

COLUMBUS STATE

STUDENT ADVOCACY CENTER



Fuel for Student Success: Making the Most of Your Gift Card Bundle

Fuel for Student Success

How the Program Works

- Fuel for Student Success is a hardship program. Students must apply.
- Food and transportation gift cards are awarded to students based on need.
- Selected students can receive one gift card bundle per semester:
 - one \$25 Transportation gift card **and** one \$25 Food gift card

Fuel for Student Success, Cont.

How the Program Works

- Gift card types are based on student preference and campus location.
- Columbus campus can choose either a \$25 Subway or \$25 Union Café gift card.
- Dublin and Delaware campuses can choose either a \$25 Wendy's or \$25 Bibibop gift card.
- Any campus: students can choose either a \$25 Speedway gas card or \$25 Lyft card.
- Students may only receive one gift card bundle per semester.

Fuel for Student Success, Cont.

How the Program Works

- Limited gift card bundles available 1st 5 weeks, 2nd 5 weeks, & last 5 weeks of semester.
- Allows gift card bundles to be available all semester for all 3 campuses.
- Once bundles awarded for 5-week period, students must wait for next 5 weeks.
- Applications evaluated every week. Students not selected may reapply or follow tips below if hardship persists.

Using Your Gift Cards Wisely

- Your gift cards are a **limited** resource.
- Do not spend your gift cards too fast or impulsively.
- Look ahead at your expenses and find where your gift cards can fill a predicted need.
- You do not have to use your gift card all at once.

Making the Most of Your Transportation Card

- Use apps like Gas Buddy or Upside to find the cheapest gas near you and earn points toward discounts and rewards (like more gift cards).
- Be mindful of your fuel mileage:
 - Make sure your tires are properly inflated (Sheetz and GetGo have free tire filling stations).
 - Avoid speeding, do not idle while parked, and limit air conditioner usage.
- Use the Speedway Speedy Rewards program to earn gas discounts.

Making the Most of Your Transportation Card

- Leave your car at home when possible:
 - Consider walking or biking when practical.
 - COTA bus passes available for free in the Student Advocacy Center.
- Use Lyft when transporting larger items like groceries or laundry.
 - Try to avoid peak hours and surge fees.

Making the Most of Your Food Card

- Look for promos and discounts online.
 - Subway has promo codes when ordering online.
 - Wendy's has a rewards app and promos.
- Combo meals and the kids' menu generally have the best value options.
- The Mid Ohio Market will help you meet your food needs.
- Making meals at home saves money!

Student Wellbeing Resources

- Franklin County Job and Family Services
 - Meet with a representative from JFS to find out if you qualify for rental, food, or medical insurance assistance.
- Renter Mentor
 - Renter Mentor has resources to help you find affordable housing, offer guidance for budgeting, and understanding your lease.

Student Wellbeing Resources

- Parenting students may qualify for a childcare voucher.
- Counseling Services
 - Student Wellbeing offers virtual and in-person counseling services
- Are you having difficulty meeting your basic needs?
 - Make an appointment with a Basic Needs Resource Navigator or stop in the Student Advocacy Center to explore your options.

Tips for Completing Your Application

- Be sure to answer ALL parts of the prompt.
- Share details about your hardship.
- Your hardship should be temporary and not on-going.
- Describe the action you will take to resolve the hardship.
- Remember: the bundle contains two \$25 gift cards for short-term help.
- If you are not awarded you may apply again but add more detail.

CONGRATULATIONS!

You've reached the end of the presentation.

Click [here](#) to take the quiz.

Remember: you must take the quiz to complete your application for a Fuel for Student Success gift card bundle. Applications with no quiz score will not be considered.

Thank you!

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