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# Fact Sheet for New Applicants 2025

## About the Scholarships program

The Youth Development Scholarships (YDS) program is offering up to 1,500 scholarships to young people enrolled in education or training to help complete their studies in the 2025 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 2025:

- Year 10, 11 or 12 at a NSW high school or equivalent at TAFE or a TVET/EVET subject;
- completing a school based apprenticeship or traineeship (SBAT) and able to provide a signed contract agreement from a Registered Training Organisation (RTO);
- 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 2025 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, 21 October 2024**

**Close:** 5.00 pm on **Friday, 21 February 2025**

## 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

- Uniform, shoes and specialist clothing (including apron, sports equipment, safety shoes etc.)
- Course costs, subject/elective fees
- Materials/equipment for elective (e.g. music, art, food technology, hospital, science equipment etc.)
- Tutoring
- School organised excursions, study camps, school sporting activities
- Textbooks, workbooks, study guides
- Stationery (notebooks, folders, pens etc.)
- Technology (e.g. laptop, personal computer, tablet, printer, scanner etc.)

### Secondary Support

- Internet
- Furniture (e.g. study desk, chair, footrest etc.)
- Transport costs (e.g. Opal card, driving lessons, fuel voucher etc.)
- Health and wellbeing costs (e.g. glasses, mobility aids, speech therapy and devices, counselling etc.)

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- Social inclusion (e.g. formal attire, formal ticket)
  - Training and employment (e.g. CV writing, interview skills, clothing for work etc.)

### **What can't the Youth Development Scholarship be used for?**

The funds cannot be used to:

- purchase mobile phones, smart watches, gaming equipment and other wireless communication devices
- pay for school fees, but can be used towards resources, elective or course costs
- pay for items that can be provided through other financial assistance programs offered by the school
- pay for any expenses relating to siblings who are not scholarship recipients
- transfer remaining funds to another student.

### **How do I apply?**

Click on [SurveyMonkeyApply](#) to log in. The link will be activated at 9am, 21 October 2024.

#### ***Important information***

- Read the Guidelines for New Applicants before you apply. This will help you answer questions on the application form.
- The applicant (student) must apply, not your parent/guardian/teacher/support worker.
- Do not use a social media account (Facebook, X or Google), and do not use your personal school email address to register. Use a valid personal email address (gmail, hotmail, yahoo etc.) 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](mailto:noreply@mail.smapply.net) has been added as a safe sender on your email inbox. Check your junk folder.
- Contact the Scholarships team if you continue to have problems with receiving 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 2025. This also applies to home schooled applicants.

### **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 confirming that your application has been submitted. Contact the Scholarships team if you do not receive a confirmation email.

### **How will my application be assessed?**

Homes NSW 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 before the end of Term 2, 2025.

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

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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: your school will administer the funds 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: the funds will be paid directly into your nominated bank account. You will need to retain receipts and keep a record of expenditure.

### **Where can I find out more information?**

- Visit our website [dcjnsw.info/scholarships](http://dcjnsw.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@homes.nsw.gov.au](mailto:education@homes.nsw.gov.au)