



Promoting Permanency for Foster Youth Since 1973

8201 Edgewater Drive #103  
Oakland, CA 94621-3020  
Tel: 510.553.1748  
Toll Free: 888.680.7349  
Fax: 510.553.1747  
www.aask.org

## ***Dorothy and Robert DeBolt Scholarship*** **2012 Guidelines**

*AASK (Adopt A Special Kid) is pleased to announce this award, in the name of its founders. The DeBolts raised 20 children, including 14 who were adopted. They hold a steadfast belief that all children are adoptable and were pioneers in promoting the adoption of children who may have a wide range of abilities and challenges. They founded AASK in 1973, helped establish other like agencies across the United States and effected positive legislation in support of adoptive families. AASK continues to operate under their philosophy and provides permanency services to children from all over California.*

1. AASK will, at minimum, award one \$2,000 to \$3,000 scholarship, in recognition of the value of independence and learning held by AASK's Founders Dorothy and Robert DeBolt. Depending on fundraising success, the award amount may be higher and, in addition, runner up and honorable mention awards may also be conferred. Last year's recipients received a total of \$6,500.
2. This scholarship will be awarded to a youth who has been adopted after being in foster care (a dependent of the juvenile court) in California. The applicant must be a resident of California at the time of application and must have been accepted for admission to or be enrolled in an accredited two-year college, four-year university or trade/vocational school in the United States. Maximum age at application is 25 years.
3. The selection of the recipient will be based on several criteria, including:
  - Community Service
  - Participation in extracurricular activities
  - Promise of success in the institution selected by the applicant
  - Financial need
  - Academic achievement
4. The award must be used for tuition, books, fees, or room and board.
5. All materials in support of an application must be postmarked by June 9.
6. The award will be announced on or around August 1.
7. A complete application consists of:
  - Application form
  - Student Aid Report (SAR). Be sure to send the SAR which you receive by mail or email, summarizing the information in your FAFSA application.
  - Release of information
  - Two reference forms; one of which must be from someone other than a family member or friend. The completed reference forms must be signed, sealed and sent directly to AASK by your references per the instructions on the form.
  - Verification of foster care and adoption status
  - Copy of acceptance or enrollment letter from the institution of higher learning
  - Official transcripts sent directly from the institution/s:
    - Full high school record including most recent semester, and cumulative GPA
    - ALSO: college transcript if applicable.
  - Recent photo
8. The name and photo of the recipient/s, as well as some personal information about him or her, may be used in print and/or web material regarding the award.

Please mail all materials to *Dorothy and Robert DeBolt Scholarship Committee c/o AASK* at the above address.



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***Dorothy and Robert DeBolt Scholarship  
Application***

Please fill out this application carefully—incomplete and/or illegible applications will not be considered. Applications must be postmarked by June 9. Return to:

*DeBolt Scholarship Committee*  
AASK  
8201 Edgewater Dr. # 103  
Oakland, CA 94621

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address: #/street name City State Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # Cell phone # Email address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth School (current/last attended) Graduation date/GED date

College or vocational institution you plan to attend:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of entry into above institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Other financial aid you have applied for: <i>Name of Organization</i>	<i>Amount Applied For</i>	<i>Amount Received</i>



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*DeBolt Scholarship Application*  
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Please attach your Student Aid Report (SAR), which will provide us with information on your financial resources. The process for obtaining your SAR is described on the following two pages.

On a separate sheet of paper, please type your responses to the following. Please do not exceed two pages in length:

1. Tell about your background, explaining how you came to be in the foster care system, then a part of your adoptive family, and how these experiences have led you to where you are now in life.
2. Describe the extracurricular high school activities and volunteer community services you have participated in. Also describe any paid jobs you may have held.
3. Describe how this scholarship will be beneficial to you.
4. Describe your short and long-term goals and how you plan to reach them.

I certify that the information contained herein is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct. I give permission to the scholarship committee to verify and review the information provided and documentation included in my entire application. I am aware that any intentional falsification will result in the denial of the application. I am also aware that the scholarship may be revoked if I fail to meet the requirements of this application. I also agree to notify the scholarship committee if my plans regarding college/university/trade/vocational school attendance change after I submit my application. I understand that should I be granted a scholarship, my name, photo and other personal information may be used in information provided to the public.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent for minors under age 18: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the DeBolt Scholarship? \_\_\_\_\_

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## STUDENT AID REPORT

As part of your application for the Dorothy and Robert DeBolt Scholarship, you will need to submit a **Student Aid Report (SAR)**, which you will receive after completing the *FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)*. You can submit the *FAFSA* starting January 1. *FAFSAs* are available from your local high school or any college Financial Aid Office. The fastest, easiest, and most convenient way to file a *FAFSA* is to apply on line at [www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov).

Before submitting your financial information along with the application, you and your family may want to find out about the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (HR 2669), which includes the Fostering Adoption to Further Student Achievement Act amendment. Under this law, youth adopted after their 13th birthday will not have to include their parents' income in the calculations for determining their need for financial aid. Eligibility for financial aid will be determined solely by the student's ability to pay.

If you were adopted after the age of 13, when you complete the FAFSA:

1. Answer **YES** to this question: **When the student was age 13 or older, was the student in foster care or a dependent or ward of the court?** (You will see text after this question clarifying which students should answer "Yes," including if the student is or was in foster care when he/she was age 13 or older, even if the student is no longer in foster care as of today.)
2. Answer **NO** to this question: **Do you want to include the student's parents' information?** (The law gives you the right to be considered an independent student and not include your parents' income.)

A summary of the steps to completing the FAFSA are as follows:

### 1. Collect your financial information. You will need:

- Your 2011 federal income tax return, and your parents' 2011 federal income tax return, if you are considered a dependent (see above)
- Your Social Security number
- Your parents' Social Security numbers, if you are dependent
- Current bank statements and investment records
- Untaxed income records for 2011 (Social Security benefits, welfare benefits, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or General Assistance, or veterans benefits)
- Your PIN number and a parent's PIN number, if you are dependent
- Your Alien Registration Number, if you are not a U.S. citizen

- continued -



*Student Aid Report, page 2*

## **2. Get a PIN (personal identification number)**

If you don't already have a PIN, apply for one at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). You also may request a duplicate PIN or change your PIN at the same website. Your PIN may be used to access, complete, sign and submit your 2012-13 *FAFSA* electronically. You can also use it to correct any errors that you made while filling out your application. If you are a dependent student, your parents should also apply for a PIN so that they can electronically sign your *FAFSA*. If you provide an email address, you may receive a PIN within 3 days. Otherwise, you will receive your PIN by regular mail within 7 to 10 days.

## **3. Complete the *FAFSA* on the Web Worksheet.**

The *FAFSA on the Web* Worksheet is available on the web at [www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov). You may also obtain it from your high school or from the Financial Aid Office. By completing this worksheet ahead of time, you will have all of your information ready when you are ready to file your *FAFSA*. Use the documents you have collected (tax returns or W-2 forms, asset information, bank statements, records of untaxed income, etc.) to assist you in completing the form.

## **4. Complete the *FAFSA*.**

Follow the on-screen instructions to fill out the *FAFSA*. Once you have completed your application, review your answers carefully and make any corrections if necessary before submitting it. **Be sure to sign your *FAFSA*!** You can sign electronically with your PIN number, print out a paper signature page to sign and mail in, or wait for a signature page to arrive in the mail if you do not have a printer. Using a PIN number to sign electronically is the fastest, and will avoid delays in processing your financial aid application.

Do NOT wait to file until after a tax return has been filed. It's easier to complete your *FAFSA* if you have already filed your federal tax return, but if you haven't, it's more important to use estimates from last year's tax return and update them later rather than miss a deadline.

## **5. Review your Student Aid Report and make any necessary corrections**

Approximately three weeks after filing your *FAFSA*, you will receive a blue ***Student Aid Report*** summarizing the information reported on your application. If you filed online and provided an email address, you will receive your *SAR* via email.

## **6. SUBMIT YOUR STUDENT AID REPORT ALONG WITH YOUR DOROTHY AND ROBERT DEBOLT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION.**

Be sure that you are sending the *SAR* that you have received which summarizes the financial information on your application.



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***Dorothy and Robert DeBolt Scholarship***  
**FOSTER CARE and ADOPTION Status Verification**

Please note that long-term foster care and legal guardianship do not qualify. Applicants must have been **ADOPTED from the CALIFORNIA FOSTER CARE SYSTEM (after having been a dependent of the juvenile court)**. There are two ways to provide verification of this status:

1. Ask your adoptive parents for copies of your
  - **foster care placement agreement**
  - **AND**
  - **adoption decree signed by a judge** and file-marked by the county clerk of the county in which the adoption finalized.

Attach the above two documents to your application.

- OR -

2. If the above documents are not available, a social worker from the county, state or private agency that handled the foster care and adoption must provide a brief signed letter on official letterhead verifying your legal ADOPTION from FOSTER CARE in California. The applicant will need to request this verification directly from the appropriate agency; you may want to provide this form to such agency. **Please note that if you need to contact a social worker for verification, it would be best to do so as soon as possible, as the agency or department may not respond quickly.**

The social worker's letter should include dates of **foster placement AND adoption finalization**. The envelope for this letter should be sealed and the social worker's name written across the outside flap in a manner that indicates the envelope cannot be opened without damaging the signature, and postmarked by June 9.

Helpful information to provide to social worker:

Applicant's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/s of Adoptive Parent/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return all documentation to:  
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***Dorothy and Robert DeBolt Scholarship***  
**Authorization for Release of Information**

The undersigned hereby authorizes the release of any information, which may be required by the Dorothy and Robert DeBolt Scholarship Committee in order to determine my eligibility for a DeBolt Scholarship. This may include, but not be limited to, information on additional grants being received, enrollment, grades, current address or telephone number.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

For minors under age 18:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name



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***Dorothy and Robert DeBolt Scholarship***  
**Reference Form**

To the Applicant: Please write your name in the space below and provide this form to two persons who know you well (one must be someone other than a family member or friend).

To the Reference: Please complete this form legibly, return it as described below, and be certain it is postmarked no later than June 9.

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The above applicant has applied for the *Dorothy and Robert DeBolt Scholarship* offered by AASK (Adopt A Special Kid). Please explain why you feel s/he should be considered for this award:

How long have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

In what capacity? \_\_\_\_\_

Reference name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Reference Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please seal the envelope, sign your name across the envelope flap in a manner in which the signature would be damaged if the envelope were opened, then mail it directly to the address below:***

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Reference name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Reference Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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***Dorothy and Robert DeBolt Scholarship***  
**CHECKLIST**

I have completed the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Application form, **including essay**
- \_\_\_\_\_ Release of information form
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attached copies of my foster care placement agreement *AND* finalized adoption decree, both provided by my adoptive parents,  
**OR**  
contacted the county, state or private agency that handled my adoption with my verification request
- \_\_\_\_\_ Provided the reference forms to two individuals. (Please follow up with them to be sure they mail your references to AASK by the June 9 deadline.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Obtained Student Aid Report
- \_\_\_\_\_ Obtained an official copy of my acceptance or enrollment at the institution
- \_\_\_\_\_ Requested official copy or copies of my complete high school record, plus my college transcript, if applicable
- \_\_\_\_\_ Included recent photo

All must be postmarked by no later than June 9.