GUARDIAN SCHOLARS
SCHOLARSHIP

2015-16 Forward Steps Guardian Scholars Scholarship

What is the Scholarship?

The Forward Steps Guardian Scholars Scholarship was created to help emancipated foster youth achieve their dream of earning a college degree.

Our scholarship provides financial assistance of up to $6,000 per academic year to cover any unmet financial needs while attending college fulltime and will be disbursed into two equal amounts for use during the Fall and Spring semesters. In addition to the financial assistance, students will receive one-on-one mentoring and support during their college experience.

What are the eligibility requirements?

Qualified applicants must be college bound emancipated foster youth from Colorado currently or planning to attend The Community College of Denver. Applicants will be 18-20 years old, and eligible for the Education and Training Voucher (ETV).

To maintain eligibility awardees must:

- Enroll and remain a student in good standing
- Enroll and maintain at least 12 credit hours each semester
- Achieve and maintain at least a 2.0 GPA each semester
- Participate fully in all aspects of the scholarship and events associated with the scholarship
- Approve Forward Steps staff monitoring academic performance and college records to ensure continual eligibility
- Apply yearly for the scholarship

How do I apply?

Following is the application, including a checklist of required documents. Incomplete applications will **not** be considered. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 27, 2015.

If you have any questions or need clarification, do not hesitate to contact us:
303.404.9966 info@forwardsteps.org

Good Luck!!

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Personal Details

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Apt #: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email: _____

Foster Care Details

Years in foster care: _____

Date of emancipation: _____

Age: _____

About your case worker

Name: _____

Number: _____

County: _____

Type of current placement:

◯ group home ◯ foster home

◯ kinship care ◯ Residential facility

◯ Other (describe)

Education

Current School: _____

Current cumulative (unweighted) GPA: _____

SAT or ACT score: _____ ◯ SAT ◯ ACT

Date you will receive your high school diploma: _____

Date you will take the GED: _____

GED Scores: _____

Date applied to CCD: _____

Expected major: _____

What is your housing plan while attending college?

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Financial

Have you applied for FAFSA?
◯ Yes ◯ No Date: _____

Have you applied for the ETV?
◯ Yes ◯ No Date: _____

Employment

Do you work? ◯ Yes ◯ No How many hours per week? _____

Where do you work: _____

What is your position or title: _____

_____

Wage: _____

Total earnings last year: _____

Where or how did you hear about this scholarship opportunity?

Essay Questions

The two essay questions are intended to give the selection committee a better understanding of who you are and what is important to you. Please think carefully before you answer as the essays' contents will be considered in your acceptance.

1) Please provide a brief personal description, something that you are comfortable disclosing about yourself. This may include information about family situations, special interests, group memberships, school clubs, honors and awards. Please do include the answer to why you are applying for **this** scholarship.

2) Please select one additional essay question from the list below:
   - Why do you want to pursue a college education?
   - What do you hope to accomplish after graduation?
   - How has being a foster youth influenced your pursuit of a higher education?
   - Describe what drives you to attend and succeed in college.
   - Describe the field you plan to major in and what led you to select it.

Essay guidelines

Please follow these format requirements:
- 2-3 pages
- Double-spaced
- Name at the top of each page
- Honest, frank responses
- Only topics and information that you are comfortable disclosing

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Please read the following statement carefully before signing:

I certify that all the information included in this application is accurate and complete. I understand that incomplete applications will not be considered. I agree that my name, award amount, and information provided may be used in announcements, articles, newsletter, etc. written and published by Forward Steps. In addition, I give case workers, Chafee counselor, CASA, or Guardian ad Litem permission to verify information in this application or to answer additional questions.

I agree to fully participate in all aspects of the Forward Steps' Guardian Scholars Scholarship, including bi-monthly meetings with awardees, meetings with FS staff, mentors, College Bootcamp 101, fundraising activities, events and any other activities associated with Forward Steps. I understand that maintaining at least a 2.0 GPA, as well as taking at least 12 credit hours each semester are requirements for my scholarship and that failure to follow these requirements may result in the termination of my scholarship.

By signing this form, I herby authorize the college that I will be attending to release information about the financial aid I will be receiving, my enrollment status, grades, and cost of attendance to the Forward Steps Foundation.

_____ _____

Signature Date

Here is a checklist of required documents for Forward Steps' *Guardian Scholars* Scholarship. Please make sure all documents are mailed by the due date.

Note: applications with missing information will not be considered.

- ☐ Your completed application
- ☐ High school or college transcripts
- ☐ A copy of your FASFA SAR (Student Aid Report)
- ☐ Completed personal essay
- ☐ Completed second essay
- ☐ A support letter from case worker, Chafee counselor, CASA or Guardian ad Litem. They need to know you well to provide information about you, your personality, why you should be considered for this scholarship, and anything else they believe the selection committee should know about you.
- ☐ A reference letter from an adult (such as an academic advisor, foster parent, or family friend) who knows you well and can provide a picture of your character, motivation, and why you should be awarded this scholarship