



OPPORTUNITY PASSPORT™

WHAT IT IS AND HOW IT WORKS

Opportunity Passport™ is a financial literacy and matched savings program designed specifically for young people who have been in foster care.

Youth in the program receive training to develop their financial skills, open and maintain a bank account, and are eligible for up to **\$3,000 in dollar-for-dollar matching of their savings** to help them make big purchases that keep them moving forward in life.

First Place for Youth manages Opportunity Passport in Mississippi. The program was originally created by the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, which partners with local organizations to oversee and support the program's operation at sites across the country.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN OPPORTUNITY PASSPORT?

Opportunity Passport is open to current and former foster youth — age 16 to 25 — who spent at least one day in foster care after turning 14 and who currently live in Mississippi.

HOW CAN YOUNG PEOPLE ENROLL IN OPPORTUNITY PASSPORT?

Space in Opportunity Passport is limited. In order to be eligible to enroll, participants must take the following steps:

- » **Step 1:** Complete the **Keys to Financial Literacy** training
 - Trainings are scheduled throughout the year in areas across the state and cover savings, budgeting, building credit, and more!
 - To find a training near you, contact the Opportunity Passport coordinator at opp@firstplaceforyouth.org
- » **Step 2:** Open and maintain a savings or checking account
- » **Step 3:** Complete the application form available at msyouthvoice.org

Applications are reviewed on an on-going basis and slots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis by region.

WHAT HAPPENS ONCE A YOUNG PERSON JOINS OPPORTUNITY PASSPORT?

Upon enrollment, participants receive \$150 from Opportunity Passport to get them started on the road to savings. They will continue to add to their savings on their own. To remain in good standing and eligible for match dollars, participants must:

- » Maintain regular contact with program staff
- » Participate in a program survey twice per year

When they are ready to make a purchase, they'll submit a match request form for approval. They can make a single purchase requiring the full \$3,000 match or divide it across several smaller purchases.

WHAT PURCHASES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR OPPORTUNITY PASSPORT FUNDS?

Opportunity Passport will provide matching funds for a variety of purchases or payments that help foster youth succeed in reaching their goals. These include:

- » **Vehicles:** Purchase costs, first insurance payment, major repairs
- » **Housing:** Security deposit, first month's rent, mortgage
- » **Education:** Tuition, textbooks and required supplies, fees
- » **Health:** Major costs not covered by insurance
- » **Credit Building:** Secured credit cards, investments
- » **Micro-Enterprise:** Costs associated with starting a business

For more details, visit <https://msyouthvoice.org/opportunity-passport> or contact the program coordinator at 601-460-4436 or opp@firstplaceforyouth.org.



First Place for Youth was founded in 1998 to change the life trajectories of the largely overlooked, vulnerable population of youth who have grown up in foster care. Our mission is to help foster youth build the skills they need to make a successful transition to self-sufficiency and responsible adulthood.

We've been at work in Mississippi since 2017.