


Pat Quinn
Governor



Erwin McEwen
Director

Illinois Department of Children & Family Services

INFORMATION TRANSMITTAL

DATE: January 13, 2010
TO: Rules and Procedures Bookholders and Permanency Staff
FROM: Erwin McEwen, Director 
SUBJECT: 2010 Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Scholarship Program

LAST DATE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED: MARCH 31, 2010
ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS: MAY 15, 2010

The purpose of this information transmittal is to announce the Department is currently accepting applications for the 2010 Department of Children and Family Services Scholarship Program.

The DCFS Scholarship Program provides a maximum of 48 scholarships each year, four of which are awarded to children of veterans, to youth the Department has court-ordered legal responsibility for, or youth that the Department had legal responsibility for prior to the youth's adoption being finalized, or youth that are in the Subsidized Guardianship or KinGap Program. Scholarship recipients receive up to four consecutive years of tuition and academic fee waivers to be used at participating Illinois state community colleges and universities, a monthly stipend and a medical card. Youth that graduated from high school in previous years or youth that are currently enrolled in college are eligible to apply for the Department scholarship.

BENEFITS

Scholarship recipients will receive a waiver of tuition and mandatory fees if they attend their local Illinois state community college or any of the following Illinois state universities and if the student does not have a tuition and fee scholarship from another source.

Chicago State University	Eastern Illinois University	Governors State University
Western Illinois University	Illinois State University	Northeastern Illinois University
University of Illinois	Southern Illinois University	Northern Illinois University

Note: Tuition and fee waivers are provided only to scholarship recipients that attend an Illinois state community college or university. Scholarship recipients that attend private Illinois or out-of-state colleges or universities do not receive tuition and fee waivers.

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All scholarship recipients receive a monthly grant of \$471 regardless of whether they attend an Illinois state community college or university. The grant is effective the first day of school and will terminate at the end of the academic year unless the recipient attends summer school and maintains an academic load of six credit hours or participates in a college or university approved summer internship program. Youth that choose not to attend summer school or participate in an approved internship program will continue to receive their grant payments through the summer months if the Department has guardianship of the youth or the Department's guardianship of the youth was terminated at age 21 after the youth entered the scholarship program, are registered to attend a post-secondary program for the upcoming fall semester, and the youth is in compliance with all other requirements of the Scholarship program.

Scholarships DO NOT cover room, board, dormitory fees, other non-academic fees or college/university fines. Students are STRONGLY encouraged to use their monthly grant in combination with other scholarships, grants, benefits or loans to pay these expenses. Information concerning any of the following sources of educational funding may be obtained from high school counselors or college/university financial aid officers.

Pell or MAP Grants	Illinois State Scholarship Commission Grants
Student loans	National Defense Student Loans
Basic Education Grant	Social Security
Supplemental Education Grant	Veteran's Benefits
Work Study	

Eligibility Requirements

Department scholarship applicants must:

- Be at least 16 years of age and under 21 years of age on the scholarship application deadline date of March 31, 2010.
- Possess a diploma from an accredited high school or an accredited General Equivalency Diploma (GED) program by the end of the current school year.
- The Department must have court-ordered legal guardianship for the applicant or the Department must have had legal guardianship for the applicant prior to the adoption being finalized, or the applicant must be in the Subsidized Guardianship or KinGap Program.

Application

Scholarship applicants are required to submit their applications to the Office of Education and Transition Services (OETS) **no later than March 31, 2010**. Applications postmarked after that date will not be eligible for consideration. Incomplete applications will be ineligible for consideration and will be returned to the applicant. If time permits, the applicant can resubmit the complete application packet. Applications submitted by facsimile will be ineligible for consideration.

It is mandatory that scholarship applications contain the following documents:

- A completed **CFS-438, DCFS Scholarship Program Student Application**;
- The applicant's transcript of high school grades or copy of GED;
- The applicant's ACT or SAT test scores;
- College transcript (if attending college);
- Three letters of recommendation from persons unrelated to the applicant.

Note: Documentation of the applicant's legal relationship with the Department must be attached to the application to expedite confirmation of this eligibility requirement.

The **CFS-438, DCFS Scholarship Program Student Application**, may be obtained from:

- Any Department Regional office;
- The Department website at www.state.il.us/dcfs (Click on “forms” at the left side of the screen);
- The Department’s Youth In Care website at www.youthincare.illinois.gov (Click on “Education” page, then “Youth in Scholarship”);
- The Department Intranet site (Click on resource link, download and then CFS forms); or
- Telephone 217 557-2689 (Springfield) or 312 814-5959 (Chicago)

Send completed scholarship applications to:

Office of Education and Transition Services
Attn: YIS Program
Department of Children and Family Services
406 E Monroe, Station #22
Springfield, IL 62701

Selection of Scholarship Recipients

Applicants that do not meet the eligibility criteria for the scholarship program or do not meet the application deadline will not be considered. Scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of their scholastic record and aptitude, community and extracurricular activities and interests in higher education. The Scholarship Awards Selection Committee will meet in April to select the scholarship recipients for the year 2010. Applicants will be notified by mail of the committee’s decisions by May 15, 2010.

2010 Scholarship Awards Selection Committee

Deputy Director, Division of Field Operations
Deputy Director, Division of Placement/Permanency
Deputy Director, Division of Service Intervention
Deputy Director, Division of Child Protection
Deputy Director, Division of Clinical and Professional Development
Deputy Director, Division of Communications
Deputy Director, Division of Guardianship and Advocacy
Deputy Director, Division of Budget and Finance
Deputy Director, Division of Monitoring/Quality Assurance
Deputy Director, Division of Support Services
Representative, DCFS Legal
Six Department Regional Administrators
Director’s Office Representative
Chairperson, Child Welfare Advisory Committee
Department Legislative Liaison
Chairperson, Child Care Association of Illinois
Chairperson, Illinois Foster Parent Association
Chairperson, Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council
Representative, Walter & Connie Payton Foundation

Living Arrangements for Scholarship Recipients

Permanency workers for scholarship recipients shall establish a living arrangement plan with their scholarship students prior to the beginning of the school year. Scholarship recipients may not live in a Department funded placement while receiving monthly grant payments under the Scholarship Program. However, Department funded placements may be available to the youth under DCFS guardianship during extended academic breaks and summers. Youth also have the option of remaining in their current paid placement and not receive the monthly Scholarship grant payments. Youth in DCFS care may also participate in the Employment Incentive Program or be involved with an internship program during the summer.

Questions

Questions concerning the Department of Children and Family Services Scholarship Program may be directed to either of the following OETS offices.

Springfield 217-557-2689

Chicago 312-814-5959

Please share the attached scholarship program information sheet with all potential scholarship applicants.