

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**FACT SHEET**

In May of 1995, the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) established its scholarship program. The goal of the program was to provide financial support to every youth emancipating from the foster care system as they pursue higher education. DCFS is committed to assisting all youth in achieving their educational goals. DCFS offers scholarship assistance, based on verified unmet financial need, to eligible applicants. Scholarship applications are generally available in January of every year. Applications are mailed to the homes of identified high school seniors, care providers and DCFS staff including Children's Social Workers (CSWs).

The primary focus of the scholarship program is to ensure that all ILP eligible youth have resources needed to successfully fulfill their educational goals. The scholarship program works in collaboration with other programs such as, The Independent Living Program (ILP), The Department of Probation, The United Friends of the Children, The Community College Foundation (TCCF) and private agencies which includes the Teague Family Foundation and Casey Family Programs. A majority of the scholarships awarded are funded by Foundations, Non-Profit Organizations and community programs/agencies committed to supporting of foster youth in their pursuit of higher education.

Graduating youth are eligible to apply for Federal and State financial aid including the Chafee Grant that is specifically for foster youth. When the financial needs of foster youth exceed the Federal and State awards they may seek additional assistance through ILP and the scholarship program.

Generally, to receive scholarship assistance, youth will:

- 1) have a completed application on file with the scholarship program
- 2) submit all requested school-related documents
- 3) meet eligibility requirements for the available scholarships

Scholarship applications are reviewed by the Scholarship Planning Committee. This committee meets periodically to review and process all scholarship applications. All scholarship related documents should be sent to the attention of **Toni Joshua, Scholarship Coordinator, Youth Development Services Division, 3530 Wilshire Blvd., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Los Angeles, CA 90010**. For more information regarding the scholarship program, please contact Toni Joshua at 213-351-0268 or La Sonya Gibbs, Program Manager at (213) 351-0238.