

Scholarship/Special Needs Request Guidelines

Eligibility Requirements

REFPA's Scholarship Program and Special Needs Request is geared to serve children in both out-of-home care and in-home care. All children, aged newborn through 18yrs old (still in high school) placed in either a Sonoma County Approved home, a Foster Family Agency, a Relative/NREFM or a Tribally Approved Home qualifies for a Scholarship or Special Needs Request.

A child with an open CPS Case whether that be a case in the Family Preservation Unit, Court Investigations, Continuing Services, or Adoption will qualify for a REFPA Scholarship or Special Needs Request. Case that have been dismissed do not qualify at this time.

If the youth is older than 18 years old, and is receiving AB12 services, they will qualify for the Special Needs Request in lieu of the REFPA Scholarship.

Application Process

Applying for a REFPA Scholarship can be completed online via the REFPA website: www.refpa.org or by downloading the application and emailing it to the Scholarship Chairperson at scholarship.refpa21@gmail.com

If the child is in out-home care, either the Resource Parent or Social Worker can submit the application for children.

If the child has a CFM case or a case through the Family Preservation Unit, the Social Worker must submit the application. This is to verify the need for the scholarship with the case-carrying social worker.

Scholarship requests will be presented on the first Monday of each month at the REFPA Board Meeting.

Types of Scholarships:

Section A (REFPA Scholarship):

Awards up to \$500 a year will be considered for items which may include, but are not limited to:

- Well-being and Fitness
- Sports: shoes, uniform, and costs associated with sports (ie: football, baseball, martial arts, dance, swim)
- School Activities: field trips and calculators
- Extracurricular Activities
- Music: instrument and lessons
- Camps: cheerleading, football, summer camp/programs

Upon approval, these scholarships will be paid directly to the service provider or as a reimbursement to the Resource Parent when receipts are provided. Payee must be 18 or older.

Scholarship chairperson will investigate alternative methods to fill requests when possible.

Section B (High School Scholarship Funds):

Foster youth graduating from high school are entitled to an additional scholarship of no more than \$400 to cover one-time expenses such as prom clothing, shoes, pictures, yearbook, class ring, etc. This one-time only scholarship award is in addition to a scholarship from Section A. These scholarships can be paid directly to the Resource Parent, or to the youth if they are 18+.

Section C (Special Needs Request):

For foster youth ages 0-21, the REFPA Board will consider, on a case-by-case basis, special requests up to \$1000.

Requirements:

1. Please write a letter stating the exact need and how youth will benefit, including the cost/expense, and whether other sources have been exhausted. Also please have the caregiver and/or youth sign as well as the Social Worker.
2. Scholarship Chair will need to verify receipts.

Examples:

A child is eligible to compete in an out-of-town spelling bee, and needs 2 nights of lodging in order to participate.

A child is fundraising for a school field trip and needs REFPA to match their fundraising in order to participate. It's a field trip in child's favorite subject and area of interest.