

Fact Sheet for New Applicants 2024

About the Scholarships program

The Youth Development Scholarships (YDS) program is offering up to 1,400 scholarships to young people enrolled in education or training to help complete their studies in the 2024 school year.

Who can re-apply for a Youth Development Scholarship?

You are eligible to apply if you are:

Studying at one of the following in 2024:

- Year 10, 11 or 12 at an NSW high school or equivalent at TAFE or a VET subject at school; or
- completing a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship and able to provide a signed contract agreement from your registered training provider; or
- home schooling and able to provide a Certificate of Home Schooling Registration.

You must also be either a social housing client or living in out-of-home care. This can include:

- living in public housing, including Aboriginal housing
- being on the NSW Housing Register (wait list)
- receiving a private rental subsidy from DCJ (not Centrelink)
- living in community housing/Aboriginal community housing
- living in housing provided by a Local Aboriginal Land Council
- living in supported, crisis or temporary accommodation
- living in statutory, supported, or voluntary out-of-home care.

Note: Applicants living away from home or temporarily staying with family/friends need to be on a current social housing tenancy or have an active social housing application.

How much is the Youth Development Scholarship?

Each scholarship for the 2024 school year is \$1,000 (no GST included as this is a grant payment).

When do applications open?

The application period for high school students includes the school holidays:

Open: 9.00 am on Monday, 16 October 2023

Close: 5.00 pm on Friday, 16 February 2024

What can I use the Youth Development Scholarship for?

The scholarship funds must be used for educational or support related costs to help you complete the school year.

Examples of items or services which can be purchased with the scholarship include (but not limited to):

Primary support

- school uniform, including sports clothing and shoes
- course related or subject fees
- tutoring
- study camps and excursions
- textbooks, workbooks, study guides
- course related equipment, materials, and clothing
- sporting equipment
- stationery
- computer desktop, laptop, tablet, Chromebook
- printer, scanner, USB drives, cables, smart drives
- computer software and license
- internet access
- study furniture (e.g., desk, chair)

Secondary support

- transport costs (e.g., opal travel cards, driving lessons)
- medical and support needs (e.g., glasses, speech therapy)
- social inclusion (e.g., in-house sports and youth programs, school formal tickets)
- training and employment (e.g., CV writing, job ready skills and clothing for interview)

Note: The scholarship funds cannot be used to purchase mobile phones, smart watches, gaming headphones and other wireless communication devices.

How do I apply?

Visit dcj.nsw.info/scholarships to access the SurveyMonkey Apply application link. The application link will be activated at 9am, 16 October 2023.

Important information

- Read the [Guidelines for New Applicants](#) before you apply. This will guide you through the online application process and help you answer important questions on the application form.
- You, the applicant (student) must apply, not your parent/guardian/teacher/support worker.
- Do not use a social media account (Facebook, Twitter or Google) or your school email address to register. Use a valid personal email address that you can access regularly to receive updates about your application.
- You can choose to add a Collaborator, someone that can help you with your application. They will need to provide you with their email address. You can vary a Collaborator's level of read and/or write access to your application.
- If you are having trouble receiving emails from SurveyMonkey Apply, check that noreply@mail.smapply.net has been added as a safe sender on your email inbox. Contact the Scholarships team at education@dcj.nsw.gov.au if you continue to have problems with emails.

For students studying at high school who are new applicants

Select the New High School program if you are a new applicant and studying Year 10, 11 or 12 at high school or HSC equivalent at TAFE in 2024. This also applies to home schooled applicants.

Open: 9.00 am on Monday, 16 October 2023 Close: 5.00 pm on Friday, 16 February 2024

Submitting your application

Make sure the following tasks that are relevant to you are complete:

- Contact Information form
- New Applicant - Scholarship Application form
- Task: Out-of-Home Care
- Task: Confirmation of Enrolment

What happens once I've submitted my application?

You will receive an email from SurveyMonkey Apply noreply@mail.smapply.net confirming that your application has been submitted. Contact the Scholarships team at education@dcj.nsw.gov.au if you do not receive a confirmation email.

You will receive another email to advise that your application has been reviewed and you were successful in getting another year of scholarships.

How will my application be assessed?

DCJ will prioritise giving scholarships to students:

- who commit to achieving their Higher School Certificate and further studies
- who are currently overcoming difficult personal circumstances and financial hardships to stay in school
- who are assessed as having the greatest need.

You will be notified of the outcome of your application in mid Term 2, 2024.

Your school will also be notified if you are awarded a scholarship.

Meeting the eligibility and selection criteria does not guarantee you a scholarship. Each year we receive more applications than available scholarships.

How will I receive funds?

For students in Year 10, 11 or 12 at high school: DCJ will pay the scholarship funds to your school to administer on your behalf. You will need to discuss with your school how you would like to use your scholarship. You have until the end of the school year to spend the funds.

For students doing equivalent at TAFE or home schooled: DCJ will pay the scholarship funds directly into your bank account. You will need to retain receipts and keep a record of expenditure.

Where can I find out more information?

- Visit our website: dcj.nsw.info/scholarships
- Call the Housing Contact Centre on 1800 422 322, press 2 for Housing Services then press 3 for General Enquiries.
- Email the Scholarships team on education@dcj.nsw.gov.au