



NEW YORKERS FOR CHILDREN
SPIRIT AWARD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
2017 APPLICATION AND GUIDELINES

Dear Applicant:

We are proud to support young adults in their efforts to achieving their educational goals through the New Yorkers For Children Spirit Award. The Spirit Award is a \$10,000 scholarship awarded each year to an individual in foster care or a former foster youth who is attending a 4-year college with plans to complete a bachelor's degree. The recipient is a young person who has achieved academic success, demonstrated a willingness to think beyond themselves, shown resilience in the face of challenges, and gained a new sense of self-awareness as a result of the obstacles they have had to overcome. We encourage students who are entering the third or fourth year in college to apply.

Please review the enclosed guidelines and carefully complete the application. It is important that we have all of the requested information, so please take extra care to read the guidelines before finalizing and sending in your application. If you have any difficulties obtaining all of the information required by the deadline of **June 16th, 2017**, please let us know. You may have the information sent directly to New Yorkers For Children in order to avoid further delay. An incomplete application will not be considered. The Spirit Award is only available to youth in, or recently transitioned out of foster care that are enrolled in college and their junior or senior year. **All applications must be received by June 16th, 2017.**

Our goal is to serve as many foster youth from New York City as possible. If you have any questions or need help with the completion of your application please contact Ellen Ampofo at Eampofo@newyorkersforchildren.org or 646.257.2930.

Sincerely,



Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez

Executive Director

NEW YORKERS FOR CHILDREN

New Yorkers For Children (NYFC) works in partnership with the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) to improve the prospects of children supported by the child welfare system and to engage New Yorkers in that effort. With a focus on young people in foster care, NYFC supports programs that promote paths to stable adulthood through education and sustainable relationships with caring adults. Please visit our website www.newyorkersforchildren.org for more information about our programs.

HOW DO I APPLY?

1. Assess Eligibility

You are eligible to apply for Nick's Scholars Program if you:

- Are a highly motivated student currently or formerly in foster care in New York City
- If formerly in foster care, you must have aged out of care
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Are currently enrolled in college and entering your 3rd or 4th year

2. Start, Complete, and sign the Application Form

3. Gather and Submit Necessary Documents

Information about all required documents is included in the application. If any of these materials are arriving after the deadline, please indicate when you will submit missing material. You must include the following documents with your application:

- Completed Application Form
- Personal Essay (4-5 pages)
- 2 Letters of Recommendation
 - Please ask a teacher, social worker, educational specialist, guidance counselor, mentor, or other adult in your community who is familiar with your academic background and who can speak about your character and motivation to succeed in college (family members and/or friends are not allowed). By providing the names and contact information, you give New Yorkers For Children permission to contact your references.
- Printed copy of college student transcript (**no screen shots accepted**)
- Completed Income Form

Students that have previously applied and not been accepted are encouraged to re-apply.

Spirit Award 2017 Application

Contact Information:

Applicant's Name: _____
Last name First name Middle Initial

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY): _____ Age: _____

Address: _____
Street Apt

_____ City State Zip Code

Mailing address: _____

(If different) Street/P.O. Box Apt.

_____ City State Zip Code

Email Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Student Information:

Select one. Are you Hispanic/Latino Yes No

If Hispanic/Latino, select your background:

Central American Cuban Dominican Mexican
 Puerto Rican South American Other Hispanic/Latino _____

All applicants, please indicate your race:

American Indian or Alaska Native Asian Black/African-American
 Native Hawaiian of Other Pacific Islander White Other _____

What is your gender? Male Female Non-binary/ third gender

Prefer to self-describe _____ Prefer not to say _____

Spirit Award 2017 Application

Educational Information:

High School or GED Program: _____ Graduation Date: _____

Name of college you are currently attending/plan to attend: _____

Counselor's / Advisor's Name: _____

Counselor's / Advisor's Information (_____) _____

Phone Number

Email Address

Cumulative Grade Point Average: _____ Major (If Applicable): _____

Career Interest(s): _____

Please indicate the year you will be in during the Fall 2017 Semester

Junior

Senior

Foster Care Agency/Worker Information

To be eligible for the Spirit Award, you must have be in care or have aged out of care.

Are you currently in Foster Care? Yes No

If no, please indicate your Date of discharge: _____

Name of Foster Care Agency: _____

Address: _____

City

State

Zip Code

Name of Agency Worker: _____

Agency Worker Information: (_____) _____

Phone Number

Email Address

Spirit Award 2017 Application

Income and Expenses

Are you currently working? Yes No

○ If yes, how many hours a week are you working? _____

Name of Employer

Phone Number

Monthly Expenses:	Amount
Rent	
Con Edison	
Cable/Internet	
Cell Phone	
Public Transportation	
Food	
Other (Please Specify):	
Other (Please Specify)	

Monthly Income:	Amount
ETV	
ACS/ Agency Stipend (Please Specify)	
Food Stamps	
Public Assistance	
Job (Pay Check)	
Other (Please Specify)	
Other (Please specify)	

Award Package for Fall 2017 Semester	Amount
Pell	
TAP	
Other (Please Specify)	
Other (Please Specify)	
Other (Please specify)	

Spirit Award 2017 Application

Personal Essay

Please attach a 4-5 page personal essay that demonstrates your candidacy for the Spirit Award Scholarship. Your essay must address each of the questions below.

1. What are your educational and personal goals and how will the Spirit Award Scholarship help further those goals?
 - a. What specifically will you use the scholarship for?
 - b. If you don't receive the scholarship, how would you go about funding this need/want?
2. How have you overcome adversity and obstacles in your life?
 - a. Describe a time you faced a challenge in school and/or your personal life and how you prevailed.
3. How have you demonstrated leadership in your community?

For example, describe a time you held a leadership role in your church/school and led by example or describe a time you participated in a community service/volunteer activity.
4. What is your long-term vision and how can a college degree help you achieve it?
5. What are your strengths and weaknesses?

Spirit Award 2017 Application:

Recommendation Form 1

Name of Applicant: _____

Recommender's Name: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Relationship to Applicant (**recommendations from relatives are not accepted**): _____

Instructions

The New Yorkers For Children (NYFC) Spirit Award is a \$10,000 scholarship awarded each year to an individual currently in foster care or formerly in care who will be a junior or senior at a 4-year college in Fall 2017, and maintains a minimum GPA of 3.0. The recipient is a young person who has achieved academic success, demonstrated a willingness to think beyond themselves, shown resilience in the face of challenges, and gained a new sense of self-awareness as a result of the obstacles they have had to overcome. Your recommendation will be a crucial part of our selection process. Please attach a letter addressing the questions below to the best of your ability.

1. How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?
2. Please describe the applicant's leadership skills using specific examples if possible.
3. Please provide evidence of the applicant's demonstrated perseverance in a difficult situation.

Since the recipient may serve as the spokesperson for New Yorkers For Children for the duration of the academic year, please comment on the applicant's experience and/or aptitude with public speaking and his/her knowledge of the opinions/sentiments of other youth in foster care.

We must receive your completed recommendation by June 16th, 2017. Applications will NOT be considered without a completed Letter of Recommendation.

Please mail, email, or fax your letter of recommendation to:

Ellen Ampofo

Youth Academic Advisor

New Yorkers For Children

450 Seventh Avenue, Suite 403 New York, NY 10123

Tel: 646.257.2930

Fax: 646.257.2931

Eampofo@newyorkersforchildren.org

Spirit Award 2017 Application:
Recommendation Form 2

Name of Applicant: _____

Recommender's Name: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Relationship to Applicant (**recommendations from relatives are not accepted**): _____

Instructions

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Eampofo@newyorkersforchildren.org

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please keep a copy of this application and send updated contact information to NYFC if your address or other information changes during the application process so that we may contact you if we have any questions or if you are selected as a scholarship recipient.

Signature:

By signing below, I affirm that all statements made on this application are true. I understand that a false statement or intentional omission of any material fact may cause me to be disqualified from eligibility of this scholarship.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please mail, email, or fax your completed application to:

Ellen Ampofo
Youth Academic Advisor
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New York, NY 10123
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