

About the award»»

Contributing to a rich social, economic and cultural fabric, an educated population is one of the keys to a strong and healthy community.

The **ADVANCING futures»** Bursary Program was established to assist those who have been, or continue to be, under the care of Alberta Children's Services, by allowing them to dream, providing them with opportunities, and equipping them with the resources to succeed.

Individuals are invited to apply if they are interested in:

- » obtaining your high school equivalency through adult education;
- » earning a degree/diploma from an Alberta post-secondary institution;
- » learning a trade; and/or
- » earning a license or certificate.

* Please see the listing of eligible institutions and programs of study.

Guidelines»»

- › Must be a permanent resident/citizen of Canada and Alberta.
- › Applicants must meet one of the following intervention services criteria:
 - Permanent Guardianship Order (PGO);
 - Temporary Guardianship Order (TGO);
 - Enhancement Agreement with Youth (previously known as Support Agreement with Youth);
 - Custody Agreement with Child;
 - Have been in care for at least 18 months between the ages of 13 to 18 years; or
 - Had Permanent Guardianship Order status, Temporary Guardianship Order status, Enhancement Agreement with Youth, Custody Agreement with Child, or have been in care for at least 18 months between the ages of 13 to 18 years on their 18th birthday.
- › Must be between the ages of 16 and 22.
- › The bursary can be used to cover full tuition costs, books, school related expenses, and living expenses (for the duration of the academic term/s). Financial support for living expenses will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- › Open to full-time and part-time students, in all years of study or training.
- › Must demonstrate financial need.
- › Must have qualified, or begun the qualification process, for entrance to a post-secondary institution or training/licensing/certification/upgrading program.
- › Those who have applied to academic programs/institutions, and have not yet received acceptance may apply for the bursary as well. If selected, the bursary would be granted to the individual upon receiving acceptance to the academic program.
- › Recipients of bursaries will be required to participate in the further development and enhancement of this program, and may be asked to provide mentorship support to new award recipients in subsequent years.
- › Upon acceptance, each recipient is encouraged to have a "support team" available to him/her. If required, the Selection Committee will help facilitate the arrangement of such a team.

Value)))

Amounts will vary based on individual need and circumstances.

In terms of living expenses, the amounts being requested by the applicant must fall under the guidelines outlined by Student Finance.

If actual living expenses exceed the amounts listed under Student Finance, please provide an explanation in the space provided under the Financial Information section of the application.

Bursaries are renewable every academic term or year, but are not guaranteed and subject to funds available.

How to apply)))

- › Applications can be downloaded from the Children's Services Website: www.child.gov.ab.ca
- › Applications are also available:
 - At Child and Family Services Authorities (CFSA) offices throughout Alberta (please see Alberta Children's Services Website for CFSA locations) ;
 - At Alberta Children's Services, Community Strategies, Youth Strategies (6th Floor, Sterling Place, 9940 – 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2N2); or
 - By calling the Alberta Children's Services, Community Strategies, Youth Strategies office, at (780) 415-0085 (for long distance, first dial 310-0000).
- › Once completed, mail application to:
 - Advancing Futures Bursary Program
 - c/o Alberta Children's Services
 - Community Strategies, Youth Strategies
 - 6th Floor, Sterling Place
 - 9940 – 106 Street
 - Edmonton, Alberta
 - T5K 2N2
- › Completed applications will be reviewed by the Selection Committee throughout the year.

We do our best to review all applications as quickly as possible, however, we do require a minimum of one month to ensure appropriate time is allotted for processing.

Any questions?)))

Call Youth Strategies, Alberta Children's Services, at (780) 415-0085 (for long distance, first dial 310-0000), or visit the Alberta Children's Services Website at www.child.gov.ab.ca.

W*here does the funding for this bursary program come from?*

The Alberta Government wishes to invest in the futures of children and youth, in the province, by ensuring they are given opportunities to pursue their dreams and achieve their potential. This bursary is funded by Alberta Children's Services, and is available to all youth who, upon application, have Permanent Guardianship Order (PGO), Temporary Guardianship Order (TGO), Custody Agreement with Child, have been in care for at least 18 months between the ages of 13 and 18 years, or had any of the above on their 18th birthday.

I*s there an age minimum and maximum to apply for this bursary?*

You must be between the ages of 16 and 22 years at the time of application.

W*hat can I use the bursary for?*

The focus of the bursary is to assist individuals with the cost of complete tuition, mandatory school fees and books, school related expenses and living expenses for the duration of the academic term/s.

Individuals are invited to apply if they are interested in:

- » obtaining your high school equivalency through adult education;
- » earning a degree/diploma from an Alberta post-secondary institution;
- » learning a trade; and/or
- » earning a license or certificate.

W*hen are the bursary recipients selected?*

Applications are accepted at any time throughout the year. Applications must be submitted, at minimum, one month prior to the commencement of the program.

H*ow are the bursary recipients selected?*

Throughout the year, application forms will be made available through Child and Family Services Authorities (CFSA), Alberta Children's Services Youth Strategies' office, or the Alberta Children's Services' website. Completed application forms must be forwarded to Alberta Children's Services, Youth Strategies office, for review. The applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee, and selections will be made based on the information provided in the completed application forms. An interview may be requested. The application should demonstrate a serious commitment to pursuing and finishing the chosen program of study. If selected, recipients will be notified to allow ample time to prepare for the upcoming academic term.

W*hat are the relevant Student Finance monthly living allowance guidelines?*

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| » Student | » Single parent with one child |
| \$730 (based on shared accommodation) | \$1,260 + child care |

S*upporting documents required with your completed application:*

- » Academic transcripts of last completed year in school
- » Proof of acceptance into eligible program/institution (if available at time of application)
- » Program description and estimate of educational costs from course calendar/brochure
- » One reference letter

C*an you explain the "support team" that is listed in the application guidelines?*

Adjusting to any educational program can be challenging. It is important to have people in your life that provide emotional support, act as a friendly voice and offer assistance where it is needed. Upon acceptance, each student will be encouraged to form a "support team" that is available to him/her. The support team would include positive people who will assist in whatever way they can to achieve his/her goals. If such support is not available to the recipient, assistance will be provided by the Advancing Futures Selection Committee.

How do I know if my program of study or institution qualifies?

The following are eligible Alberta institutions of study for this bursary program:

Universities:

- › Athabasca University
- › University of Alberta
- › University of Calgary
- › University of Lethbridge

Public Colleges:

- › Alberta College of Art and Design
- › Bow Valley College
- › Fairview College
- › Grande Prairie Regional College
- › Grant MacEwan College
- › Keyano College
- › Lakeland College
- › Lethbridge Community College
- › Medicine Hat College
- › Mount Royal College
- › NorQuest College
- › Northern Lakes College
- › Olds College
- › Portage College
- › Red Deer Community College

Private Accredited Colleges:

- › Augustana University College
- › Canadian University College
- › Concordia University College of Alberta
- › The King's University College
- › Nazarene University College

Technical Institutes:

- › Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)
- › Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)

Private Vocational Colleges:

There are over 140 private training institutions in Alberta that offer programs licensed under the private Vocational Schools Act.

Community Consortia:

- › Big Country Educational Consortium
- › Chinook Educational Consortium
- › Pembina Educational Consortium
- › Yellowhead Regional Educational Consortium

The following are eligible programs of study for this bursary program:

Your chosen program of study must lead to a recognized degree, applied degree, diploma, certificate or license:

- › Applied degree programs
- › Apprenticeship
- › One-year certificate
- › Two-year certificate
- › Undergraduate degree programs
- › Training programs that are licensed by Alberta Learning (please contact 1-866-626-0015 for further information)

The following programs may also be eligible if you can demonstrate in your application how these programs will assist you in meeting eligibility requirements to enter programs at a qualified technical institute, college, or university:

- › Academic upgrading
- › Bridging programs
- › Career training
- › College preparation
- › Continuing education programs
- › Pre-career programs
- › University transfer

ADVANCING futures *»» APPLICATION PACKAGE*

A Bursary Program for Youth in Government Care

To ensure eligibility, all sections must be completed. The personal information contained on this form will be used for the purpose of reviewing the applications to award a recipient.

About Myself *»»*

My full name is: _____

My current contact information is:

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone Hm: (____) _____

Phone Wk: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____ Email: _____

My permanent contact information is (if different from above):

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone Hm: (____) _____

Phone Wk: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____ Email: _____

I am: Male Female

My birthday is on (MM/DD/YY): (____ / ____ / ____)

My Social Insurance Number (SIN) is: _____ - _____ - _____

What is/was your child welfare status?

- Permanent Guardianship Order (PGO) Temporary Guardianship Order (TGO)
 Custody Agreement with Child PGO on my 18th birthday
 Enhancement Agreement with Youth (Previously known as Support Agreement with Youth)
 In care for at least 18 months between the ages of 13 and 18

The Advancing Futures Bursary requires you to confirm your current guardianship status, or your status at the time you turned 18 years of age with your local Child and Family Services Authority (CFSA). Written confirmation that you are/were under one of the above listed Guardianship Orders/Agreements with Alberta Children's Services is required. Please obtain this confirmation from your Child Welfare Worker/local CFSA, by way of a signature, or a letter from the appropriate individual, in the space provided below.

Please check the box that applies:

- I confirm that the applicant currently has the child welfare status listed above at the time of submission.
 I confirm that the applicant was of the child welfare status listed above at the time he/she turned 18 years of age.

Please print name

Title

Signature of Caseworker/CFSA Representative

Date

Financial Information »»

Please outline your estimated education expenses for the next academic semester (see academic calendar for cost estimates):

- › Tuition (for one semester) \$ _____
(Note: Upon acceptance, complete tuition costs will be paid directly to the educational program)
- › Books (for one semester) \$ _____
- › Supplies/Specialized Equipment/Tools \$ _____
- › Sub Total \$ _____

Please outline your estimated living expenses per month (please see the Advancing Futures Information Package for allowable living expenses as outlined by Student Finance.)

- › Residence/Rent/Utilities \$ _____
- › Food and Personal Hygiene \$ _____
- › Public Transportation \$ _____
- › Child Care (if applicable) \$ _____
- › Other Expenses (please list) \$ _____
- › Sub Total \$ _____
- › Total Expenses \$ _____

Additional Comments (If actual living expenses exceed the amounts outlined under Student Finance, please provide an explanation in the space below.)

Have you applied for, or are you receiving, other financial assistance (bursaries, loans, scholarships, subsidies)?

Yes No

If yes, which ones? (Please be specific)

*If accepted, it is recommended that you inform any other funding providers from whom you may be receiving assistance, such as Alberta Works, Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH), Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD), Unemployment Insurance (UI), or Child and Family Services Authorities (CFSA), to avoid any potential offenses as a result of receiving additional assistance from this bursary.

Will you be receiving such financial assistance?
If yes, in what form and in what amounts?

Yes No

Educational Institution(s) that I have applied to/will be attending)))

- » Please see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Section of this application for a complete list of qualified institutions and programs for this bursary.

Institution: _____

Program of study: _____

Applied To Conditional Acceptance Acceptance
I will be attending: Full-time Part-time

Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Length of Program (years/months/weeks): _____

Year of Program you will be in: _____

Cost of the Program: _____ Books: _____

Please provide:

- » proof of acceptance (photocopy of acceptance letter) if available at time of application.
- » a description of your program from your course calendar/brochure.

Institution: _____

Program of study: _____

Applied To Conditional Acceptance Acceptance
I will be attending: Full-time Part-time

Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Length of Program (years/months/weeks): _____

Year of Program you will be in: _____

Cost of the Program: _____ Books: _____

Please provide:

- » proof of acceptance (photocopy of acceptance letter) if available at time of application.
- » a description of your program from your course calendar/brochure.

Institution: _____

Program of study: _____

Applied To Conditional Acceptance Acceptance
I will be attending: Full-time Part-time

Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Length of Program (years/months/weeks): _____

Year of Program you will be in: _____

Cost of the Program: _____ Books: _____

Please provide:

- » proof of acceptance (photocopy of acceptance letter) if available at time of application.
- » a description of your program from your course calendar/brochure.

Student ID Number (if acceptance has been granted at time of application): _____

References

Please attach one signed letter of reference from a significant person in your life.

Name of Reference: _____

Title: _____ Phone (daytime): _____

The letter should provide information about you in the following areas:

1. How you will benefit from this Bursary program
2. Your current situation and your plans for the future

Declaration and Consent

- › The information that I provided for this application is true, accurate and complete.
- › I am aware that providing incomplete or false information will be considered fraud and will affect my ability to access future funding and would also result in criminal charges.
- › I authorize Alberta Children's Services and its legal designate to access student information maintained by my high school, and post-secondary institution that I will and/or am attending for the purpose of determining and verifying eligibility for, and general administration of the award for which I have applied.
- › I authorize the Selection Committee to contact my reference if needed.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For Office Use Only

Application Accepted

Application Accepted with Recommendations

Recommendations:

Selection Committee Chair (upon fulfillment of recommendations)

Date

Application Denied

Reasons for Refusal:

Total Amount Awarded: _____

Selection Committee Chair

Date

The collection of personal information on this form is authorized under section 8(1) of the Government Organization Act and is managed in compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Any questions regarding the collection and use of your personal information can be addressed to Youth Strategies, ACS.