



From Foster Care to Independence

2022-2023 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

ABOUT FORWARD STEPS

The Forward Steps Guardian Scholars program supports Colorado current and former foster youth as they pursue a post-secondary education. Our program provides financial, social and life-skills support to foster youth who are currently enrolled, or will be enrolled, in an associate, bachelor, trade or certificate program.

Full-time Guardian Scholars can receive up to \$6,000 per academic year for unmet financial need related to cost of attendance, with the potential for additional summer funding. The program can accommodate part-time enrollment as well.

In addition to financial assistance, Guardian Scholars receive one-on-one mentoring, academic and career coaching, opportunities for personal and professional development, access to tutoring, and community support.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must have verifiable experience in the foster care system. At this time, we cannot accept individuals who have been adopted into our program.
- First time applicants must apply before their 26th birthday.
- Applicants must be residents of Colorado and plan to attend, or are currently attending, one of the following colleges. Please note that other Colorado colleges will be considered.
 - Aims Community College
 - Arapahoe Community College
 - Colorado Mesa University
 - Colorado State University, Fort Collins
 - Community College of Aurora
 - Community College of Denver
 - Emily Griffith Technical College
 - Front Range Community College – Westminster, Boulder & Larimer campuses
 - Metropolitan State University of Denver
 - Pickens Technical College
 - Red Rocks Community College
 - University of Colorado – Denver, Boulder, & Anschutz campuses
 - University of Northern Colorado, Greeley
- Scholars must have a high school diploma or a GED before beginning their first semester of college.
- Applicants must meet federal financial aid requirements and must qualify for the Pell Grant.

If you have any questions about whether or not you may be eligible, or how to obtain documentation to demonstrate eligibility, please contact us at scholarship@forwardsteps.org.



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WHAT ARE THE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS TO MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY?

To remain eligible, scholars must meet the following expectations:

- Maintain good standing as defined by their school and by our program.
- Maintain and successfully complete all credit hours agreed upon with Forward Steps.
- Maintain eligibility for the federal Pell Grant in order to display unmet financial need as determined by FASFA.
- Achieve and maintain at least a 2.0 GPA both cumulatively and per semester.
- Meet with the Scholar Mentor as agreed upon, per program requirements; additional appointments may be scheduled depending on scholar needs.
- New scholars are required to attend our College Prep 101 workshop.
- Participate in interactive personal and professional development opportunities organized by the Guardian Scholars Program. We typically have 2 required personal and professional development opportunities per semester that are focused on areas of scholar interest.
- Complete self-assessments and program evaluations, as requested.
- Submit grade and/or progress reports as requested, along with any other requested documentation.

HOW TO APPLY AND NEXT STEPS

Complete the following application form and provide all necessary supporting documentation on the application checklist by our **priority deadline of May 31 for Fall semester and October 31 for Spring semester**. Mailed documents must be postmarked by the deadline.

Please email your completed application packet to scholarship@forwardsteps.org or mail to:

P.O. Box 3484
Boulder, CO 80307-3484

Eligible applicants will be contacted to schedule an interview. The executive director and our review committee, which may include members outside of our organization, will then review eligible packets. Applicants will be informed of the review committee's final decision regarding program admittance by email.

If you do not meet the priority deadline, please note that we do accept applications throughout the year. Applications received after the priority deadline may be considered for the upcoming semester depending on the date of submission, applicant eligibility and available funding.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please contact the Guardian Scholars Program Coordinator, Sarah Zakerski, at 720-446-9672 or through email at scholarship@forwardsteps.org.

We look forward to reviewing your application!

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Completed application form

- Official high school transcripts (or GED) and, if applicable, transcripts from any previously attended college. If official transcripts are not currently available, unofficial transcripts can be substituted until official transcripts are available.

- FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR)

- Signed "Confirmation of Foster Care Dependency Form." Please contact us if you have questions about how to obtain this documentation.

- One letter of recommendation from a case worker, CASA advocate, GAL, teacher or mentor. Please ask your reference to describe your character, commitment to education and degree attainment (motivation, drive, or effort towards obtaining an education), leadership, and your community involvement.

- Two brief essays (typed, double-spaced, and in paragraph form)
 - Write an essay about yourself that includes why you are applying for this program, why you want to continue your education, your personal strengths, what motivates you, and your academic and/or professional goals (2-3 pages).
 - Describe an obstacle you encountered in school and how you were able to overcome it (about 1 page).

PERSONAL DETAILSFirst Name: Last Name: Any other name that you go by: Phone: E-Mail: Best way to contact you: Phone E-mail TextCurrent Address: City State ZIP Date of Birth: Current Age: Dates in foster care:

Who is/was your most recent caseworker? From which county?

Phone Number: E-Mail:

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

Phone Number: E-Mail:

Emergency Contact:

Phone Number: E-Mail:

How did you hear about Forward Steps?

Have you applied for this scholarship in the past? Yes No Not sure



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Which semester are you applying for?

Fall 2022

Spring 2023

Are you a current college student, or have you completed any college courses in the past?

Yes

No

College you plan to attend (if you are unsure, list your top 3 choices):

[Empty text box for college names]

Are you planning on attending school full-time or part-time?

Full-time

Part-time

How many credits are you planning to enroll in (a typical class is 3 credits)?

[Empty text box for credits]

What do you plan to study and why?

[Empty text box for study plans]

Are you currently employed?

Yes

No

List any activities in which you have participated that demonstrate community involvement and/or leadership (volunteering, clubs, extracurricular activities, work, sports, music, youth groups, caring for family members, etc.)

Activity and Organization	Date (from-to)	Time Commitment: Hours per week and week per year	Role or Position

Briefly describe your top two activities and why they are/were important to you.

[Empty text box for activity descriptions]

List any honors, awards, or other special recognition you have received.

[Empty text box for honors and awards]

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

Please read the following statement carefully before signing: Our review committee, which may include members outside of our organization, will review eligible packets, and their decisions will be communicated with applicants. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. By signing below, I certify that I understand this information, and I certify that all of the information in this application is accurate.

Signature

[Empty signature box]

Date

[Empty date box]