



Youth Transitioning Into Adulthood
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NOTES FROM “Let’s Talk Thursdays” via Zoom – July 9, 2020, hosted by Brenda Lee Knowles and Mary E. Valdez, YTIA Co-Founders.

Guest Presenters: **Brandi Purswell (BP0317@BCFS.net)** and **Drew Melton (DM1117@BCFS.net)**, BCFS ETV Specialists, Baptist Child and Family Services (BCFS); 4346 N.W. Loop 410, San Antonio, Texas 78229; (210) 732-7932 (main office). For more specific details, please feel free to call **Ms. Purswell directly at (210) 284-9704** or **Mr. Melton directly at (210) 294-0497**. *Below are a few of the notes from Ms. Purswell and Mr. Melton’s presentation.*

ETV (Education and Training Voucher Program) is a Federally-funded, need-based benefit for youths in, or who have just exited, State foster care, who intend to complete a post-high-school education. This benefit can assist with a lot of necessary expenses. When financial aid is completed, and an award letter is sent to the youth, the youth must opt to only accept the “Grant” awards; a youth should NOT accept the “Loan” offers because that will likely prevent the youth from receiving ETV funds. It was suggested that youths “accept” each **Grant** award individually; do **not** globally “accept” everything in the Award Letter from the college/university, so that **ONLY** the Grant awards are accepted.

REMINDER: Grants are “free money,” Loans must be paid back!

Under the ETV Program a youth could be eligible for up to \$5,000.00 per academic school year, usually \$2,500.00 per semester, if a youth attends Fall and Spring. [NOTE: if a youth chooses to attend Fall, Spring, **and Summer sessions**, the award could be split into three payments of \$1,666.67.] But, youths should be aware that ETV can assist youths even in high school since some students choose to enroll in “dual credit” classes while still in high school. A youth is eligible for ETV even if he/she receives a “Tuition and Fee Waiver”. It should be noted that once “locked in” the Tuition and Fee Waiver is a “for life” benefit (meaning that a youth may obtain as many degrees as he/she chooses during their lifetime, provided that benefit was “locked in”) but ETV is only used while the youth is between 16 and 23 years of age.

STEPS: 1) apply for FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), usually by October 1st of a youth’s senior year in high school.

2) apply for ETV at www.TexasETV.com; the application deadlines are: Fall – October 1st; Spring – March 1st; and Summer – July 1st. [NOTE: deadlines for technical schools may be different; be sure to check with the school.] Start early enough to submit the completed

ETV Application before the deadline; other supporting documentation will be required but does not have to be submitted by the deadline date. The Application cannot be acted upon, however, until all supporting documents have been received by ETV.

Application checklist: in addition to the completed ETV application, supporting documents include DFPS verification of eligibility, the Tuition and Fee Waiver letter, the Financial Aid Award letter, a class schedule, a budget worksheet, and a Request of Funds.

NOTE: Brandi Purswell and Drew Melton are ETV Specialists and can assist with the **ETV Application**; Norma Davila, TAMUSA Foster Care Support Coordinator, can assist with completion of the **FAFSA application**; she can be reached at ndavila@tamusa.edu.

THE ENTIRE ETV POWERPOINT PRESENTATION IS ON THE YTIA WEBSITE (www.ytia.org) ON THE “LETS TALK” PAGE UNDER “YOUTH SCENE” but be reminded that you can also contact Ms. Purswell and Mr. Melton directly (information provided above) if you have any questions.

FRIENDLY REMINDER: Our next “Let’s Talk Thursday” via Zoom is on **Thursday, July 16, 2020 at noon.**

YTLA
Presents
LET'S TALK THURSDAYS
(Planning Ahead in Spite of COVID-19)
Join us **every Thursday** from June 25th to August 6th
from **noon to 1:00 p.m.**
Via
ZOOM!!!
Just click this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86241706860?pwd=UEllaDFFMmhaM3R4aWxHd3puc3FOU09>
We will select a topic and then we can talk about your feelings on:
The Present, College, Housing, Employment, The Future.
Let's Keep It Real!