

## SCAN HERE

To read even more about campus and community-specific opportunities and resources.



COMMUNITY CARE

CAMPUS CARE



## FINANCIAL AID FOR FOSTER-EXPERIENCED STUDENTS

### FAFSA Independent Status

Students with foster care experience qualify as Independent on the FAFSA. This means:

- No parent information required
- Higher Pell Grant Eligibility
- Increased access to federal and institutional aid
- Ability to submit FAFSA early with fewer documents

### Who May Qualify for Independent Status?

Students who were in foster care, ward of the court, or in legal guardianship at any time after age 13.



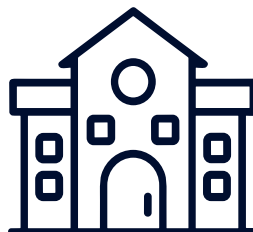
## HOUSING STABILITY

### Financial Assistance

Students with foster care backgrounds can request:

- Cost of Attendance (COA)** increases if housing costs exceed the standard allowance
- Budget adjustments** for utilities, deposits, or unexpected housing expenses
- Emergency grants** for housing insecurity

The Dean of Students Office can assist with **emergency housing support** for students who experience homelessness, unsafe housing, family conflict, and sudden loss of housing. UConn offers summer housing for enrolled students, campus student employees, or who have no primary option for safe and/or stable housing. UConn Off-Campus Housing Services can also assist with apartment searches, roommate matching, tenant rights, and landlord communication.



## ACADEMIC SUPPORT

### Academic Accommodations

UConn's Center for Students with Disabilities provides academic accommodations for students:

- ADHD
- Learning disabilities
- Mental health conditions
- Chronic illness
- Trauma-related barriers
- Executive functioning challenges

Support includes:

- Extended test time
- Reduced-distraction testing
- Note-taking assistance
- Flexible deadlines (case-by-case)
- Priority registration
- Academic coaching

### HELPFUL TIP:

Students with foster care experience often qualify for accommodations due to trauma, instability, or mental health impacts. MyAccess makes the process confidential and student-centered.

### Academic Resources

- Talk to assigned academic advisor
- Meet with professors during office hours
- The Writing Center
- The Q Center (Math & Statistics)
- The W Center (Writing-Intensive Courses)
- Supplemental Instruction (SI)
- Peer tutoring
- First-Gen and Student Success Programs
- TRIO Student Support Services

## TIPS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY

Start with *one or two* spaces — you don't need to join everything

Attend events *even if you go alone*; staff will welcome you

*Let people know* you're an independent student if you feel comfortable — it helps them understand your needs

*Build relationships* with staff who feel safe and supportive

**You deserve community, connection, and joy!**

### JOIN AND ATTEND EVENTS FOR:

Cultural & Identity-Based Centers

First-Gen Student Programs

Student Organizations

Off-Campus Communities:

FosterClub and Connecticut Alliance of Foster & Adoptive Families



## LEGAL RIGHTS

Learn about statewide and nationwide legal rights and resources for students. Check out:

**FAFSA - Independent Student Status**

**Medicaid until 26 (Federal Law)**

**Education Training Voucher (ETV) Program**

**Connecticut DCF Aftercare Services**

**Access to Case Files**

**211 Connecticut**

## IMMEDIATE NEEDS

**Resources for emergency needs related to housing, food, mental health crisis, and financial stability.**

Dean of Students Office Basic Needs

Husky Harvest (UConn Food Pantry)

Swipe Support/Meal Assistance

Student Health and Wellness (SHaW)

24/7 Crisis Hotline (SHaW)

UConn Emergency Fund

UConn Police Department

UConn Office of Victim-Advocacy

### TIPS FOR STUDENTS IN CRISIS

You do not need parental information to access help — identify yourself as an independent student.

Ask for a same-day appointment when the situation is urgent.

If you feel overwhelmed, ask staff to help you complete forms or contact offices.

You are entitled to support even if you are no longer in DCF custody.



## FOSTER CARE TO CAMPUS CARE

Supported by the **UConn Change Grant**, this brochure offers foster-experienced and independent students a clear pathway to the resources that can help them thrive on campus.

