



UNITED FRIENDS *of the* CHILDREN

Scholars Program College Application

Congratulations! You have been identified as an outstanding candidate for the **United Friends of the Children Scholars Program!**

What is United Friends of the Children?

United Friends empowers current and former foster youth on their journey to self-sufficiency through service-enriched education and housing programs, advocacy, and consistent relationships with a community of people who care. Learn more at www.unitedfriends.org.

Why join the Scholars Program?

United Friends scholars receive **academic and personal support** through relationships with staff and fellow scholars. In addition, the program offers:

- One-on-one support from a college counselor
- College matching and application support for transfer students
- Social events and activities
- Career discovery and development
- Persistence grants to assist with unforeseen financial emergencies
- Post-graduation planning assistance

Eligibility Criteria

To be considered, you must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a current or former Los Angeles County foster youth who is/was ILP eligible (including Kin-GAP, ILP eligible legal guardianship, or ILP eligible adoption)
- Under the age of 24 years old
- Be enrolled, or plan to enroll in college

To apply, please submit this completed application to the Scholars Program Coordinator (see contact information on the next page). If you have questions about the program or the application process, please feel free to contact us at 213.580.1850 or email scholars@unitedfriends.org.

Supporting current and former foster youth since 1979



SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To be considered, please complete the enclosed application and return with the following supplemental materials to United Friends:

- ❑ Most recent **transcript**, including cumulative GPA (official or unofficial)
- ❑ Copy of your most recent **financial aid award letter**, if applicable
(Screen Shot is acceptable)
- ❑ Copy of your **Ward of the Court Verification Letter**
(See Frequently Asked Questions for Guidance)

PLEASE NOTE: APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED ONCE ALL SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS ARE SUBMITTED. See *Frequently Asked Questions* for guidance on gathering any of the supplemental materials above.

SEND APPLICATION AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS TO:

MAIL:

United Friends of the Children
Attn: Scholars Program Coordinator
1055 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1955
Los Angeles, CA 90017

EMAIL: Scholars@unitedfriends.org

PHONE: 213.580.1850

FAX: 213.580.1820

NEXT STEPS:

- Applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of your application materials.
- Following the submission of your application, one of our United Friends staff members will contact you via phone or email.



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BASIC INFORMATION

Please complete the enclosed application and return it to United Friends. Feel free to attach additional paper if you require more space.

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: HOME: _____ CELL: _____

OTHER: _____ Preferred #: HOME CELL OTHER

BIRTHDATE (DOB): _____ AGE: _____ Are you a parent? Yes No

PREFERRED PRONOUN: She/hers Him/his Their/theirs Other: _____

HAVE YOU BEEN OR ARE YOU A PART OF *UNITED FRIENDS of the CHILDREN*? Yes No

SCHOOL INFORMATION

High School Graduation Year: _____

Name of current or most recent school attended: _____

School Enrollment Status:

- I am currently enrolled in school
- I am not currently enrolled, but am planning on enrolling within the next year

FOSTER CARE BACKGROUND

Are (or were) you ILP eligible? Yes No Unsure

Are you participating in Extended Foster Care (AB12)? Yes No Not eligible



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ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

We are looking forward to connecting about your interest in our program! In the case we cannot connect with you to follow up on your application, we may contact your supportive adults for support with your application process.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

RELATIONSHIP: _____

ILP or SOCIAL WORKER NAME (if applicable): _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:

- MOST RECENT TRANSCRIPT
- CURRENT FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTER
- WARD OF THE COURT VERIFICATION LETTER

See our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for support on obtaining these supplemental materials. Please submit all documents with your application to Scholars@unitedfriends.org or by mail as indicated in page 1.

STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, _____, understand that all future communication relating to my application will be conducted via email. It is my responsibility to provide a current email address that I will check on at least a weekly basis to remain current with the application process. If I move or change contact information, I must immediately notify United Friends with my updated contact information (phone number and email address). I understand that, if selected for second round consideration, I must follow up with correspondence and appointments with United Friends counselors to remain in good standing with my application.

Signature: _____

Date: _____



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

- **How do I obtain my most recent unofficial transcripts?** You may be able to download a copy through your online student portal. Or, contact your current or most recent school registrar's office to request a copy. Note: Sometimes there is a small processing fee to order the transcript, and it may take up to 3-4 weeks to receive it.
- **How do I obtain my most recent financial aid award letter?** You may be able to download or screenshot a copy through your online portal. Or, contact your current or most recent school's financial aid office to retrieve a copy of your award letter.
- **What is the Ward of the Court Verification Letter?** The *Ward of the Court Verification Letter* is a letter your Children's Social Worker (CSW) writes on your behalf and includes your court case number and the dates when you entered and/or exited from the foster care system. Having this letter shows you were in foster care and can qualify you for additional federal and state financial aid, emancipation stipends, transitional housing programs, educational scholarships and grants, continued health care, and our Scholars Program.
- **How do I obtain the Ward of the Court Verification Letter?** Contact your Children's Social Worker or the [Los Angeles County Foster Youth Ombudsperson Office](https://www.lacounty.gov/fosteryouthhelp) at [213-351-5507](tel:213-351-5507) or fosteryouthhelp@dss.ca.gov to request your copy.
- **Where can I submit this application, or learn more about this program?**
 - Call our Scholars Program Coordinator at 213-580-1850
 - Email us at scholars@unitedfriends.org
 - Visit us on the web www.unitedfriends.org
 - Check us out on Instagram @Unitedfriendsla or Facebook /ufcfans
- **What should I expect after I submit my application?** Once we receive all of your materials, a member from our United Friends Staff will connect with you within two weeks to share more about our program and discuss any next steps in our application process. Space is limited. We hope you apply as soon as you are interested!