

CALIFORNIA CHAFEE CASH CARD ELIGIBILITY AND DISTRIBUTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN JUVENILE DETENTION, JUVENILE JUSTICE PLACEMENTS OR WHO ARE INCARCERATED OR IN DETENTION IN THE ADULT SYSTEM

As part of COVID-19 relief efforts targeted at young people with experience in foster care, the California Department of Social Services is providing one-time funding—a Chafee Cash Card—to eligible youth and young adults. Eligible youth ages 18-20 will receive \$600 and eligible youth ages 21-26 will receive \$1,500. Eligible youth were in foster care on their 18th birthday, are ages 18 through 26 but not yet 27, and are or were eligible for extended foster care. Check out [this great resource](#) from John Burton Advocates for Youth to find comprehensive information about the Chafee Cash Card.

This fact sheet provides information on eligibility, application and receipt of a Chafee Cash Card for young people who may be eligible and are involved in juvenile justice or adult criminal justice systems. Please act fast! The application deadline is September 3, 2021.

1. Who is eligible for a Chafee Cash Card?

You are eligible if you currently live in the United States AND

- You are currently age 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 or 26 AND
- You are currently in care OR are or were eligible for extended foster care AND
- You were in care on your 18th birthday.

2. Are youth who are in juvenile detention or a placement through the juvenile justice system eligible for a Chafee Cash Card?

Yes, as long as you meet the criteria in Question 1. If you are currently in juvenile detention or a placement through the juvenile justice system you are eligible for a Chafee cash card if you are or were eligible for extended foster care and were in care on your 18th birthday.

3. How does a young person who is in juvenile detention or a placement through the juvenile justice system apply for a Chafee Cash Card if they are age 18, 19, or 20?

If you meet the eligibility criteria listed in Question 1 and are age 18, 19 or 20, you should contact your current or former social worker, probation officer, attorney, Title IV-E tribe, CASA or ILP coordinator and ask them to sign you up for the Chafee Cash Card. If you do not have their contact information email FYverify@dss.ca.gov for help.

4. How does a young person who is in juvenile detention or a placement through the juvenile justice system apply for a Chafee Cash Card if they are age 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, or 26?

If you meet the eligibility criteria listed in Question 1 and are age 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, or 26 you should fill out the form on the Chafee Cash Card Portal. You can find the portal here: <https://chafeecard.dss.ca.gov/>. You will need the following information to complete the application on the portal: name, date of birth, social security number, phone number, email address, mailing address, name of your current or former social worker or probation officer, and the county your foster care case was in.

5. What if you do not know your Social Security Number or do not have a Social Security Number?

Fill out the application with all zeros in the social security number field and email FYverify@dss.ca.gov to let them know you do not have or remember your Social Security Number. You can also contact your former social worker or probation officer, dependency attorney or the California Foster Care Ombudsperson's office at 1-877-846-1602 or fosteryouthhelp@dss.ca.gov for help with social security cards.

6. What if you do not remember your last social worker or probation officer's name?

Fill out the application with as much information as you remember or with the name of a social worker or probation officer you do remember. Anything without a red star next to the question on the portal is optional, but you should include as much information as you can remember.

7. How does a young person who is eligible for a Chafee Cash Card and is in juvenile detention or a placement through the juvenile justice system receive their Chafee Cash Card?

You have the option of receiving your money on a virtual e-card that is emailed to you or a physical prepaid card that is sent to you in the mail. It is recommended that you choose the virtual e-card if you have a secure email address and not a stable mailing address. You can ask your social worker, probation officer or attorney to help you set up an email account if you do not have one. If you have a secure mailing address, and you prefer that your card be mailed to you, you can take that option.

8. Are young adults who are currently incarcerated in adult facilities eligible for a Chafee Cash Card?

Yes, as long as you meet the criteria in Question 1. If you are currently incarcerated in an adult prison or facility, you are eligible for the Chafee Cash Card if you are or were eligible for extended foster care and were in care on your 18th birthday.

9. How does a young adult who is currently incarcerated in an adult facility apply for a Chafee Cash Card if they are age 18, 19, or 20?

If you meet the eligibility criteria listed in Question 1 and are age 18, 19 or 20 you should contact your current or former social worker, probation officer, attorney, Title IV-E tribe, CASA or ILP coordinator and ask them to sign you up for the Chafee Cash Card. If you do not have their contact information email FYverify@dss.ca.gov for help.

10. How does a young adult who is currently incarcerated in an adult facility apply for a Chafee Cash Card if they are age 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, or 26?

If you meet the eligibility criteria listed in Question 1 and are age 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, or 26 you should fill out the form on the Chafee Cash Card Portal. You can find the portal here: <https://chafeecard.dss.ca.gov/>. You will need the following information to complete the application on the portal: name, date of birth, social security number, phone number, email address, mailing address, name of your current or former social worker or probation officer, and the county your foster care case was in.

11. What if you do not know your Social Security Number or do not have a Social Security Number?

Fill out the application with all zeros in the social security number field and email FYverify@dss.ca.gov to let them know you do not have or remember your Social Security Number. You can also contact your former social worker or probation officer, dependency attorney or the California Foster Care Ombudsperson's office at 1-877-846-1602 or fosteryouthhelp@dss.ca.gov for help with social security cards.

12. What if you do not remember your last social worker or probation officer's name?

Fill out the application with as much information as you remember or with the name of a social worker or probation officer you do remember. Anything without a red star next to the question on the portal is optional, but you should include as much information as you can remember.

13. Can a young adult who is age 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, or 26 and incarcerated have someone fill out and submit the application on the Chafee Cash Card Portal for them if they do not have access to a computer and internet?

You can ask for help completing the form or for someone else to complete the form for you if you do not have access to a computer and internet. As mentioned above, when you ask for help to complete the application you may need to share confidential information like your social security number, DOB, and mailing address. It is important to protect this information so that you are not a victim of identity theft. It is also important to know that before the application is submitted you must complete what is called an affirmation. When someone submits the application on your behalf you are affirming the following when they submit the application:

- I read, or had read to me, the information in this application and my answers to the questions in this application.
- The answers I have given are true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand that giving false or misleading statements or misrepresenting, hiding or withholding facts to establish eligibility is a crime that may result in penalties under state or federal law, including imprisonment, fines, and loss of public benefits.

14. How does a young adult who is eligible for a Chafee Cash Card and is currently incarcerated receive a Cash Card?

You have the option of receiving your money on a virtual e-card that is emailed to you or a physical prepaid card that is mailed to you. It is recommended that you choose the virtual e-card if you have a secure email address. If not, you should provide a mailing address that you feel is secure.

15. What if I'm unsure if I'm eligible or have questions about the process?

You can still apply directly through the CDSS Chafee Card Portal if you are unsure of your eligibility for a Chafee Cash Card. You can contact the following services for help identifying if you are eligible: Email FYverify@dss.ca.gov; call the California Foster Care Ombudsperson's office at 1-877-846-1602; or Email fosteryouthhelp@dss.ca.gov. Ask if you are eligible for the Chafee Cash Card when you call or email.