

CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Purpose: The purpose of the Childcare Scholarship is to provide financial child care assistance to those parents who are pursuing financial stability, through higher education and/or full-time job training. Scholarships may only be used for childcare; payments are made directly to the childcare vendor.

Target Population: Primary custodial caregivers with young children (age 12 years and under), and who are struggling economically and who have the desire and capability of improving their situation through furthering their education and/or job training.

Program Benefits: The Child Care Scholarship Fund will provide full day or partial day child care assistance based on the needs of the family; families may re-apply annually, as long as the family continues to meet the qualifying criteria, completes the application process, and maintains the required relationship with the referral agency. The Child Care Scholarship Fund seeks to help individuals further their educational goals pending availability of funds.

Criteria: To apply for child care assistance through The Fund, the applicant must meet ALL of the following. They must:

- 1) Attend school or be employed in Bexar County.
- 2) Be a citizen or legal resident of the United States and a resident of Bexar County.
- 3) Have demonstrated financial need.
- 4) Not qualify, or have been denied or wait-listed, for any other eligible child care assistance.
- 5) Have a demonstrated plan for reaching his/her educational and employment goals.
- 6) Be screened by referral agents or selection committee.
- 7) Maintain a minimum G.P.A. of 2.5.
- 8) Be enrolled in school or technical skills training for a minimum of 12 hours if not working, or enrolled for a minimum of 6 hours if working 19 hours or more weekly.
- 9) Provide referral agent all class and/or work schedules when available, and must keep referral agent informed of changes in contact information, employment, school status.

Selection of Scholarship Recipients: Recipients will be selected by the Review Committee on the basis of the criteria listed above, the content of her/his application, and the availability of funds.

Submission of Referrals: United Way will accept referrals from designated referral agencies on the official Child Care Scholarship Fund forms only. Applications may be obtained from an approved referral agency during the period of April through May. Applications will be reviewed for funding each June for the next funding period beginning August 1 and ending July 31 of the following year.