2017 Dare to Dream Scholarship Program

Applications for the 2017 Dare to Dream Scholarship are being accepted between February 1 and April 10, 2017. Applicants must meet the stated eligibility criteria and complete all the listed requested documentation by the stated deadline below. 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.

We will be highlighting the following scholarship award categories: Scholastic Achievement, Rising Above Adversity, & Community Involvement. Scholarship awards range in the amounts of $500 to $5,000 and will be awarded at an annual celebration event. Scholarship funds can be used toward approved academic expenses (ex. tuition, dorm fees, books, class supplies, & living expenses) and can only be disbursed directly to approved third parties. For 2017, we will be adding a mentoring component for awarded scholars. More information will be shared in the award acceptance letter.

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 Younger on April 1, 2017
- □ Be a 2017 Graduating High School Student or has already earned a high school diploma or GED
- □ Had Been Accepted or Expects to be Accepted to an Accredited 4-year College/University, Community College, or Vocational Program
- □ Current GPA of 2.0 or Higher
- □ Past Dare to Dream Scholars Who Received A One-Year Scholarship Are Eligible to Reapply

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION:
To be considered for a scholarship award, applications submitted must include all the required documents listed below. Review the instructions about each document 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)
- □ Reapplying Scholars Essay (Page 3)
- □ Signed and Dated Release Forms (Page 4)
- □ Verification of Foster Care Status Letter (Page 5)
- □ Two letters of Recommendation (Page 6 & 7)

DEADLINE:
Post-Marked or Hand Delivered By April 10, 2017 to Foster A Dream Program, Dare to Dream Scholarship, 628 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553. Only qualified and completed applications received by the deadline will be scored by our Scholarship Review Committee to be recommended for an award.

For application questions or assistance, contact the Foster A Dream Program at 925-228-0200.
Please type or print. Use additional paper if needed.

Name: _________________________________________________________  □ Male  □ Female
Date of Birth: ____________________________ Phone Number: (______)____________________
Email: ____________________________________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________ City, State & Zip: ______________________

□ Attach A Recent Formal/Portrait Photo

The photo must be of you, be a minimal size of 2 ½ x 3 ½, and a color photo. The photo will be used in the Dare to Dream Scholarship award 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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>School Name &amp; City, ST</th>
<th>Intended Major</th>
<th>Date Applied</th>
<th>Status of Application</th>
<th>Dates of Attendance</th>
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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? ____________________________________________
While in foster care, how many places did you live: _________________________________
Total Years in Foster Care: ________
Select your current Foster Care status: □ Foster Home  □ Group Home  □ AB12/Aftercare  □ Emancipated
□ Other: _______________________________________________________________________

2017 Dare to Dream Scholarship
628 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553
2017 Dare to Dream Scholarship Program

Essay & Transcript Section

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

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□ 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.

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□ 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/affected 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 these barriers. Tell us why continuing your education is important to you and how you would benefit if you received a Dare to Dream Scholarship.
(Reapplying scholars are to complete a new essay specific for reapplying scholars described below.)

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□ Essay For Reapplying Scholars: Minimum 500 word typed essay
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.
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: ______________
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 letter to verify the applicant’s foster care status. 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 from your social worker in your Scholarship application packet.
(If needed, your social worker can send the letter directly to the Foster A Dream Program)
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**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 10, 2017 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, 628 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553, for inclusion in the applicant’s scholarship application. If you have any questions regarding the letter or the Foster A Dream Program, please call the program office at 925-228-0200.

Thank you for your support of this student.
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, church leader, or coach.

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 the 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, 628 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553, for inclusion in their application packet. Applications are due by April 10, 2017. If you have any questions please call the program office at (925)228-0200.

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, 628 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553)
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, church leader, or coach.

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 the 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, 628 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553, for inclusion in their application packet. Applications are due by April 10, 2017. If you have any questions please call the program office at (925)228-0200.

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, 628 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553)