



FORWARD STEPS GUARDIAN SCHOLARS SCHOLARSHIP



What is the Forward Steps Guardian Scholars Scholarship?

The Guardian Scholars Scholarship is a program that provides current and former youth who will emancipate from foster care with social, emotional and financial support as they venture into their college career.

Forward Steps Guardian Scholars receive up to **\$6,000 in financial support (\$3,000 per semester)** for unmet needs in addition to mentoring, coaching and access to monthly workshops hosted by Forward Steps.

Scholars will start the Forward Steps program with a cohort of their peers who have potentially had a similar experience of aging out of foster care.

Who is eligible to apply for the scholarship?

- 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 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**

What is expected of scholars who are accepted into the program?

Scholars are expected to maintain good standing as defined by their school

Scholars are required to:

- 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

What is the application process?

Interested candidates complete an application (available to be printed on our web site) and submit the application and supporting documents (via mail or email). **Completed application and required documents must be postmarked by May 15, 2017 or received via e-mail by the same date in order to be eligible for the fall 2017 semester.**

All applicants will receive a letter within 30 days of their application being received to confirm that their application has reached its destination.

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 (to be scheduled for the first and second week of June). Applications received after May 15 will automatically be waitlisted for the Spring 2018 semester, pending available funding and eligibility.

The informal interview will be with Forward Steps' Student Development Manager and a current scholar who has been attending college for at least 1 semester.

Selection committee will review eligible packets and decisions will be made and communicated with applicants by June 30, 2017.

How does Forward Steps partner with youth? Professionals? Schools?

Forward Steps exists to help former foster youth succeed. Our approach is very individualized and specific to the needs and interests of our scholars. **Partnerships are of utmost importance in setting up our scholars to succeed.**

Therefore we are committed to partnering with the agencies and individuals who have been crucial in managing the students' cases and who have valuable insight into how we can best serve our scholars. Forward Steps' goal is to provide programming and services that would be most useful to the scholars without replicating services. We aim to have a clear and open line of communication with all the relevant parties.

Can applicants who were previously declined applicants re-apply for the scholarship?

Yes. Eligible students are welcome to submit an application for review even if they were previously declined for a scholarship.

If you have any other questions, please contact Forward Steps at scholarship@forwardsteps.org or 720.276.7778.