

POST- SECONDARY EDUCATION REPORT



CHILDREN'S
AID FOUNDATION
OF CANADA

2022-23

Executive Summary

Children's Aid Foundation of Canada recognizes that the path to post-secondary education for a young person with experience of child welfare may not be a straightforward one. Though 62% of Ontario 16- and 17-year-olds in care hope to pursue post-secondary education¹, the reality is only 46% of those in care graduate from high school (vs 83% of their peers not from care) and are 50% less likely to attend post-secondary studies². Outcomes that can be further impacted by a young person's mental and physical health, as well as by unemployment or homelessness.

For young people who are living in or have recently left care, the cost of attending a post-secondary institution is another barrier in moving towards their goals. A survey by Maclean's magazine of Canadian youth in 2018 found that of the average cost of post-secondary education is approximately \$20,000 per year, with 74% of that total made up of rent (40%) and tuition (34%)³. Without the financial support of family, in almost all cases young people from care are required to move to independent living between the ages of 18 and 21, meaning they will need to take on the cost of their studies in addition to housing costs. Nevertheless, the impact of post-secondary education can be essential in helping a young person establish a path forward towards a career and higher wages⁴.

Children's Aid Foundation of Canada's Post-Secondary Education (PSE) program was established in 1995 with the aim of providing essential financial support to young people from care so they can experience the same educational opportunities as their peers not from care.

The Foundation is committed to two key outcomes for young people transitioning from care: improving educational and employment outcomes by supporting education and employment programming, and by supporting initiatives that aim to remove the barriers faced by young people pursuing their academic and career goals, such as housing, social connection, physical and mental health. Supporting young people, no matter where they are on their educational journey, whether starting a first program, have graduated, and are starting another, are moving to graduate studies, or are returning to post-secondary education after leaving a prior program without completing it, is a focus of the Foundation.

We are committed to centering our work around evidence-informed approaches that demonstrate the ways our initiatives, including those contributing to better educational and employment outcomes for youth in transition, empower young people from care to build stable, successful futures.

¹ Data obtained through personal communication with CAFC, May 2023. Information from OnLAC, 2022

² "The Post-Secondary Education Program Review." Children's Aid Foundation of Canada, 2017 https://www.cafdn.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/WhitePaper_LongForm.pdf

³ "The cost of a Canadian university education in six charts." Maclean's, 2018 <https://www.macleans.ca/education/the-cost-of-a-canadian-university-education-in-six-charts>

⁴ Statistics Canada. [Table 37-10-0114-01 Characteristics and median employment income of postsecondary graduates five years after graduation, by educational qualification and field of study \(primary groupings\)](#)

THE POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAM IN 2022-23

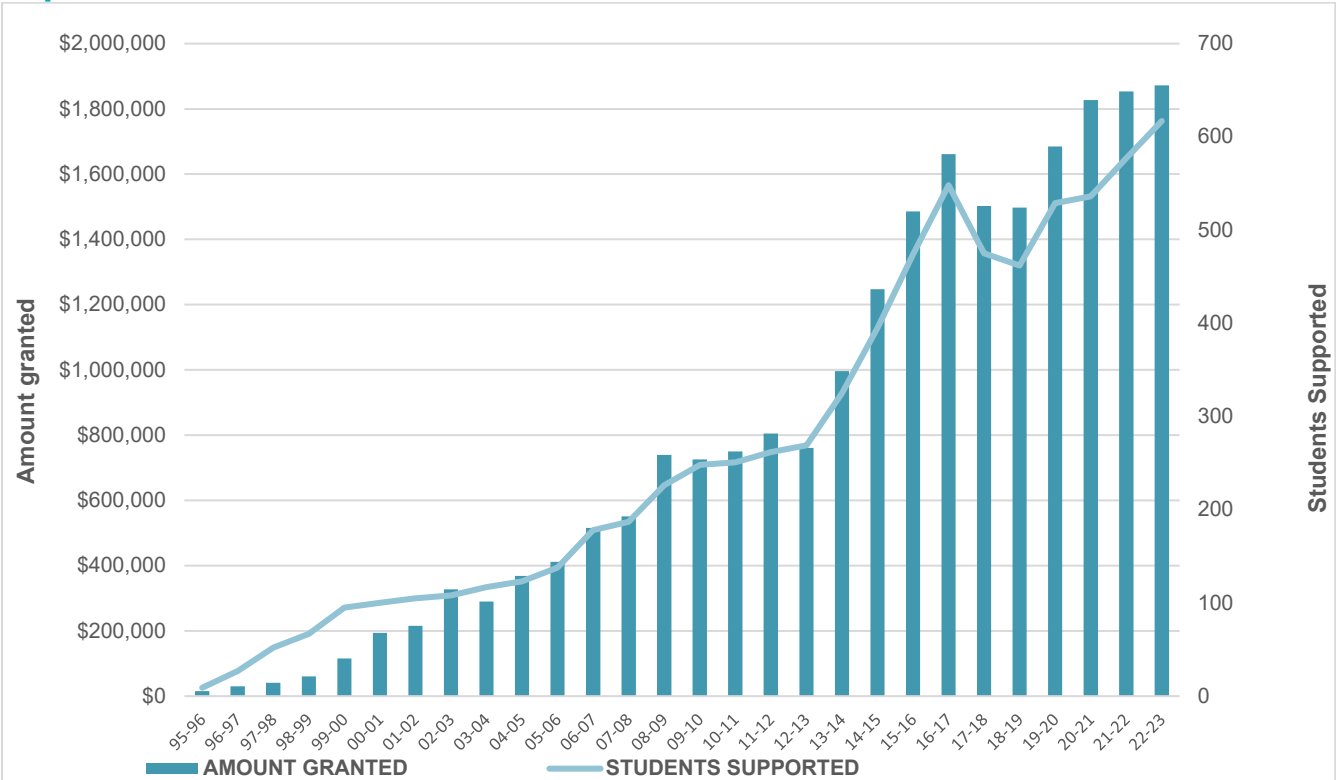
Since the inception of the program in 1995 the Foundation has granted **\$22.2 million** to **7500** young people through the generosity of our donors, in the form of scholarships, bursaries, and other post-secondary awards to students across the country.

In the first year the PSE program was launched, \$15,000 was awarded to nine students in the Toronto area. In the 2022-23 fiscal year, over **\$1.8 million** was awarded to **617** students across Canada.

In addition to the PSE program, the Foundation also provides grants to numerous partner agencies throughout Canada to fund education-related supports to young people in all stages of their path through post-secondary education.

In 2020 the Children’s Aid Foundation of Canada committed to a strategic and operational review of our Post-Secondary Education Program. The first phase of the review was completed with PwC Canada, and the Foundation is engaged in work with a consultant in response to their recommendations to establish the Foundation’s future path for the program to ensure youth from permanent care who want to access post-secondary education should not be limited by financial barriers and receive the support they need over the course of their post-secondary education to contribute to their success. As part of this work, the Foundation’s Impact team participated in RBC Future Launch’s research to explore the landscape of scholarships in Canada. At the same time conducting our own research to remain current, while seeking guidance through outreach to a cross section of experts in the field to form a Scholarship Advisory Council to help guide the Foundation in our responsibilities to students, partnerships, and to determine our greater influence.

Impact to Date



Exact numbers of students supported, and funds distributed for each fiscal year available on request.

The Post-Secondary Education Programs

The Post-Secondary Education Program is made up of four separate components, open to young people 18-30 with lived experience of child welfare, who meet the Foundation's eligibility criteria. For full details on each program and their criteria, please visit our [website](#).

SCHOLARSHIPS, \$5000, are awarded through an annual competitive review process to young people in full time studies.

BURSARIES, up to \$2000, are awarded on an ongoing basis (funding permitting) throughout the school year to young people pursuing either full-time or part-time studies, who have missed the scholarship application window.

ILAN LEVY GRADUATION AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE, up to \$2000, are awarded to scholarship and bursary recipients who complete a post-secondary program through an annual application process.

THE HSBC BANK CANADA YOUTH OPPORTUNITY FUND has provided supports to young people that help to further academic, or career related goals. Examples of requests include tutoring, vocational assessments or career counseling, equipment required by post-secondary programs, or employment opportunities, short-term courses or apprenticeships related to career goals, application fees or preparation courses for graduate programs, high school upgrading or academic bridging/transitional year programs.

Partners in Post-Secondary Education

National, provincial, and local partnerships through which the Foundation directs donations for scholarships and bursaries to youth from child welfare organizations,

NATIONAL Ted Rogers Scholarship Fund

In collaboration with Rogers Communications, Children's Aid Foundation of Canada has been chosen as a national partner organization asked to refer 50 selected youth who demonstrate community leadership to the Ted Rogers Scholarship Fund.

ONTARIO Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS) Endowed Funds

In 2011, Children's Aid Foundation of Canada established endowed funds at George Brown College, Centennial College, Humber College, and the University of Waterloo. These funds were matched by the Ontario government through the Ontario Trust for Student Support program. Students are selected through the Foundation's scholarship and bursary review process and are awarded funding from these endowments into their student accounts.

GREATER TORONTO AREA Corsage Project Community Awards

The Corsage Project's fundraising and granting flows through Children's Aid Foundation of Canada. Starting in 2014, the Foundation began managing the applications and allocation of their scholarships, but the Corsage Project has retained the application process and selection of their annual Community Awards, with payments issued by the Foundation.

GRANTING OVERVIEW – 2022-2023

617 individual students were supported in the 2022-2023 academic year:

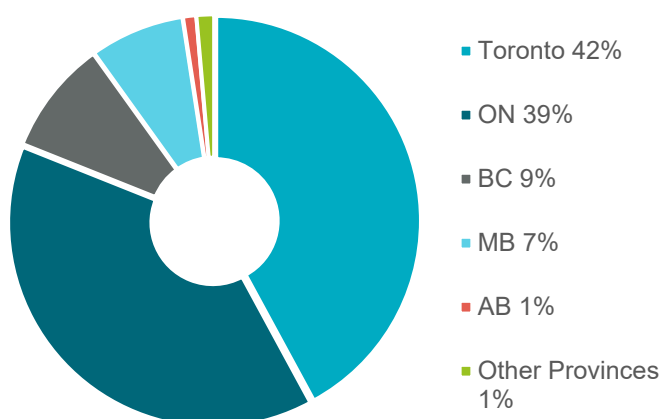
	2022-23		2021-22	
	Amount granted	Students supported	Amount granted	Students supported
Scholarships	\$1,311,250	296	\$1,321,000	288
Bursaries for full or part-time studies	\$252,750	160	\$182,000	118
Scholarships or bursaries granted through OTSS endowments	\$36,000	16	\$33,500	12
Youth who received grants from the HSBC Youth Opportunity Fund*	\$132,055	94	\$65,740	56
Graduation Awards*	\$137,850	116	\$144,000	122
Sub-Total:	\$1,869,905		\$1,826,740	
Other Scholarships Partially Administered by CAFC				
Ted Rogers Scholarships† (Canada)	n/a	51	n/a	53
Corsage Project Community Awards	\$2,000	4	\$6,000	12
Rosalie Hall Scholarships	0	0	\$21,000	7
Sub-Total:	\$2,000		\$27,000	
TOTAL GRANTED/SUPPORTED:	\$1,871,905	617	\$1,853,740	577

*Students receiving HSBC Youth Opportunity Fund grants and Ilan Levy Graduation Awards of Excellence may also be receiving a scholarship or bursary, which has been accounted for in the total of individual students.

†Funding for the Ted Rogers Scholarships is granted directly to students by the Ted Rogers Scholarship Fund.

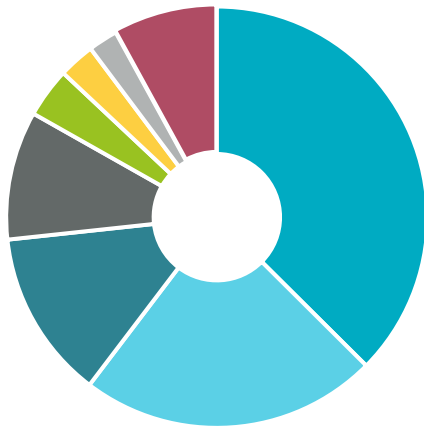
Our Reach

The young people who received 2022-23 Foundation PSE support and what they are working towards.



RECIPIENTS BY HOME LOCATION

In 2022-23, the PSE program recipients represented 8 provinces, including Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. Most young people supported were in Ontario.



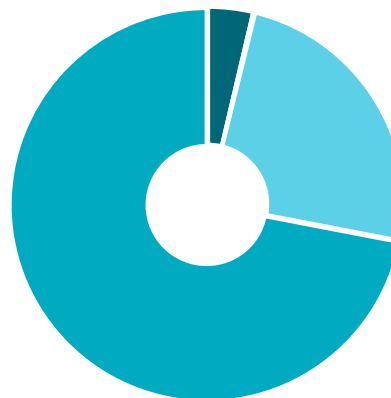
- White 38%
- Black 23%
- Asian 13%
- Indigenous 10%
- Prefers not to identify 4%
- Middle Eastern 3%
- Latin American/Indo-Caribbean 2%
- Many ethnicities/Identifies another way 4%

RECIPIENT'S ETHNIC IDENTITIES

The Foundation saw an increase in the number of Indigenous (+4%) and Black (+2%) youth supported since 2021-22.

RECIPIENT'S GENDER

These numbers reflect the gender proportions of Canadian youth enrolled in post-secondary studies (Female 56%, Male 42%, Unknown, including non-binary, > 1%), but demonstrate a larger proportion of female to male students. ⁵



- Female 71%
- Male 24%
- Transgender/Identifies Another Way 4%
- Prefers Not to Answer >1%

Of the students who received Children's Aid Foundation of Canada scholarships or bursaries in 2022-23:

- **55%** attended **university**
- **44%** attended **college**
- **1%** attended **private/career college**
- **32** were pursuing a **post-graduate or graduate program**
- **57%** of individual youth who had received a 2022-23 scholarship or bursary (at time of publication) had applied for 2023-24 supports for continuing studies in the next academic year
- **25%** of individual youth who had received a 2022-23 scholarship or bursary reported they were in the last year of their program and were on a path to graduate

Grant recipients attended **103** schools across Canada.

⁵ Statistics Canada. [Table 37-10-0018-01 Postsecondary enrolments, by registration status, institution type, status of student in Canada and gender](#)



Program Examples **Social Work** / Sociology, Social Service Worker, Personal Support Worker, Addiction & Mental Health Worker **Medicine** / Nursing, Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, Kinesiology, Public Health **Criminal Justice and Law** / Juris Doctor, Criminology, Police Foundations, Paralegal **Arts & Humanities** / Anthropology, English, History, Library Technician **Psychology & Mental Health** / Psychology – Forensic and Behavioral, Neuroscience, Counselling

Deepening Our Impact

The Graduation Award, both celebrates a young person’s achievement and provides firsthand information to help us to improve and bridge the Foundation’s post-secondary education programs and existing youth in transition programs, like Youth Works, our national youth employment program, to ensure that we are better able to give positive assistance to youth through every stage of their path to careers and independence.

In the 2022-23 fiscal year the Foundation supported **101** new graduates. Of that number, **53** graduated from university, **45** from college, **3** from a private or career college or trade school. Of the university graduates, **12** students completed master’s, doctorate, or Juris Doctor degrees. Of those graduates,

University undergraduates completed their programs in an average 4.83 years. The Canadian population average is 4.53 years. ⁶

College graduates completed their programs in an average of 2.55 years. The Canadian population average is 2.54 years. ⁷

Graduates who completed a university undergraduate program received an average of \$13500 from the Foundation across an average of 3 scholarship or bursary awards.

Graduates who completed a college program received an average of \$8100 from the Foundation across an average of 1.9 scholarship or bursary awards.

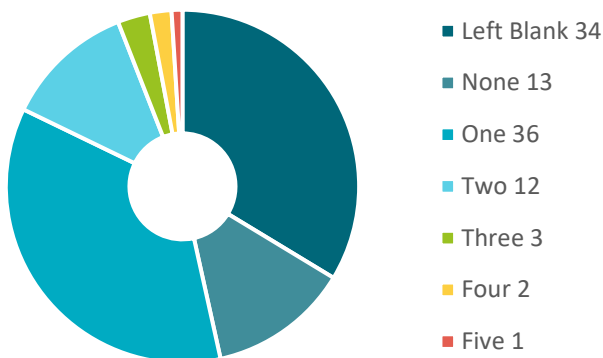
⁶ Statistics Canada. [Table 37-10-0140-01 Graduation of career, technical or professional training certificate students, within the province or territory of first enrolment, by student characteristics](#)

⁷ Statistics Canada. [Table 37-10-0140-01 Graduation of career, technical or professional training certificate students, within the province or territory of first enrolment, by student characteristics](#)

Over the course of the graduate's programs, **248** awards were distributed. Of those awards **81%** were scholarships, and **9%** were bursaries.

PRIOR PROGRAMS

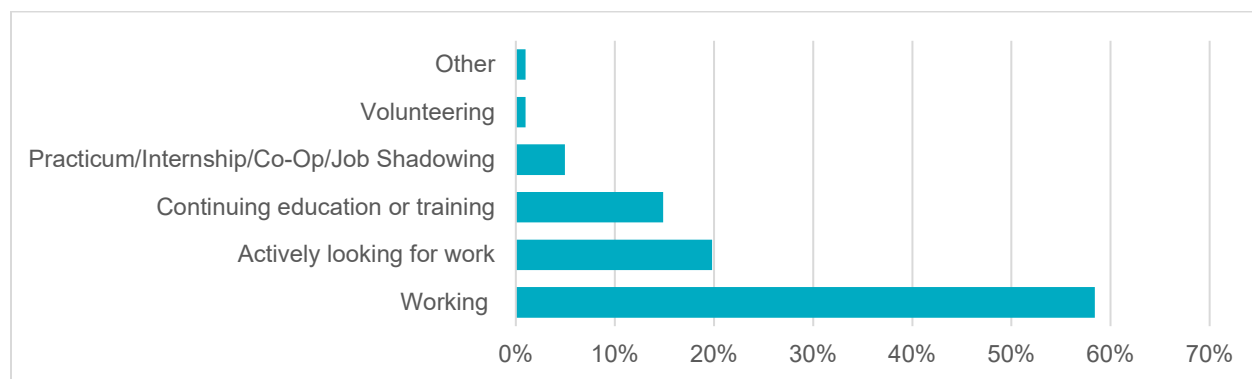
Youth are asked to report the number of programs they had attempted and/or completed prior to their current completed program. This was the first program for most, followed by those with one prior program.



GRADUATE UPDATES

The graduation award application process is made up of an initial application, and a survey sent six or more months after the award is granted to follow up on what a young person is pursuing after their graduation. Out of the 101 graduation award applicants, 87 youth completed the graduate follow-up survey.

In the original application **96%** of youth reported that their activities were related to their career goals. In the graduation award follow up survey **84%** of youth reported that their activities were still related to their career goals, with only 14% indicated their career goals had changed since their first application. 3% did not respond. In the original application young people were asked what activities they were participating in.



In asking the same question in the follow up survey completed 6+ months after, activities of more than half of the individual graduates (53%) had changed since they originally applied, though the proportion of activities had remained the same.

2023-24

The upcoming year is a transitional one for the Foundation's post-secondary education programs. We will conclude the work to determine the best ways to increase the impact of its grants for young people pursuing education and determine the Foundation's role in helping young people navigate post-secondary education and the resources available to them. Additionally, we wish to understand how the Foundation can use our wider influence in advocating for better outcomes overall for young people with experience of child welfare in pursuing education, Canada wide.

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