

2017-2018 Forward Steps' Guardian Scholars Scholarship Application

About The Forward Steps Guardian Scholars Scholarship

The Forward Steps Guardian Scholars Scholarship was created to help Colorado youth who will **emancipate from foster care or youth who already have emancipated from foster care** achieve their dream of earning a college degree.

Our scholarship provides assistance of up to **\$6,000 per academic year** to cover any unmet financial need while attending college. Funds are disbursed during the Fall and Spring semesters based on academic performance and Forward Steps' program participation. In addition to the financial assistance, scholars will receive one-on-one mentoring and support throughout their participation in the Forward Steps program.

Who is eligible?

- Forward Steps' Guardian Scholars Scholarship is specific to youth (age 17-21) who already have or will emancipate from foster care in Colorado
- Applicants must reside in Colorado and plan to attend (or are currently attending) Community College of Denver or University of Colorado at Denver
- Scholars must have earned a high school diploma or passed the GED before beginning their first semester of college
- First time applicants must apply before their 22nd birthday
- Applicants must meet federal financial aid requirements and have unmet need as determined by the FAFSA

Once awarded, scholars must meet the following expectations in order to maintain eligibility for the scholarship:

- Maintain good standing as defined by your school
- Enroll in and maintain at least 12 credit hours per semester
- Achieve and maintain at least a 2.0 GPA per semester
- Attend Forward Steps' monthly workshops
- Meet with Forward Steps' Student Development Manager (frequency depends on the needs of specific scholar)
- Provide Forward Steps' staff with semester grades (and mid-semester progress updates, if requested)
- Allow Forward Steps' staff to monitor academic performance and college records (such as financial aid documentation) to verify continued eligibility
- Apply annually for scholarship renewal

How to apply and next steps

Complete the following application, paying special attention to the checklist provided. The application and supporting documents may be submitted by e-mail to scholarship@forwardsteps.org or may be mailed to Forward Steps at: **370 Interlocken Boulevard, Suite 640. Broomfield, CO 80021.**

Your completed application and required documents must be postmarked by **May 15, 2017** or received via e-mail by the same date. Applicants who meet the May 15 priority deadline will be notified by June 1 as to the status of their application. Eligible applicants will be contacted to schedule an informal follow-up interview. Applications received after May 15 will automatically be waitlisted for the Spring 2018 semester, pending available funding and eligibility.

If you have questions or need clarification, please contact us: 720.276.7778 or email scholarship@forwardsteps.org.

We look forward to working with you!

Application Checklist

In order for your application packet to be considered complete, include all of the following documents:

Your completed application

Two letters of recommendation explaining why you should be considered for this scholarship.

- One letter should be from a case worker, Chafee worker, CASA or Guardian ad Litem who can verify your time spent in foster care and that your permanency plan is emancipation.
- The second letter should be from an academic advisor, foster parent, or adult family friend.

Essay responses

A copy of your FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR)

Upon completion, high school transcripts or a copy of your GED. If you have completed any college credit, please include those transcripts as well.



Personal Details

First Name:

Last Name:

Any other name that you go by:

Phone:

Email:

Best way to contact you:

Phone

Email

Text

Current Address:

Apt #:

City:

State:

Zip:

Date of Birth:

Current Age:

What is your housing plan while attending college?

SAT or ACT score (if applicable):

SAT:

ACT:

Which colleges have you applied to?

What do you plan to study in college and why?

How many years were you in foster care?

Date of emancipation (or when do you anticipate emancipating):

Who was your last caseworker? In which county?

Email:

Phone Number:

Is your child welfare case currently open?

YES

NO

Do you have a Chafee worker? If yes, Chafee worker name and county:

Email:

Phone Number:



Applicant's Signature

Please read the following statement carefully before signing:

I certify that all the information in this application is accurate. I understand that incomplete applications will not be considered. By signing below, I agree that my name, scholarship award amount, and general information provided in this application may be used in materials published by Forward Steps (FS).

Signature

Date