VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
INDEPENDENT LIVING SHORT-TERM SPECIAL FUNDING

In 1994, the Virginia Department of Social Services established a trust fund for *Virginia foster care youth* progressing in post secondary education or vocational training. The funding may be used to cover tuition, books, fees, supplies, student loan payoffs, and incidentals. Payments are made directly to the educational institution or in the case of student loan repayment, the lending institution. Local departments of social services (LDSS) will be the primary referral source for the trust fund. The LDSS must make a recommendation regarding the youth's need for financial assistance and potential for successful completion of school through the application process.

Eligibility Guidelines

In order to be eligible for proceeds from the trust fund, a youth must:

- Have been in foster care with the state of Virginia at age 16 and must have had their most recent foster care provided by the state of Virginia. Adopted youth may be eligible if the adoption has disrupted and they have re-entered foster care.
- Identify a financial need. Eligibility for trust fund payments is based on need and the youth must demonstrate such need.
- Apply for financial aid through the school or training program in which they wish to enroll or participate.
- Be enrolled as a student working toward a degree or certificate in an educational program.
- Make satisfactory academic progress.
- Obtain the recommendation of the local department of social services with which they were most recently associated.
- Provide verification of outstanding loan balances.

Criteria

- Awards will be based on need and availability of funds.
- Funds will be awarded as requests are received.
- If funding has to be prioritized, due to demand, funds will be awarded as follows:
  1) To those 19 and over,
  2) To those demonstrating the greatest financial need.

Application Process

- The applicant should apply for funds for the entire academic year or for any unpaid loans.
- Indicate the requested amount, the institution that the check should be made payable to, and the institution's mailing address.
- Submit a copy of school's transcripts.
- Submit a completed application with a recommendation from the local department of social services by September 15, 2006 to:

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Independent Living Program, 4th floor
7 North Eighth Street, Richmond, VA 23219

If you have questions, please call (804) 726-7579.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
SHORT TERM INDEPENDENT LIVING TRUST FUND
APPLICATION (June 1 – September 15, 2006)

Name:_____

Date of Birth: _____SSN: _____Phone: ( )_____

Address:_____

Permanent address if different from above: _____

Local agency most recently associated with: _____

Name of school attending:_____

Address of school attending:_____

Period for which you are applying: _____ Grade Level: _____

GPA (Attach most recent transcript) _____ Major: _____

Other expected income/resources, including grants, scholarships, loans, earnings, other financial support. **Source /Amount:**

_____
_____
_____
_____

Expected Expenses (Attach documentation from school verifying expected expenses, including room and board and other living expenses. If you are requesting funding to pay off existing student loan balances, include verification of the outstanding balances, name of lending institution, and mailing address of lending institution in the space below): **Reason /Amount:**

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Amount Requested from Trust Fund: _____

ASSURANCES

- I will forward my grades to the Virginia Independent Living Program at the end of the term for which the financial aid was granted.
- I will notify the Independent Living Program when I graduate.
- All of the information provided in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____Date: _____

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