**2022-2023 Child Welfare Scholars Application**

\*\*\*This document is for planning purposes only. All applications must be submitted through the online application found [here](https://msudenver.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9TvWrf6G4WnFyjc).

**Contact Information (required):**

* First Name
* Middle Initial
* Last Name
* Street Address
* City
* State
* Zip
* Cell Phone Number
* Home Phone Number (if applicable)
* University Email (if known)
* Additional Email
* Student ID (if known)

**Social Work Program Information**

1. What University do you plan to attend in the 2022-2023 academic year (Select all that apply)?

* Colorado State University Pueblo (CSU Pueblo)
* Metropolitan State University (MSU) of Denver
* University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS)
* University of Denver (DU), Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW)
* I am still applying and haven't decided yet (please select the options above where you are applying)
* Other, please explain:

1. My status for the 2022-2023 academic year is (Select all that apply)

* BSSW senior year student
* MSW Advanced Standing
* MSW First (Foundation) Year
* MSW Second (Concentration) Year
* Fully online student/MSW@Denver student (DU)
* This is my first child welfare scholarship in Colorado

(see next page for more responses)

* This is NOT my first child welfare stipend in Colorado (check this option if you previously received a child welfare stipend from DU-GSSW, CSU Fort Collins or Pueblo, MSU Denver, UCCS)
* Full-time
* Part-time

**Child Welfare Experience**

1. Are you a current county child welfare employee? Yes/No

If yes, which county?

1. How long have you been employed in a child welfare position?
2. Internship Which county(ies) are you interested in interning with? (list all that apply)

**County Work Requirements**

1. Are you a citizen of the U.S.? (Note: International students completing their degree under a student visa program are not eligible for this scholarship.) Yes/No
2. If not a US citizen, do you have legal status for employment in the United States as per 8 U.S.C. §1324a? Yes/No
3. Do you have a valid driver's license? Yes/No
4. Owning a vehicle is an employment requirement within most county department of social/human services in Colorado. Do you own a car? (Not having a vehicle does not prohibit you from being considered for a scholarship but may impact your internship opportunities in some counties. Owning a vehicle will likely be a requirement for the work payback portion of the scholars program following graduation.) Yes/No
5. Do you have proof of automobile insurance? Yes/No
6. As per Colorado Department of Human Services rules and regulations (7.000.6 T1) a person’s employment is conditional upon a satisfactory criminal background check; and subject to the same grounds for denial or dismissal as outlined in 26-6-104(7), C.R.S. Your internship and future employment fall under this provision. Have you ever been convicted of a crime that falls under these categories? Yes/No

**Miscellaneous**

1. List any languages (other than English) in which you are fluent:
2. How did you hear about the child welfare scholars program? (select all that apply)

* Classmate/Colleague
* Faculty/Field Liaison/University Representative
* County DHS Representative
* CO Department of Human Services Representative
* Website/Social Media/Internet Search
* Other, please describe

**Demographic Information**

The following information is being collected to better understand the identities of students who apply to the scholars program. These questions are optional, and this information will not be provided to application reviewers or interview panelists as part of the selection process.

1. Age as of January 1st, 2022

* Under 18
* 18-24 years old
* 25-34 years old
* 35-44 years old
* 45-54 years old
* Over 55

1. Do you consider yourself to be (select all that apply):
   * Female

* Male
* Transgender
* Prefer to self-describe:
* Prefer not to say

1. Do you consider yourself to be (select all that apply):

* Straight/Heterosexual
* Gay or Lesbian
* Prefer to self-describe:
* Prefer not to say

1. Do you consider yourself to be (select all that apply):

* American Indian or Alaskan Native
* Asian
* Black or African American
* Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
* White
* Some other race, ethnicity, or origin
* Prefer to self-describe:
* Prefer not to say

1. Ethnicity - Are you of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or of Spanish origin? (select all that apply)

* No, not of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origin
* Yes, Hispanic, Latino/a/x or Spanish origin
* Some other race, ethnicity, or origin
* Prefer to self-describe
* Prefer not to say

1. Are you considered a first-generation college student? Note: Select 'no' if either of your parents [or legal guardians] have earned a four-year college degree. Yes/No
2. What is your household income?

* Below $10k
* $10K - $50K
* $50K - $100K
* 100K - 150K
* Over $150K

1. Are you currently or have you ever served as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces?

* Yes, currently serving
* Yes, previously served
* No

**Required Documents:**

1. **Cover Letter:** Provide a 1-page cover letter that includes a brief statement of the reason for your interest in the Child Welfare Scholars program, a brief summary of the experiences and strengths you would bring to child welfare, and a brief statement of anything special you would like the committee to consider.
2. **Resume**: Provide a 1-2 page updated resumé, including educational and work/volunteer experience.
3. Upload the applicable Child Welfare Scholars Program **FERPA Release Form**. This form is specific to your university.

**New Child Welfare Scholar Applicants**

\*\*\*\*\*Please respond to the following questions **if you have never received a child welfare scholarship/stipend in Colorado**. Returning Scholars continue onto Page 7.

Note: The questions below have limits on the number of words you can use. You may want to develop your responses here first, edit and use word count, and then paste your answers into this form.

Video Watch the [Colorado Caseworker Realistic Job Preview](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YWYG-Yj9dhE&amp;feature=youtu.be) video (24 minutes) and respond the following questions.

1. Explain your general reaction to the video and why you are interested in child welfare. (Do not exceed more than 500 words.)
2. What skills do you think are essential for a child welfare worker and why? (Do not exceed more than 500 words.)
3. Describe what makes you a strong candidate to work in child welfare as a caseworker. (Do not exceed more than 500 words.)

Additional Essay Questions:

1. What volunteer and/or paid experiences do you have in or related to the field of child welfare? (Do not exceed more than 500 words.)
2. Please describe how you handle job stress and balancing intense work demands, emergencies, and completing tasks. (Do not exceed more than 500 words.)
3. What experience and skills do you have in working with diverse populations, which include but are not limited to: LGBTQ, socio-economic status, race, religion, etc.? (Do not exceed more than 750 words.)
4. What other information would you like the stipend committee to consider in reviewing your application? (Do not exceed more than 500 words.)

**Returning Scholars**

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Please respond to the following questions if you have already received at least one child welfare scholarship/stipend from a Colorado-based university. New applicants, please return to Page 6 for your essay questions.

Choose from one of the following case scenarios to answer the questions below. Be sure to identify the scenario you have selected in your response.

**Part-Time Scholars:** Please select a case scenario that you have not responded to in a previous application.

**Case Scenarios CASE SCENARIO 1 - MARY S.**

Report was by biological mother, Susan, of child, Jason (15 years old). The boy’s mother, Susan, alleged that Mary S., the boy’s maternal grandmother and legal guardian is physically abusive and intimidating to Jason. Yesterday, September 28th, Mary reportedly punched Jason in the face after telling him to clean his bedroom. This is not the first time Mary has used physical force to intimidate Jason. He is afraid of his grandmother, as she has threatened to shoot him if he ever hits her back. Also, the grandmother goes out of town for days at a time and does not leave Jason any money for food. The last time she left was on Saturday and did not return until Monday. Mary does not make an alternate plan for Jason’s care when she travels out of state.   Jason’s mother, Susan, says she and her husband gave custody of Jason to Mary when Susan was 17 because they did not have any health insurance. Susan says she went to court and filed a petition to revoke her mother’s guardianship, and the next court date is October 26th; however, she has to serve Mary the paperwork first. Susan says her mother is a retired New York State corrections officer and may still have her weapon.

**CASE SCENARIO 2 – BETTE**

RP (Reporting Party) is the school social worker. Bette was referred to the school social worker because she became absolutely hysterical when the teacher turned the lights down to watch movies. The teacher often has to sit by Bette and comfort her.  Bette is in kindergarten.  In one instance when the teacher had to sit with her, the teacher thought that she saw a bruise on Bette’s check. Bette is a very pale child with iridescent white skin. She is so pale that her veins are visible. When RP spoke with Bette, she put her hand to her cheek and put her hair behind her ear. RP saw the imprint of a hand across Bette’s cheek.  The finger marks are quite visible. The bruising is in various stages of healing yellows, greens and purple.  RP also put the hair on the other side of Bette’s cheek behind the ear. RP observed the same sort of marks there, but it seemed to be more recent. Bette’s ear was very, very purple and blue. The marks of the fingers extended to the side of Bette’s head. When RP told the elementary school principal, he refused to report the family because he knew the father who was “a military man” and wouldn’t think of anything like that.  Besides, he said that Bette was so pale she probably bruised easily.

(see next page for final scenario)

**CASE SCENARIO 3 – LILA**

RP (reporting party) is the school nurse. Lila is 15 and was referred to the school nurse because of frequent infections, absenteeism, and very provocative behaviors with the male teachers with whom she came into contact. The nurse learned that Lila’s mother is divorced, and she has a live-in-boyfriend, Earl. Earl and Lily’s mother work opposite shifts. Lila is frequently alone with the Earl, while her mother is working.  In the past, Lila has frequently been on prescribed medications for UTIs. She told the school nurse that she was sexually active with her boyfriend, Zach, although the two recently broke up. When the nurse spoke with Lila, Lila appeared very despondent and said she was trying to get a new man fast to fill his place.  She wanted an older man---someone who “really knew what he was doing.” She denied having any suicidal thoughts. She just said she is really lonely because now the only person she ever talked to outside school was Earl. She doesn’t have any friends of her own---only friends of Zach’s, who now wanted no part of her. She denies drug usage and alcohol consumption, but she does admit to smoking.  She babysits sometimes for the 3 kids who live next door to her.

**Please note:** The questions below have limits on the number of words you can use. You may want to develop your answers in this Word document first, edit and do a word count, and then paste your answer onto this form.

1. Using what you learned during your first-year placement and the position you were in, discuss how you would approach this family.

1a. What would your next/first steps be? (Do not exceed more than 500 words.)

1b. What other gray areas or information about the scenario would you need/want to know to best move forward with working with this family? (Do not exceed more than 500 words.)

1. Think about what you feel you still need to learn in your second-year field placement to be prepared to work with this family. Talk about what you would like your second-year internship to focus on to best support your learning? (Do not exceed more than 750 words.)
2. How do you know that child welfare is the right fit for your career? (Do not exceed more than 500 words.)
3. Now that you have experience in child welfare, think about a time where you experienced stress in your role. Answer the following questions related to this stressful experience.
   1. What did you notice (internally, physically, etc.) about how you reacted? (Do not exceed more than 500 words.)
   2. What did you do to handle and manage those reactions? (Do not exceed more than 500 words.)

(see next page for additional questions)

* 1. What would you have done differently? (Do not exceed more than 500 words.)
  2. What will you do to ensure you are prepared to manage these reactions in the future? (Do not exceed more than 500 words.)