

**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 goal of the program was to provide financial support to every youth emancipating from the foster care system as they pursue higher education. DCFS is committed to assisting all youth in achieving their educational goals. DCFS offers scholarship assistance, based on verified unmet financial need, to eligible applicants. Scholarship applications are generally available in January of every year. Applications are mailed to the homes of identified high school seniors, care providers including DCFS Children's Social Workers (CSWs) and Probation Officers.

The primary focus of the scholarship program is to ensure ILP eligible youth have financial resources to successfully fulfill their educational goals. The scholarship program works in collaboration with other programs, Non Profits Organizations and private agencies committed to supporting foster youth in their pursuit of higher education to include The Independent Living Program (ILP), The Department of Probation, the Teague Family Foundation and the United Friends of the Children.

Generally, to receive scholarship assistance, youth will:

- 1) have a completed application and/or 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 vary from \$500 to \$15,000 per recipient. Scholarship donors can go to www.ilponline.org to learn how to make donations. All scholarship donations are deposited in Scholarship Trust Accounts maintained by the DCFS Finance Division. Scholarship disbursements in the form of a check are expended from these accounts upon the request of the 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 in the self addressed envelope provided. A scholarship recipient may forfeit a scholarship for non-compliance.

Graduates are encouraged to apply for Federal and State financial aid including the Chafee Grant that is specifically for foster youth prior to seeking additional assistance through ILP and the scholarship program.

Scholarship related documents should be sent to the attention of **Toni Joshua, Scholarship Coordinator, Youth Development Services Division, 3530 Wilshire Blvd., 4th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90010**. For more information regarding the scholarship program, please contact La Sonya Gibbs, Program Manager at (213) 351-0238 or Toni Joshua at 213-351-0158.