

[Website maintenance may cause short outages or slow response times from Nov. 9 at 10 pm until Nov. 11 pm.](#)

[Government mail service may be affected by the Canada Post labour disruption. See the list of affected services and contingency plans.](#)

Explore this section

Advancing Futures Bursary – Prospective students

New, returning and upgrading students can get information about the program, eligibility criteria, and how to apply for funding and support.

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Important dates

Next application deadline: February 1, 2019

Winter course info submission: November 15, 2018

About the program

General information

Advancing Futures is a transitional support program for current and former youth in government care aged 18 to 24. The program provides social and emotional supports and funding to eligible students while they pursue post-secondary studies.

Youth are invited to apply if they're interested in:

- academic upgrading if it's a requirement for entry into a post-secondary program
- earning a license or certificate
- learning a trade
- earning a diploma or degree from a post-secondary school

In addition to providing funding, Advancing Futures helps students succeed by supporting them while transitioning into adulthood, learning life skills and becoming successful in school. The program recognizes the potential of students to reach their educational goals and overcome the challenges they may face.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

Applicants must:

- be between 18 and 24 years old at the time they apply
- be full- or part-time students enrolled at an approved institution, and
- have been a youth in government care as a result of an Alberta-based agreement or order

They must also have:

- had a Permanent Guardianship Order (PGO) between the time they were 13 and 18 years old, **OR**
- been in the care or custody of Children's Services for at least 546 days (18 months) between the time they were 13 and 24 years old – the following Intervention Services are included in the calculation of these 546 days:
 - Apprehension Order
 - Custody Agreement with Guardian
 - Custody Agreement with Youth

- Custody Order
- Emergency Apprehension
- Enhancement Agreement with Youth
- Interim Custody Order
- Order to Extend Custody/T.G.O to 3 years
- Support and Financial Assistance Agreement
- Temporary Guardianship Order

To confirm eligibility for Advancing Futures, please contact us.

Approved institutions

This program is open to full- or part-time students enrolled in one of over 400 approved schools, colleges and universities. These include:

- on-campus post-secondary programs in Alberta
- some exceptions for students to study outside of Alberta
- academic upgrading programs or a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) at an adult learning institution if it's a requirement for entrance to a post-secondary program

Students can use the [School and Program Eligibility Search](#) to see if the post-secondary institution they plan to attend is an approved school. Specialized high schools are not listed in the eligibility tool. Students can contact Advancing Futures to confirm the educational institution is approved.

Advancing Futures does not fund Masters degrees or Doctoral programs.

Benefits

Funding

Advancing Futures funds education programs in a wide variety of career areas, including digital media design, teaching and plumbing. The program covers funding for:

- up to \$40,000 in education costs, including:
 - required tuition
 - mandatory fees
 - required books
 - mandatory supplies
 - approved technology
- living allowance
- transportation funds
- full parent portion of subsidized child care

- health benefit plan
- damage deposit for an apartment

Living allowance rates

Status	Full-time	Part-time
Single student	\$1128	\$564
Parent with one child	\$1991	\$995.50
Parent with two children	\$2583	\$1291.50
Parent with three children	\$3175	\$1587.50
Parent with four children	\$3767	\$1883.50
Each additional child	\$592	\$296

Supports

Advancing Futures can also help students plan for their dreams by:

- assisting in career investigation
- discussing specific job requirements
- helping clarify career goals
- identifying different education paths to help students achieve their education and career goals

Application deadlines

There are 3 annual application deadlines:

- Apply by June 1 – to begin studies anytime during the upcoming academic year (September to August)
- Apply by October 1 – to begin studies anytime between January and August of the following year
- Apply by February 1 – to begin studies anytime between May and August of the same year

Applications that are received after any of the above deadlines will be deferred to the next application period.

Extended deadlines

Students who have not received funding through Advancing Futures before, and plan to attend a specialized high school, are offered extended deadlines:

- Apply by October 1 – to begin studies in Fall Term (of the same year).
- Apply by February 1 – to begin studies in Winter Term (of the same year).

Year-round applications

Applications are accepted year-round from students who are registered as an apprentice and are pursuing technical training for their trade. Applications must be received at least 6-8 weeks before training begins.

How to apply

Step 1. Confirm eligibility

Review Advancing Futures' eligibility criteria. Contact us to confirm eligibility, if classification is required.

Step 2. Apply to a program

Students must have applied for their program of study before applying to Advancing Futures. Proof of application to or enrolment in the intended program of study must be submitted when applying to Advancing Futures. For more information, see [approved institutions](#).

Step 3. Choose an application type

Advancing Futures has 3 types of applications:

New student

This application is for students who are applying to a **post-secondary program or trade** and meet any of the following criteria. Students:

- have not received Advancing Futures funding before
- have received Advancing Futures funding before – but are applying to a new school or new program
- have received Advancing Futures funding before – but either (a) withdrew from their studies or (b) took 6 months or more off school (or one year for trade program students)

Students who are applying for funding to attend academic upgrading (high school courses), **must** use the Upgrading Application form instead.

Returning student

This application type is for students who:

- have previously received Advancing Futures funding, and
- are attending the same program at the same school (including upgrading) as the last academic year

Students who have withdrawn from school or who have taken 6 months (one year for trade program students) or more away from school must fill out the New Student application form.

Upgrading student

This application type is for students who:

- are requesting funding to upgrade high school courses for the first time, or

- did not attend upgrading at the same institution last academic year

Upgrading students must use the Academic Upgrading application form.

If you're still unsure of which form to use, please contact us.

Step 4. Complete application form

Print and fill out one of the following forms:

- [New Student Application Form](#) (PDF, 1 MB)
- [Returning Student Application Form](#) (PDF, 1.3 MB)
- [Academic Upgrading Application Form](#) (PDF, 1.5 MB)

Step 5. Submit application

Send the completed application form and supporting documents by:

Email: CS.AdvancingFutures@gov.ab.ca

Fax: 780-644-6905

Mail or in person:

Advancing Futures Bursary Program
Children's Services
3rd Floor, Sterling Place
9940-106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2N2

Next steps

Waiting times

It takes 6 to 8 weeks for applications to be processed.

Contact method

Advancing Futures uses email as its main contact method. It's important that students check their email for updates regularly. At times, Advancing Futures may contact a student by phone or mail.

Updating information

Students are responsible for providing Advancing Futures with their current contact information, including:

- email address
- phone number, and
- mailing address

If contact information changes, students must email their updated information to CS.AdvancingFutures@gov.ab.ca.

Conditional approval

After a student applies, their application will be reviewed to determine eligibility and for completeness. Following this, program coordinators will contact students with information about next steps.

Students who meet the program requirements will be conditionally approved. An email and letter will be sent to the student with a deadline to complete any tasks required for approval of their funding.

Payment of expenses

Tuition and mandatory school fees

Once funding has been approved, a sponsorship agreement will be established with the school. The agreement states that Advancing Futures will cover tuition and mandatory school fees for the academic term(s). The institution will invoice Advancing Futures directly.

Mandatory books and supplies

All students will have their own account created at the school's bookstore to cover the cost of mandatory books and supplies. All students are required to submit a book and supply list at the start of each semester to Advancing Futures.

Students are provided with funding to buy basic school supplies at the start of each semester, to a maximum of:

- \$50 per year for part-time students
- \$100 per year for full-time students

Living expenses

Monthly living allowance payments are deposited into students' bank accounts 5 to 7 days before the first day of each month. The living allowance payment provided at the end of each month is for the next month of study.

Forms and resources

Some PDF forms do not work on mobile devices. To fill in and save this form:

1. Click on the PDF link to save it on your computer.
2. Launch Adobe Reader
3. Open the PDF form within Adobe Reader. You can now fill in and save your form.

Forms

- [Child Care Confirmation form](#) (PDF, 36 KB)
- [Declaration of Other Funding](#) (PDF, 125 KB)
- [Direct Deposit form](#) (PDF, 590 KB)

[See all forms](#)

Resources

- [Alberta Learning Information Service \(ALIS\)](#)
- [Learning Clicks](#)
- [Tradesecrets](#)

[See all resources](#)

Contact

Hours: Monday to Friday 8:15 am to 4:30 pm

Phone: [780-415-0085](tel:780-415-0085)

Fax: 780-644-6905

Toll free in Alberta: dial [310-0000](tel:310-0000) then the number

Email: CS.AdvancingFutures@gov.ab.ca

Address:

3rd Floor, Sterling Place
9940 106 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2N2

[Contact a Program Coordinator directly](#)

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