



Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Commissioner
Jaime Masters

Dear Student,

Thank you for your interest in the **Freshman and Sophomore Success Scholarship**. This scholarship has been made possible to assist students who were formerly in the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services foster care system to meet their higher educational goals.

What are the scholarship criteria?

- **First time enrollment as a freshman/school term** in one of the following Texas state-funded institutions of higher education:
 - Community College;
 - College;
 - University; or
 - Texas State Technical College
- Only students awarded the scholarship as a freshman may apply for the scholarship as a **sophomore or as a 2nd year student** at one of the above Texas state-funded institutions of higher education.

How much can I be awarded?

- **Freshman**
 - \$1000 per semester/school term.
 - Must have been awarded a scholarship the first semester/school term to be eligible for the second semester/school term.
 - Must apply each semester/school term.
 - Total possible award: \$2000 for 2 freshman semesters/school terms.
- **Sophomore**
 - \$1000 per semester/school term.
 - Must have been awarded this scholarship for both freshman semesters/school terms to be eligible.
 - Must have been awarded a scholarship the first sophomore semester/school term to be eligible for the second semester/school term.
 - Must apply each semester/ school term.
 - Total possible award: \$2000 for 2 sophomore semesters/school terms.
- Scholarships will be awarded to at least four (4) students per year and are subject to the availability of funds.

What requirements do I need to meet?

Freshman

- Was in DFPS conservatorship the day before age 18 or was legally emancipated;
- Be a high school graduate (no GED);
- Must have completed Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) Life Skills Training;
- Be enrolled for the freshmen year only and take a minimum of 9 credit hours or more per school term; or
- Be enrolled for the first time in vocational/technical classes and take a minimum of 40 or more hours of course work;

- Applied for both federal financial aid (PELL Grant) and to the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program;
- Attending or enrolled in a Texas state-funded institution of higher learning that accepts **the Texas college tuition and fee waiver**; and
- Must apply for the scholarship as a first-time school term freshman before age 21

Sophomore

- All the above; and
- Be enrolled for the sophomore/2nd year and take a minimum of 9 credit hours or more per school term; or
- Be enrolled in vocational or technical classes and take a minimum of 40 or more hours of course work; and
- Must apply for the first semester/school term sophomore scholarship before age 21.

How do I Apply?

To be considered, you must submit all of the following:

- **1st time freshman applicant semester/school term**
 - Completed grant application (located on the reverse side of this letter);
 - Proof of school enrollment;
 - Current Financial Aid award letter;
 - Copy of high school diploma;
 - Letter of recommendation or reference; and
 - Personal (typewritten) one-page essay about you, your academic interests, and how funds will be used.
- **Each subsequent freshman or sophomore semester/school term**
 - Completed grant application (located on the reverse side of this letter)
 - Proof of school enrollment; and
 - Current Financial Aid award letter.

Note: Incomplete applications and/or missing required documents will not be considered for a scholarship. Students may not be notified if incomplete applications are submitted. All documents may be submitted at once by either e-mail, fax, or regular mail delivery. Information on where to submit all required documents are located on the application located on the reverse side of this letter or as a separate attachment.

What are the application deadlines?

- Applications for each semester/school term should be submitted for consideration to DFPS by **August 1st** and **November 1st** for the next semester/school term.
- Notification and distribution of a scholarship award will occur within about 6 weeks after approval.
- Information and application for the scholarship is located on the Texas Youth Connection website <http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/txyouth/> or on the DFPS public website at http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Youth_and_Young_Adults/Transitional_Living/default.asp.

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Freshmen and Sophomore Success Scholarship - APPLICATION FORM

APPLICATION DATE: _____ Date Received: _____

(Office Use Only)

Personal Data

Applicant's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Social Security Number: _____

Current Address (check with be mailed to this address): _____

Current Phone Number: _____

Alternate Phone Number: _____

Current E-mail Address: _____

DFPS/PAL/ETV Information:

Approximate month/year discharged from DFPS Foster Care: _____

Approximate month/year when PAL Life Skills Training was completed: _____

Note: DFPS will verify foster care eligibility, PAL Life Skills Training completion and ETV enrollment.

Community College/College/University/Texas State Technical College Information:

Are you currently enrolled in school? Yes ___ No ___

If No, have you applied yet? Yes ___ No ___

If Yes, is this your freshmen or sophomore year? _____

If enrolled, which school will you be attending (include location)?

Indicate the total cost for the academic year of the college/university you are attending, include housing, utilities, books, personal needs, etc. Note-Student must be attending a state supported college or university that takes the state college tuition waiver.

What financial aid or other scholarships have you been approved for the school term? What is the total anticipated or known amount of the awards?

Optional-Community service or volunteer experience (may be included as an attachment):

Applications and supporting documents may be sent by either:

E-mail address: freshmensuccess@dfps.state.tx.us; or

Fax Number: 512-339-5927 (Attn. Freshmen and Sophomore Success Scholarship); or

Mailing Address: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
Dept. Mail Code W-157
Attn: Freshmen and Sophomore Success Scholarship
P.O. Box 149030
Austin Texas 78714-9030