

FOSTERINGhope

SCHOLARSHIP

Alabama's **FOSTERING HOPE SCHOLARSHIP** is an investment in the post-secondary education and training goals of youth who were in the foster care system when they earned a high school diploma or GED, as well as those adopted from Alabama foster care after age 14. This comprehensive program covers tuition and fees for eligible students enrolled in a post-secondary certificate or degree program; additionally, it helps eligible high school students begin planning ahead towards achievable goals.

Eligibility Requirements

- Children currently in the legal custody of the foster care program at the time of graduation from high school or at the time of receipt of a General Education Development (GED) certificate; **OR** who are/were in the permanent legal custody of the foster care program when his/her adoption is/was finalized (age 14 or older) and has graduated from high school or has earned a GED certificate;
- Children who have been accepted for enrollment in a degree-granting, training, or certification program; **OR** are enrolled and working toward a degree, certificate, or completion of a job training program, and who are making adequate progress toward completion of said degree, certificate, or training program;
- Additional requirements: Children must have net personal assets worth less than thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) subject to adjustment to account for inflation.

A student who earns grants, scholarships, or other awards (excluding loans) sufficient to pay his/her tuition, room and board, and other fees, may not participate in the Fostering Hope program.

Application/Referral Process

- Social Workers, community providers, colleges, and universities can refer children who may qualify for this scholarship. Children may apply for this scholarship by going to the Foster Care 2 Success web page. Scholarships will be awarded on a first come-first served basis. Rising High School Seniors (beginning class of 2017) can complete the registration form and will be contacted with specific program information.

Eligible students may attend any of Alabama's 42 public community and technical colleges, four-year colleges or universities. **Eligible enrollees** in Alabama's state-funded career and technical training programs may be eligible if the program leads to a recognized certificate and employment. Private colleges and universities are not part of this program. **Eligible high school students** are matched with a mentor to help them plan their post-secondary education. The program does not pay for private high schools or any secondary (high school) education expenses.