

# EMPOWERMENT

## Grant Program

### **What is the Empowerment Program?**

The Empowerment Program (EP) of CASA of DuPage County is a grant 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 14 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. You should apply if you are moving toward independent living.

### **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 into the program, you may request funds to cover expenses to help you towards achieving your educational and vocational goals and prepare you for independent living. Funds may be granted for expenses which are not covered by other sources, scholarships, grants, or loans. Each individual accepted into the Program may receive up to \$2,500.00 in one fiscal year, and \$10,000 maximum per participant.

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.

# Q U E S T I O N S

## and Answers

### **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>. Email alerts are received by the Empowerment Program Administrator (EPA) when a request is submitted.

The more detailed you are in your request, the quicker your funding may be approved. For example, include specific websites and links for the expenses requested, as well as the specific cost, time frame needed, etc.

### **How will I know if my request is approved?**

We strive to respond to requests within 1-2 days. If any additional information is needed to approve or process your request, the EPA, your Advocate or the Advocate Supervisor will contact you. If your request is approved, they will also help you with the next steps.

If you have an emergency or any concerns contact Kathie Paravola, the Empowerment Program Administrator, at [kathiep@dupagecasa.org](mailto:kathiep@dupagecasa.org).

## 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 tests, sports class or camp, driving lessons, car repairs for school transportation, books for class, trade/work equipment, uniforms, certification fees...

*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

Application: <http://bit.ly/EMPOWERMENTAPPLICATION>

Funding request: <http://bit.ly/EMPOWERMENTFUNDING>