What is the Empowerment Program?
The Empowerment Program (EP) of CASA of DuPage County is a program intended to assist young women and men who have been youth in care and have been assigned a CASA Advocate from CASA of DuPage County. This includes young women and men whose cases involved intact care, foster care, and independent living. You must be at least 16 years old to apply to the program. You do not need to be a current client of CASA of DuPage County to apply, as long as you were assigned a CASA of DuPage County Advocate in the past.

Should I apply?
You should apply if you are thinking about, starting, or currently attending college or university in pursuit of a certificate, associate’s, bachelor’s degree. You should apply if you are thinking about, starting, or currently attending a technical or vocational school in pursuit of a certificate or certification.

How does it work?
First you will submit an application online. From there, your application is reviewed to determine if you are eligible to participate in the Program. Applications are accepted and reviewed throughout the year to determine eligibility. If you are eligible, you will be notified regarding next steps.

What happens if I am accepted?
If you are accepted, you may request funds to cover items to help you with your education or employment needs, which are not covered by other scholarships, grants, or loans. Each individual accepted into the Program may receive up to $2,500.00 in one school year.

It is up to the applicant to provide information to CASA of DuPage County as to what costs need covering, how much the costs are, and the timeline for securing funds. The requests are reviewed to determine eligibility. Any costs that cannot be paid directly to the service provider or retailer will be paid to the student at the discretion of CASA.
How do I submit a funding request form?
Submitting a funding request is quick and easy. You can submit a request online anytime by visiting http://bit.ly/EMPOWERMENTFUNDING

The more detailed you are in your request, the quicker your funding will be approved. If you have an emergency or need a very quick turn-around, we strongly suggest you fill out the form and immediately, and contact your Advocate or Advocate Supervisor.

How will I know if my request is approved?
We strive to approve requests within 1-2 days. Your Advocate or Advocate Supervisor will contact you as soon as there is an answer. They will also help you with the next steps.

Common Funding Requests
Dorm necessities, lab fees, special equipment for a class, calculators, laptops, transportation fees such as bus or train fare, orientation fees, extra curricular supplies or fees, college prep sports class or camp, car repairs for school transportation, books for class, trade equipment, uniforms...

The list is by no means exhaustive and no request is too small. Don't be shy! Talk to us and let's see how CASA can help empower you.

Important Links
Funding request: http://bit.ly/EMPOWERMENTFUNDING