



Scholarship Program

Eligibility Requirements:

- The department must have court-ordered legal guardianship for the applicant, the applicant must have aged out of DCFS care at age 18 or older, or the department must have had legal guardianship for the applicant immediately prior to an adoption or guardianship being finalized.
- The applicant must be at least 16 years old, but not yet 21, on the scholarship application deadline of March 31 each year
- Successfully compete for a DCFS college scholarship (submit complete scholarship application packet, CFS 438, by 3/31 of respective year)
- Maintain at least a "C" average each semester
- Maintain full-time status (12 hours Fall & Spring, 6 hours or an approved internship in Summer). Enrollment will be verified through the National Student Clearinghouse.
- Submit class schedule at the start of each semester and grades at the end of the semester.
- Report changes to any contact information promptly to the DCFS scholarship administrator

Benefits:

- A monthly board payment in the amount of \$1,235. These funds are to assist the student with campus based room and board costs or off campus rent and utilities, and personal expenses. Direct deposit is strongly recommended.
- Medicaid card provided to Illinois students.
- Tuition and mandatory fee waiver to an Illinois public university or in-district community college.
- Reimbursement of the cost of books not covered by financial aid
- Benefits available for up to five consecutive years.

Important Plans To Consider:

- Arranging transportation to the school location
- Planning for housing when school is closed for breaks and holidays
- Devising a backup plan for finances if your monthly board payment is lost or stolen.
- Seeking tutorial assistance through the school, and meeting with OETS staff if your grades are low, if you are having problems in a particular course, or if you must withdraw from any classes
- Youth who withdraw from classes must notify the OETS scholarship administrator
- Apply for financial aid annually.

What the Scholarship DOES NOT Cover:

- Orientation fees
- Computers or Internet services
- Room/board costs
- Repayment of student loans
- Tuition to private or out-of-state schools
- Study abroad
- Phone bills
- Dorm room damages
- Laboratory fees
- Transportation to and from school
- Study enhancement programs
- Supplies
- Library fines

See reverse side for more details.