



2015 DARE TO DREAM Scholarship Program

Applications for the **2015 Dare to Dream Scholarship** are being accepted between **January 15 and April 6, 2015**. Applicants must meet the stated eligibility criteria and be a high school senior and college freshmen, sophomore, and junior who plans to pursue and/ continue their higher education dreams. Past Dare to Dream Scholars who received a 1-year scholarship are eligible to reapply as long as they still meet the current scholarship program requirements.

Scholarship awards the range in the amounts of \$500 to \$5,000 and will be awarded at an annual celebration in May. Scholarship funds can be used to cover program approved academic costs (ex. tuition, dorm fees, books, class supplies, & living expenses) and only be dispersed directly to program approved third parties. Funds will not go directly to the scholar.

*We will be highlighting the following scholarship categories:
Scholastic Achievement, Rising Above Adversity, & Community Involvement*

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Applicants must meet **all** the following requirements for their application to be considered for a scholarship award. Use the listed next to each requirement to ensure you meet all the eligibility criteria.

- Current or Former Foster Youth Living In or From Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, and Solano Counties.
- Be 24 Years Old or Under on April 1, 2015
- Accepted or Expect to be Accepted to an Accredited 4-year College/University, Community College, or Vocational Program
- Current Cumulative GPA of 2.0 or Higher
- Past *Dare to Dream* Scholars Who Received A One Year Scholarship Are Eligible to Re-apply

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION:

To be considered for a scholarship award, applications submitted must include **all** the required documents listed below. Use the next to each requirement to ensure you submit all the required documentation. More information about each document is shared within the application.

- Completed Application Form (Page 2)
- A Photo of Applicant (Page 2)
- Current Copy of Academic Transcripts (Page 3)
- Short Answer Essay (Page 3)
- Personal Statement (Page 3)
- Signed and Dated Release Forms (Page 4)
- Verification of Foster Care Status Letter (Page 5)
- Two letters of Recommendation (Page 6 & 7)
- Reapplying Scholars Essay** (Page 3)

DEADLINE:

Post-Marked or Hand Delivered By **April 6th, 2015** to **Foster A Dream Program, Dare to Dream Scholarship, 628 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553**. Only qualified and completed applications received by the stated deadline will be scored by our Scholarship Review Committee to be recommended for an award.

For scholarship questions or application assistance, contact Tamara Earl, Foster A Dream Program Director at 925-228-0200 or tearl@voa-ncnn.org.

2015 *DARE TO DREAM* Scholarship Application Form

Please type or print. Use additional paper if needed.

Name: _____ Male Female

Date of Birth: _____ Ethnic: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City, State & Zip: _____

Recent Formal/Portrait Photo

The photo must be of you, be a minimal size of 2 ½ x3 ½, and a color photo. The photo will be used in the Dare to Dream Scholarship announcement, if you are selected for an award.

Academic

Current School: _____

Current Grade Level or Year in College: _____

College Major: _____

Provide the following for the College/Universities/Vocational Programs you attended or applied to.

School Name & City, ST	Intended Major	Date Applied	Status of Application	Dates of Attendance

Please list other scholarships, grants or financial aid you have applied for or received this year?

Foster Care Experience

What City were you born in? _____ What City where you raised in? _____

What County held your Foster Care case? _____

What age(s) did you enter into Foster Care? _____

How many places did you live: _____ Total Years in Foster Care: _____

Select your current Foster Care status: Foster Home Group Home Emancipated AB12

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Essay & Transcript Section

□ **Short Answer Essay:** *Minimum 100 word typed essay*

Describe your personal interests and talents. Share how you have used your interests and talents to enhance the community through volunteerism or work experience. Include the name(s) of the organization/business, dates & hours you participated/worked, and what tasks/duties you completed. You are welcome to attach additional documents to showcase your involvement and impact.

□ **Personal Statement:** *Minimum 500 word typed essay*

In a formal essay, share your goals and aspirations and the steps you are going to take to achieve them. Describe how foster care has influenced/effected your goals and aspirations. Describe a personal or academic barrier you have overcome or are still working on overcoming. Share what your motivation is to overcome barriers. Tell us why continuing your education is important to you and how you would benefit if you received a *Dare to Dream* Scholarship.

□ **Essay For Reapplying Scholars Only:** *Minimum 500 word typed essay*

In place of the personal statement above, share how the scholarship impacted your personal, academic, and career goals, achievements and aspirations this past year. Tell us about a personal or academic barrier that you had to overcome this past year, what steps you took to overcome it, and what motivated you to overcome it. Also share an academic achievement from this past year. Please include a copy of your personal statement from the year you were awarded a *Dare to Dream* Scholarship.

□ **Current Academic Transcript Attached in Application**

To qualify for a Dare to Dream Scholarship, applicants must hold a current cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher. To show a qualified GPA, attach the your most recent academic transcript. It is not required to be a sealed official transcript.

For current High School students attach your full high school transcript.

For current College Students attach your grades from 1st semester, 2nd quarter or fall term.

If you are not currently enrolled in school, please attach your last completed academic year transcript.

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Release Forms

Part A: Application Information

I, _____ (applicant name) certify that the information in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct. I understand and agree that misstatements on my application will cause forfeiture of my scholarship. Additionally, I understand that if selected for an award, all scholarship funds will be dispersed directly to the university financial aid office or third party, not paid to me personally.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Part B: Office of Financial Aid Release

If awarded a *Dare to Dream* Scholarship, the Foster A Dream Program may need to release your student identification number to your college's Office of Financial Aid to ensure that it is applied directly to your student fees for the granted academic year.

I, _____ (applicant name) grant authorization for the Foster A Dream Program to release my student identification number to my school's Office of Financial Aid for Dare to Dream Scholarship purposes only.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Part C: Personal Information Release

I, _____ (applicant name) grant permission to the Foster A Dream Program to use my *Dare to Dream* Scholarship Application Packet, including the photographs and application essays/writings, in print, electronic media, and other forms of publicity.

Please note that the Foster A Dream Program will not for any reason publish or advertise any applicants date of birth, social security number, or financial aid information.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Verification of Foster Care Status Form

Instructions: The applicant must complete Part A of this form and send the form to their current or former social worker. The social worker will complete Part B and a letter to verify the applicant's foster care status. This form and the letter from the social worker is a required document of the application packet. The letter can be sent to the applicant or directly to the Foster A Dream Program staff.

Applicants, make sure you give your social worker enough time to complete a letter before the application is due.

Part A:

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email Address: _____

By signing below, the applicant stated above gives permission for _____
(name of social worker) to release the information requested in the *Dare to Dream* Scholarship application verification of foster care status form.

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____

Include this form and the Letter of Foster Care Verification in the Dare to Dream Scholarship Application packet. (The social worker can send the letter directly to the Foster A Dream Program Staff)

Part B:

Dear Social Worker,

The youth named above is applying for the Foster A Dream Program *Dare to Dream* Scholarship. For eligibility screening, please attach a signed letter on agency letterhead documenting the applicant's dates of foster care entrance, foster care exit, current status and any other information you would find helpful in verify the applications foster care status. Applications are due by April 6, 2015 and this letter is a required document. Please return this form and your letter to the student or send directly to the Foster A Dream Program staff for inclusion in the name's applicant's scholarship application. If you have any questions regarding the letter or the Foster A Dream Program, please contact Tamara Earl, Program Director at 925-228-0200 or tearl@voa-ncnn.org.

Thank you for your support of this student.

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2015 DARE TO DREAM Scholarship

Letter of Recommendation #1

Two letters of recommendation are required for the Dare to Dream Scholarship. Letters can be from an adult who knows the applicant and is familiar with their personal and academic journey. Examples of qualified recommenders are a teacher, counselor, social worker, mentor, advocate, or community leader.

Instructions: The applicant must complete Part A and then send the page to his/her chosen recommender to complete Part B and a letter of recommendation. Applicants, make sure you give your recommender enough time to complete a letter before the application is due.

Part A (to be completed by the Applicant)

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone number(s): _____

Email address: _____

Part B (to be completed by the Recommender)

Dear Recommender,

The youth named above has requested your recommendation to be included in their application for the Foster A Dream Program *Dare to Dream* Scholarship. Your evaluation of the applicant will be used in the scoring process by *Dare to Dream* Scholarship Review Committee. Please return this form and your letter to the student or send directly to the Foster A Dream Program for inclusion in their application packet. Applications are due by April 6, 2015. If you have any questions please contact Tamara Earl, Foster A Dream Program Director at (925)228-0200 or tearl@voa-ncnn.org.

Recommender Name: _____

Relation to Applicant: _____

Company / Organization: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

1st Letter of recommendation attached to this form (The recommender can choose to send the letter directly to the Foster A Dream Program Staff)

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2015 DARE TO DREAM Scholarship

Letter of Recommendation #2

Two letters of recommendation are required for the Dare to Dream Scholarship. Letters can be from an adult who knows the applicant and is familiar with their personal and academic journey. Examples of qualified recommenders are a teacher, counselor, social worker, mentor, advocate, or community leader.

Instructions: The applicant must complete Part A and then send the page to his/her chosen recommender to complete Part B and a letter of recommendation. Applicants, make sure you give your recommender enough time to complete a letter before the application is due.

Part A (to be completed by the Applicant)

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone number(s): _____

Email address: _____

Part B (to be completed by the Recommender)

Dear Recommender,

The youth named above has requested your recommendation to be included in their application for the Foster A Dream Program *Dare to Dream* Scholarship. Your evaluation of the applicant will be used in the scoring process by *Dare to Dream* Scholarship Review Committee. Please return this form and your letter to the student or send directly to the Foster A Dream Program for inclusion in their application packet. Applications are due by April 6, 2015. If you have any questions please contact Tamara Earl, Foster A Dream Program Director at (925)228-0200 or tearl@voa-ncnn.org.

Recommender Name: _____

Relation to Applicant: _____

Company / Organization: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

2nd Letter of recommendation attached to this form (The recommender can choose to send the letter directly to the Foster A Dream Program Staff)

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