

**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 program is a part of the Youth Development Services (YDS) Division which is comprised of both DCFS and Los Angeles County Probation Independent Living Program (ILP) staff. The goal of the program is to provide financial support to youth transitioning from the foster or probation systems as they pursue higher education and strive to meet their educational goals.

The Scholarship Program offers assistance, based on verified unmet financial need, to eligible applicants. Scholarship applications are available in November of every year and provided to identified high school seniors, care providers, DCFS Children's Social Workers (CSWs), and Probation Officers by the YDS Transition Coordinators (TCs). The scholarship program works in collaboration with other programs, nonprofit organizations, and private agencies committed to supporting foster youth in their pursuit of higher education.

To be considered for scholarship assistance, youth are required to:

- 1) Have a completed application and essay on file with the scholarship program;
- 2) Meet eligibility requirements for available scholarships; and
- 3) Submit required documents to receive the scholarship award by specified dates.

Scholarship recipients are selected by the donor or the YDS Scholarship Selection Committee. Upon receipt of the required documents, a scholarship recipient will receive a disbursement. Disbursements will be one time only or on an ongoing basis aligned with the wishes of the donor or based on the scholarship amount. Scholarship amounts range from \$500 to \$2000 per recipient. All scholarship donations are received by the DCFS Finance Division, Deposit Unit located at 425 Shatto Place, Room 204, Los Angeles, CA 90020 and deposited in donor sub-accounts. Scholarship disbursements in the form of a check are expended from these accounts upon the request of the YDS Scholarship Program. These checks are sent to the scholarship recipient to use for academic related expenses for the quarter/semester or academic year referenced on the receipt form. The recipient is expected to sign and return the receipt of the check in a self-addressed envelope provided. A scholarship recipient may forfeit a scholarship for non-compliance including not registered for at least 12 units or meeting a GPA of 2.0 or higher.

Graduates must apply for Federal and State financial aid including the Chafee Grant prior to seeking additional assistance through ILP and/or the scholarship program. Scholarship inquiries should be addressed to Charlotte Lewis, Program Manager at [lewich@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:lewich@dcfs.lacounty.gov), 626-938-1726. All required scholarship documents should be sent to the attention of the recipient's YDS ILP Transition Coordinator. The contact information for YDS Headquarters is 213-351-0101 or [youthds@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:youthds@dcfs.lacounty.gov).