAP Funding for Full-time Students and must meet the eligibility requirements to receive the Ontario portion of OSAP funding. The grant reduces the amount of OSAP loan funding that a student receives.
- Eligible students may receive a combination of the 30% Off Ontario Tuition Grant<sup>3</sup> and/or an Ontario Access Grant for Crown Wards to cover up to 50% of their tuition fees to a maximum of \$3,000.

For more information, see <https://osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal/en/A-ZListofAid/PRDR007085.html>

### 100% Tuition Aid for Youth Leaving Care

Participating colleges and universities in Ontario<sup>4</sup> provide funding to cover the remaining 50% of tuition fees up to \$3,000 (for a total of \$6,000) for students who are eligible for the Ontario Access Grant for Crown Wards.

- The tuition aid provided by the school does not reduce the amount of OSAP full-time funding that a student is eligible to receive;
- Ancillary/compulsory fees are not covered by program;
- The ministry notifies participating schools of students who are eligible. The school issues a cheque for their portion of the funding or reduces the amount of tuition fees that eligible students pay.

For more information, see <https://osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal/en/A-ZListofAid/PRDR007414.html>

### Living and Learning Grant

Provides \$500 per month of full-time study to postsecondary students between the ages of 21 to 24 (inclusive) who were eligible for the Continued Care and Support for Youth allowance. The grant does not reduce the amount of OSAP loan and grant funding a student is eligible to receive.

*Who is eligible?*

Students must be a previous recipient of a Continued Care and Support for Youth allowance or would have been eligible to receive such allowance; and

- 21 to 24 years of age as of the first day of their current study period:
  - Eligible students who turn 21 during their study period can receive the grant beginning the month after their 21st birthday; and eligible students who turn 25 during their study period will continue to receive the grant to the end of their current study period;
- Enrolled in a postsecondary program leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate at a school in Canada approved for Ontario student loan purposes; or a school outside Canada approved for student loan purposes where the primary language of instruction is American Sign Language;
- Taking at least 60% of a full course load as determined by the school (or 40% of a full course load for students with a permanent disability);

- A resident of Ontario as required for OSAP Funding for Full-time Students;
- A Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or a protected person; and
- Not restricted from eligibility for Ontario student loans or Ontario student grants.

#### *How to Apply:*

Students who have submitted an OSAP Application for Full-Time Students are assessed for the grant. Students who choose not to submit an OSAP Application for Full-Time Students apply using the Application for the Living and Learning Grant.

- The ministry will issue the grant as a lump sum amount at the beginning of each term.

### **Exemptions on OSAP Application for Full-time Students**

Students do not report the following on an OSAP Application:

- Continued Care and Support for Youth allowances (provided between ages 18 and 21);
- Savings created through the Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent (OCBE) initiative;
- RESPs established using Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB) funding.

Students must report the following on an OSAP Application:

- Bursaries provided by a Children's Aid Society;
- Any funding provided by a Children's Aid Society after youth reaches age 21<sup>5</sup>;
- Other awards and scholarships received by Crown wards and youth leaving care (e.g., Clark Bursary Awards);

#### **Study Period Income Exemption**

Students may have study period income, including bursaries, scholarships, grants and employment income earned during the study period, of \$111 per week of study for the Ontario portion of OSAP funding and \$100/week for Canada portion of OSAP funding without reducing the student's OSAP funding.

### **Ontario Crown Ward Postsecondary Application Fee Reimbursement Program**

This program covers the cost of college and university application fees for Crown wards and former Crown wards applying for their first college or university program.

For more information and an application form, see <http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/students/ocwp.html>.

### **Crown Ward Education Championship Teams**

Teams of educators, children's aid workers, and mentors are available in 21 communities covering all regions of Ontario to support Crown wards and former Crown wards through partnerships with Children's Aid Societies, school boards, colleges, universities, and employment services. The teams also provide services such as mentoring programs and workshops to help youth in and leaving care to transition into postsecondary education.

<sup>1</sup> Ontario Access Grant: Covers up to 50% of tuition fees for eligible students, to a maximum of \$3,000/year for the first two years of a student's first postsecondary degree, diploma or certificate program that is at least two years in length. Students must be four years or less out of high school, and from a low to middle income family, and must be eligible for the Ontario portion of OSAP funding.

<sup>2</sup> Individuals who are eligible for Continued Care and Support for Youth (formerly Extended Care and Maintenance) include youth who had Crown ward status that expired at age 18; were subject to a protection (formal) customary care agreement or a protection custody order at age 18; or were eligible for support under the Renewed Youth Support Program.

<sup>3</sup> 30% Off Ontario Tuition Grant: Helps with tuition costs for up to four years (or six years for students with permanent disabilities) for eligible students from families with a gross income \$160,000 or less. Provides \$865 per term for students in a degree program at a publicly-assisted college or university in Ontario (annual maximum of \$1,730) and \$395 per term for students in a certificate or diploma program at a publicly-assisted college in Ontario (annual maximum of \$790).

<sup>4</sup> Participating Colleges: Collège Boréal; Cambrian College; Canadore College; Humber College; La Cité Collégiale; Northern College; Sault College; Sheridan College. Participating Universities: Algoma University; Brock University; Carleton University; Lakehead University; Laurentian University; McMaster University; Nipissing University; OCAD University; University of Ontario Institute of Technology; University of Ottawa; Queen's University; Ryerson University; Saint Paul University; Trent University; University of Guelph; University of Toronto; University of Waterloo; University of Windsor; Western University; Wilfrid Laurier University; York University.

<sup>5</sup> The Continued Care and Support for Youth (CCSY) initiative provides financial and non-financial supports to youth aged 18, 19 and 20 who were in care or formal Customary Care. Eligibility for CCSY ceases when the youth turns 21 years of age. As such, funding provided by a CAS to a youth after her/his 21st birthday is not treated in the same way by OSAP as funding under CCSY (i.e. it is not income exempt for the purposes of calculating OSAP loan funding).