

FIND YOUR FUTURE 2009 -- Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Am I eligible for the internship program?

All DCFS wards who are currently enrolled in college full-time as a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior (not graduating in May of 2009) and have a minimum GPA of 2.5 are eligible for the program. We cannot accept applications from youth enrolled in training programs unless it is in addition to college classes.

If you participate in the Youth in College (YIC) or Youth in Scholarship (YIS) programs as well as youth in foster care, self-selected placements, transitional living programs (TLP) or independent living programs (ILO) you are eligible. (Please note that some students in the Youth in Scholarship (YIS) program are no longer wards of the state because they were adopted. You are eligible as long as you are part of the YIS program.)

We are NOT accepting applications from students who will graduate before the end of the summer. If you have already graduated, or will graduate in or before September 2009, you are NOT eligible. If you are a senior and will not graduate in 2009 you are in a community college program and planning to transfer to a four-year school, you ARE eligible.

Youth who have participated in *Find Your Future* in the past ARE eligible for this year's program. However, you may only participate twice and those who repeat *Find Your Future* are not guaranteed acceptance into the program or the same placement as the previous year. If you applied last year and were not accepted, you ARE eligible and welcome to apply as well.

If you have no history with DCFS, you are NOT eligible for the program. If you have never been involved in the Illinois child welfare system, you are NOT eligible.

If you are not sure if someone is eligible, please contact Abbie See at 773-292-4027 or asee@kaleidoscope4kids.org.

Q. Will you accept my application over email or fax?

Yes, both fax and email are fine. You can visit our website www.kaleidoscope4kids.org/fyf.html to download the application. You can complete the application, and then email it back along with your resume and letter of recommendation. You will need to mail or fax a hard copy of your college transcript which needs to be received by February 13th.

Q. When will I find out if I have been accepted for an interview?

If you submit a complete application packet on time (postmarked by February 13th), you will hear back from us on or before February 27th. At that time we will let you know if you have been selected for an interview. Interviews will take place in March. If you are selected for the program, you will be matched with an employer.

Q. Will a second interview be required?

Yes, employers will require second-round interviews. You may also be asked to fill out additional paperwork, complete a background check and/or have a drug-test.

Q. If I get accepted into the program, where will I work?

We are still recruiting employers to participate in the program this year, so it is too early to say where you will be working. We make an effort to match up students with an employer in their career field of interest, but that is not always possible. To give you a sense of the possibilities, we have provided a list of employers who participated in previous years. (Refer to the list on the back)

(OVER)

Q. How much money do interns in the program make?

We require interns make a minimum of \$10 an hour for ten weeks of full-time work. Youth can make up to \$3750 for the summer if working 37.5 hours per week. All interns will be paid for one holiday, however vacation is not offered and sick days will not be paid.

Q. Will Find Your Future help me with housing or transportation costs?

Find Your Future will not provide summer housing or transportation. However, we will offer resources to interns who are looking for housing for the summer. Please note, if you are in the Youth in College (YIC) or Youth in Scholarship (YIS) program, you will continue to receive your monthly stipend of \$444 while in the internship program.

Q. Am I considered an employee of Kaleidoscope?

No, you are not considered an employee of Kaleidoscope.

Past Employers

Baker & McKenzie LLP
Center for Child Welfare & Education
Central West Region
Chicago Cable Works
Chicago Crime Commission
Chicago Department of Aging
Chicago Department of the Environment
Chicago Department of Finance
Chicago Department of Innovation & Technology
Chicago Department of Public Health
Chicago Department of Transportation
Chicago Department of Water Management
Chicago Metropolis 2020
Chicago Office of Budget & Management
Chicagoland Publishing Company
Chicago Park District
Chicago Police Department
Chicago Public Schools
Children’s Home Association
Cook County Juvenile Court
Free Street Theater
Illinois Department of Children & Family Services
Illinois Department of Human Services
Illinois Department of Public Health
Illinois Housing Development Authority
Illinois State Police
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Kaleidoscope, Inc.
Laner, Muchin, Dombrow, Becker, Levin, & Tominberg, Ltd.
Lawrence Hall Youth Services
LaRabida Children’s Hospital
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
McDermott, Will, & Emery
Meckler, Bulger, & Tilson LLP
Mercy Home for Boys and Girls
Monsanto Company
Northwestern Medical School
Nuveen Investments, LLC
Office of U. S. Senator Dick Durbin
Park Lawn School & Activity Center
Protestants for the Common Good
Regional Transportation Authority
Seyfarth & Shaw LLP
Steans Family Foundation
Streetwise
Tribune Company
University of Chicago Comer Children’s Hospital
University of Chicago Hospitals
Voices for Illinois Children
WGN-TV-Channel 9
Winston & Strawn LLP
WTTW-Channel 11