



The Mandatory Meeting guides you through the Bright Futures grant process including applying, service requirements, and student responsibilities.

Bright Futures' mission is to strengthen the workforce in Weld County. The program invests in student post-secondary success by providing tuition grants for:

- Recent High School Graduates
- GED Recipients
- Degree or Certification-seeking Veterans

*Who can apply for a Bright Futures grant?*

High school graduates and GED recipients, class of 2021 and later, who have been Weld County residents for at least 2 high school years with one year being their senior year, can apply.

Veterans seeking this grant should contact the office to learn more about eligibility requirements.

*How much will I receive?*

The Bright Futures grant is up to \$2,000 per academic year (up to \$1,000 per semester) and is a last-dollar-in program, which means that all other scholarships and grants will be applied to your student account first. Your Bright Futures grant will then be applied to any remaining tuition and mandatory fees.

Please note that Bright Futures grants are only applied to tuition and mandatory fees. Non-mandatory fees, such as room and board, parking, and books, are not included.

*Where can I use my grant funds?*

Our grant funds can be used at Title IV institutions in Colorado and the following bordering states: Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah.

## Application Process

We've narrowed down the process to six easy steps.

1. Create an online account
2. Submit the online application
3. Engage with the mandatory meeting & supplementary materials
4. Serve the Weld County Community for 16 hours within the current grant year, which ends May 15, 2023.
5. Complete the FAFSA
6. Let us know what school you plan to attend.

### Step 1 Create an Account

To create an account:

- Visit the Bright Futures website. For new students,
- Click LOGIN button
- Select I'm a New Student to create an account.
- Fill in all required fields.

Enter your state-issued ID (SASID) in the STUDENT ID#. It's not the same as your daily usage ID. Contact your counselor or the Bright Futures office for your SASID. Enter and confirm your personal email address. Do not use a school-affiliated email address.

A username will be sent to your email shortly after you create an account. Check your spam folder just in case and to ensure that you get all notifications in a timely fashion, add "Noreply@escholarships.com" to your email list.

### Step 2 Application

- Review your application carefully because you cannot make corrections once it is submitted.
- The EMAIL section will automatically populate your HS email. Please update the email to a personal email address.
- Review and acknowledge the program requirements.
- Students under 18 require a parent or guardian's signature. A parent or guardian signature is optional for students over 18.
- Submit to check the status of your application, upload documents, identify your school choices, and more.
- Jot down login credentials for future use.

### Step 3 Acknowledge Mandatory Meeting

The next step of the Bright Futures application process is Acknowledging the Mandatory Meeting.

- Log into your Bright Futures account
- Select PROGRAMS
- Click ADD PROGRAM
- Select MANDATORY MEETING
- Enter the date you attended the Mandatory Meeting

The *red* Mandatory Meeting warning message will disappear immediately after you save changes.

#### Step 4 Community Service

All Bright Futures applicants must complete 16 hours of community service in Weld County between May 16, 2022, and May 15, 2023, for the 2023/2024 academic year. Our grant program accepts a variety of activities that can count towards the community service requirement. Students must log all hours to successfully apply.

Download the Community Service Form found at <https://www.brightfuturesco.com/community-service/>

Submit your community service hours:

- Log into your Bright Futures account
- Select PROGRAMS
- Click ADD PROGRAM
- Select COMMUNITY SERVICE, then SUBPROGRAM
  - If the organization is not listed, email [hello@brightfuturesco.com](mailto:hello@brightfuturesco.com) with the organization name, address, and web address to our office for review.
- Enter the date you completed community service and the number of hours you served.

The *red* Community Service warning message will disappear immediately after you log your service hours.

#### Step 5 FAFSA

Each year, the FAFSA opens on October 1 for the upcoming academic year. The FAFSA is processed at a federal level before it is sent to schools that eventually award you financial aid. This process can take several weeks to complete. We encourage all students to complete the FAFSA as early as possible and to communicate with Bright Futures and their school's financial aid office with questions regarding status. After you submit your FAFSA, you can view a Student Aid Report (SAR). The SAR contains a number called the Expected Family Contribution or the EFC.

Please provide the EFC number to Bright Futures:

- Log into your Bright Futures account
- Select PROGRAMS
- Click ADD PROGRAM
- Select FAFSA, then 2023/2024 from the drop-down menu.
- Enter the EFC.
- Upload the final Student Aid Report (SAR), which must identify the school year, your EFC and your full name.

The red FAFSA warning message will disappear immediately after you save changes. If you need further assistance completing your FAFSA, call 1.800.4FEDAID.

#### Step 6 Enrollment

Enter your enrollment information so Bright Futures can send grant funds to the correct institution.

- Log into your Bright Futures account
- Select MY COLLEGES
- Click ADD SCHOOL
- Start to enter your school name and choose it from the drop-down menu.
  - If the school is not listed, email [hello@brightfuturesco.com](mailto:hello@brightfuturesco.com) with the school name, address, and web address to our office for review.
- Select the ENROLLED box and choose the semester and year.
  - For classes starting around September 2023, select Fall 2023/2024.
  - For classes starting January 2024, select Spring 2023/2024.

#### *Requirements While in College*

- Login and update your account each semester.
- Stay enrolled at a Title IV accredited higher institution or certified training program in Colorado or bordering states.
- Update enrollment in MY COLLEGES if transferring or returning from a gap year or semester.
- Complete 16 hours of community service in Weld County each school year.
- Submit the FAFSA each academic year.
- Maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA.
  - If cumulative GPA is below 2.0, students will remain eligible for grant funds for one more semester. After that semester, students must meet the minimum cumulative GPA requirement.
  - If a student maintains a cumulative GPA below 2.0 for two consecutive semesters, they are no longer eligible for the Bright Futures grant.
- Provide requested documentation promptly.
- The Bright Futures office may request enrollment and tuition information if your school does not automatically provide it.
- Maintaining an open line of communication with the Bright Futures office helps alleviate stress and get grant funds to your school account quickly.

#### *Important Dates & Deadlines*

- The application deadline is May 15 @ 5:00 PM MST, with no exceptions.
- The initial application opens on November 1 for all students.
- Each year, the FAFSA opens on October 1. Complete it promptly since it can take several weeks to process.
- Students can complete their 16 hours of community service from May 16, 2022, until May 15, 2023, for the 2023/2024 academic year.
- For students to qualify for the Bright Futures grant, they must apply within two years of high school graduation or earning their GED. Students must complete their selected post-secondary program within six years.
  - 2023 high school graduates must start the program by the 2025/2026 academic year and will be considered for the grant until the 2028/2029 academic year.

#### *Student Responsibilities*

- Complete the requirements on time each year. Bright Futures does not notify students when an application is incomplete.
- Keep your account and Bright Futures updated about changes.
- If you complete a requirement but still see a red warning message:
  - Review the mandatory meeting information and other resources available on our website.
  - Contact Bright Futures if you feel you received the warning message in error.
  - Resolve all issues with your account before the application deadline.
- Succeed academically.
- Contribute to a strong workforce.

#### *Contact Information*

- Email [hello@brightfuturesco.com](mailto:hello@brightfuturesco.com)
  - Send us a message for help before calling our office.
  - Please include your first and last name and date of birth in the message.
- Call us at 970.372.6028

*Bright Futures is honored to invest in your future and the future of Weld County.*