

ALERT: The Golden State Social Opportunities Program Provides Grant Aid for Certain Post Graduate Programs for Youth with Experience in Foster Care and Homelessness

This year's California state budget includes \$8.8 million to support the Golden State Opportunities Program, which will provide grants of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) per year for up to two years to aid postgraduate studies in certain social service fields. Advocacy for this scholarship was led by the California Coalition for Youth. First priority for these grants will be given to current or former foster youth and homeless youth. Second priority will be given to individuals who are currently employed at a California-based nonprofit. Eligible students must:

1. Be enrolled (or will be enrolled) in an in-state postgraduate program from a University of California or California State University campus or an independent institution of higher education; and
2. Upon completion of the postgraduate program, satisfy the requirements to become an associate clinical social worker, an associate professional clinical counselor, an associate marriage and family therapist, or a registered psychological associate; and
3. Commit to working in a California-based charitable nonprofit for two years after completion of their degree, within four years of graduation.

The scholarship will be administered by the California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI). It is expected that the scholarship application will be available in early 2023. Please check [HCAI's scholarship page for updates](#). The Youth Law Center will share alerts as well.