

College Tuition Available for Adopted & Foster Children

The New Jersey Scholars Program is specifically designed to help adoptive and foster families with the growing expenses of providing a college education to their youngsters. We all know that a college education is often the key to helping our kids achieve a successful transition to adulthood and self-sufficiency.

If you worry about the rising costs of a college education and whether or not you can adopt and support a teenager right now with his or her college years approaching: don't let it discourage you! We can help you and your child with the New Jersey Scholars Program, funded by the Department of Children and Families.

Eligible students may receive:

- 📎 Tuition & Fees
- 📎 Room & Board
- 📎 Books & Supplies
- 📎 Transportation
- 📎 Special Equipment
- 📎 Computers and Child Care Costs

All recipients of the Scholars Program are required to register and participate in the Project MYSELF Program sponsored through Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

Project MYSELF is a mentoring program that helps current foster youth plan and prepare for post-secondary educational programs and provides support to those who go on to post-secondary educational programs. Participation in Project MYSELF is mandatory for all youth receiving scholarships from the Scholars Program and will require students to have access to email. Here's a listing of some of the requirements:

Applicants must meet the entire following requirement:

- 📎 Must be in possession of a high school diploma or certificate of high school equivalency (GED)
- 📎 Must receive granted admission to a degree or certificate granting post-secondary institution or program

In addition, applicants must meet at least one of the following:

- 📎 Must have been in the care and custody of the State of New Jersey for a period of 9 months or more following the youth's 16th birthday
- 📎 Must be or have been in an out-of-home placement after the age of 12 for a cumulative 18 months
- 📎 Must reside in or have resided in an independent living arrangement, or approved for payment by the Division of Youth and Family Services

Eligible adoptive youth must have been:

- 📎 Adopted through the DYFS after the age of 12 and be in subsidized adoption at the time of application
- 📎 Adopted through the DYFS after the age of 16

Applications for the Scholars Program are accepted year round; however, there are specific deadlines for federal, state, and institutional financial aid which must be met on time. For more information on Project MYSELF, visit www.transitionsforyouth.org or call 732-445-0512.

