

# Making Transitions Affordable

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Transitions is a life-changing opportunity for its students, so we are committed to working with future students and their families to make sure as many people as possible get the chance to experience it. There are many forms of financial aid available that can take the worrying out of coming to Transitions.

## SCHOLARSHIPS FROM TRANSITIONS

Transitions offers a limited amount of scholarships to students attending the full-year and summer programs. Scholarships and grants can be awarded only to students who have been offered admission to Transitions. Applications are sent to students upon acceptance to the program. These gift aid awards do not require repayment.

- **The Elmore Scholarship Fund**

The Elmore Scholarship Fund offers aid to apprentices based on potential to succeed. The scholarship offers up to \$3,000 per year for full-year Apprenticeships and up to \$1,000 for Summer Immersion Experience sessions.

- **Transitions Merit Scholarships**

Transitions Merit Scholarships offer up to \$5,000 per year for full-year Apprenticeships and up to \$1,000 for Summer Immersion Experience sessions. These merit-based scholarships award students based on their potential to succeed at Transitions and the strength of a personal essay which gives a sense of who they are and their dedication to their goals.

- **Lexington Family Services Reimbursement Grant**

Lexington's Family Services was recently awarded a Family Reimbursement Grant from the Capital District's Developmental Disabilities Regional Office's Family Support Services. The grant will provide financial assistance for goods and services that are not covered by other funding sources to families with a member diagnosed with a developmental disability. Grants are distributed on a quarterly basis, up to \$1,000 awarded per individual, per year. Applications are available at Lexington's Family Services office at 43 Harrison St., Gloversville, NY, and will be reviewed quarterly by the grant committee.

## FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS FOR TRANSITIONS STUDENTS PURSUING COLLEGE

Students who are pursuing college while they attend the Transitions program can take advantage of federal and state grants to fund their higher education. These gift aid awards do not require repayment.

- **Federal Pell Grant**

This grant is based on the student's family's income and assets. The amount of the grant is based on enrollment status and is divided equally among the semesters attended. To apply, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

- **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant**

This grant is awarded to students entering college in the fall who have exceptional financial need. The annual award is \$2,000. To apply, complete the FAFSA at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

- **Vocational Rehabilitation Grants**

State governments provide funds for people with disabilities pursuing postsecondary education through vocational rehabilitation grants. The amount of the grant varies by state, and it can be received for any semester. Further information can be found in the document titled [Vocational Rehabilitation Services: Consumer Guide for Postsecondary Students \[PDF\]](#) (Heath Resources, 1996). Please contact your state's Vocational Rehabilitation Center for additional information and to apply.

- **Federal Education Tax Credits**

Federal Education Tax Credits of up to \$2,500 are available for qualifying individuals for the first two years of their undergraduate education. Find more details on the U.S. Department of Education's website at [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov).

## OTHER FORMS OF AID

- **Medical Tax Deduction**

Due to the nature of the Transitions program's unique curriculum, families may be able to apply the cost of attendance as a medical deduction on their income tax return. For more information, families are encouraged to consult with a tax advisor and read the Internal Revenue Service publications *502 Medical and Dental Expenses* and *907 Tax Information for Persons with Handicaps and Disabilities*. These can be accessed directly from the IRS website at [www.irs.gov/publications](http://www.irs.gov/publications).

- **Student Employment**

Limited on-campus employment opportunities are available for students with or without demonstrated financial need. Through this program, students can earn money toward educational expenses or spending cash for incidentals. Student employment also gives them valuable work experience and material for their resume.

- **Payment Plans**

Payment plans offered by Transitions allow annual payments to be spread out over time. Many families find monthly payment plans more manageable.

- **Personal Fundraising**

Students have used fundraising tools such as [GoFundMe.org](http://GoFundMe.org) to raise money for the summer and weekend Transitions programs.

## FUNDING FOR NEW YORK STATE STUDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Students with an intellectual or developmental disability who are enrolled in the NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) waiver and receive SSI may be able to secure full funding for the Transitions full-year program. Transitions staff are available to assist and consult with families and Medicaid service coordinators in the process of securing such funding. Students with an intellectual or developmental disability who are enrolled in the NYS OPWDD waiver may also be able to fund the Transitions Summer Immersion Experience from their Self-Direction Budgets.

## PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS

There are many other scholarships and grants available through private organizations. These gift aid awards do not require repayment and are offered on the basis of financial need, merit or other factors decided by the organization. Visit these websites for additional information about financial aid or to search for possible scholarships:

- [About.com](http://About.com)
- [BestColleges.com](http://BestColleges.com)
- [BigFuture by The College Board](http://BigFuture by The College Board)
- [CareerInfoNet.org](http://CareerInfoNet.org)
- [FastWeb.com](http://FastWeb.com)

- [Finaid.org](http://Finaid.org)
- [Peterson's](http://Peterson's)
- [Scholarships.com](http://Scholarships.com)
- [The Scholarship Matcher](http://The Scholarship Matcher)
- [Unigo.com](http://Unigo.com)

The following is a list of private scholarships and scholarship resources that future students could take advantage of:

- [Access to Education Scholarship](#)
- [ACCES-VR](#)
- [American Association on Health and Disability Scholarships](#)
- [Anne & Matt Harbison Scholarship](#)
- [The Anne Ford Scholarship](#)
- [Avonte Oquendo Memorial Scholarship for Autism](#)
- [AXA Achievement Scholarship Program](#)
- [Buckfire & Buckfire Disability Scholarship Program](#)
- [The Fruit Company Scholarships](#)
- [Gabriel's Foundation of Hope](#)
- [Gates Millennium Scholars](#)
- [Hispanic Scholarship Fund](#)
- [The HotelsCheap Scholarship Program](#)
- [Incight Scholarship](#) (for residents of Oregon, Washington, or California)
- [National Center for Learning Disabilities](#)
- [Plan to Achieve Self-Support \(PASS\)](#)
- [Organization for Autism Research Scholarship Program](#)
- [Resources For Re-Entry Students](#)
- [RISE Scholarship Foundation](#)
- [Ruby's Rainbow Scholarship](#)
- [The Sallie Mae Fund "Unmet Need" Scholarship Program](#)
- [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#)
- [The Sell Used Books College Essay Contest](#)
- [Shire ADHD Scholarship Program](#)
- [Wheelchair Scholarship Program](#)



*PREPARING STUDENTS AGES  
15-27 WITH AUTISM AND  
LEARNING DIFFERENCES FOR  
COLLEGE, CAREER AND LIFE.*

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