

University of Alaska Foster Youth Tuition Waiver

This application is used to apply for a tuition waiver and additional assistance for individuals who were in foster care in the state of Alaska on their 18th birthday. The tuition waiver is open to students who have been accepted to any campus of the University of Alaska (Anchorage, Fairbanks, Southeast and all community campuses). Additional assistance for housing, the meal plan, and University fees may also be requested through this application.

Review the Foster Youth Tuition Waiver information on the second page of this application for a complete description of the program, the type of assistance provided, and eligibility requirements.

If you have any questions about this application, or need some assistance, please call:

Jennifer Jennings or Deirdre O'Connor
(800) 797-7495 (907) 465-3209

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fill out the entire application. Keep in mind the requirement to explore other scholarships first before applying for the Foster Youth Tuition Waiver.

2. Attach your most recent transcripts. Please remember to request your transcripts from your High School or college in time to be turned in with your application. *They are required for a complete application.* Unofficial transcripts are acceptable and preferred.

3. Attach letters of recommendation from two (2) references. Inform your references that their letters must be to you in time to be turned in with your application—do not send them separate from your application! Letters can be from Teachers, counselors, clergy, and coaches. Preferred references are from your DFYS Social Worker and a Foster Parent or caregiver. *References are required and must be current within the past two years.*

4. Attach a personal essay. Your personal essay should describe your educational goals and objectives, your involvement in curricular and extracurricular activities, your employment history, and your plans for utilizing your education after you receive your degree. It should be no longer than one (1) page. *This essay is a required part of your application.*

DO NOT attach tax information, photos, or other personal information not required for application. Mail the application, the essay, two reference letters, and transcripts in the same envelope by May 1, 2003 to:

**Attention: Deirdre O'Connor
Independent Living Program Coordinator
Division of Family and Youth Services
P.O. Box 110630
Juneau, AK 99811**

Failure to adhere to these requirements and/or submitting an incomplete application may result in disqualification.

University of Alaska Foster College Scholarship

BACKGROUND

The University of Alaska College Scholarship provides young people who have left foster care because they have attained 18 years of age or older (often termed aging out) in Alaska a chance to have a university education. The Scholarship consists of two parts: a tuition waiver from the University of Alaska, and Additional Assistance from the Division of Family and Youth Services. Eligibility for Tuition Waiver and the Additional Assistance are slightly different.

There are five tuition waivers offered per year. These waivers are available to students whom the Division of Family and Youth Services awards based upon eligibility criteria, need, and scholarship. Each waiver is effective for four years, (eight semesters) of full-time attendance at any campus of the University of Alaska. Waivers will not be used for less than full-time attendance. University criteria will apply (i.e.: good academic standing, financial requirements met, and student code of conduct standing) to continue the waiver.

Through the Division of Family and Youth Services Independent Living program, most students who enter the University through this tuition waiver program will be offered the opportunity to receive housing assistance, assistance for required books and materials, a full meal plan, and payment of University fees during the period that they receive the tuition waiver. If receiving housing assistance, the first two years (four semesters) of housing assistance must be in University housing or with former foster care providers. Additional Assistance is offered only to students receiving the Tuition Waiver and only to students who are under 21 years of age. For more information, see **ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE** below.

The scoring of applications will be made by a five-member awards committee consisting of the Division of Family and Youth Services Independent Living Program Coordinator, a University of Alaska Admissions Coordinator, a youth member of the Independent Living Youth Advisory Board, a representative from the Governor's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, and a member of the public at-large.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for the University of Alaska Foster Youth Tuition Waiver program, you must:

- ?? Be a resident of Alaska,
- ?? Have been or will be in foster care on your 18th birthday,
- ?? Be accepted for full-time enrollment into the University of Alaska,
- ?? Have a demonstrated financial need for financial assistance,
- ?? Have applied for at least two other scholarships.

If you are awarded a tuition waiver, you do not need to reapply for it so long as you:

- ?? Are a full-time student,
- ?? Maintain a minimum 2.0 Grade Point Average
- ?? Maintain good academic standing, student code of conduct standing, and meet University financial requirements.

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

The University of Alaska Foster Youth Tuition Waiver does not include payment of University Fees, student housing, costs for books and other materials, or the meal plan. The Division of Family and Youth Services offers limited assistance for fees, housing, and the meal plan for students who are awarded a Foster Youth Tuition Waiver. You may request Additional Assistance for housing, the meal plan, and University fees on your College Scholarship application.

To be eligible for Housing, Fees, Books, Room and Board assistance, you must:

- ?? be 18 years or older but not attained 21 years of age,
- ?? be receiving the University of Alaska Tuition waiver in good standing,
- ?? complete your first two years at the University in University Housing (if available) or with your former foster care providers.

Just like the Tuition Waiver, you do not need to reapply for this assistance so long as you remain a full-time student in good standing and are within the age limits for additional assistance. You must, however, live in University housing (if available) or with your former foster care providers for the first two-years of school attendance. After two years, you can choose to remain in University housing or receive housing assistance up to the amount that a dormitory-style room would cost at your campus.

While you must be receiving the Tuition Waiver to receive Housing, Fee, Room and Board assistance, you are not required to receive the additional assistance to be awarded the waiver. Additionally, you may request or be awarded partial assistance depending upon your need.

OTHER FINANCIAL AID

Because there are only a limited number of University of Alaska College Scholarships to award each year, applicants are encouraged to research other scholarship opportunities in addition to this program. The application format for this program is very similar to the University of Alaska Foundation Scholarships application, so applying for additional opportunities is easy. Two applications for other scholarships are required in order to be eligible for the Foster Youth Tuition Waiver.