



International Student Eligibility

The Colorado Child Welfare Scholars Consortium (‘Scholars Consortium’) is part of a national effort to attract diverse professionals into public child welfare by investing in the social work education of students (‘Scholars’) in Colorado, selected through a competitive application and interview process. The goal of the Scholars Consortium is to recruit and retain bachelors- and masters-level social work professionals to county departments of human/social services, or Tribal child welfare agencies in Colorado.

According to the US Department of Education, an international student is defined as an “individual who is enrolled for credit at an accredited higher education institution in the U.S. on a temporary visa, and who is not an immigrant (permanent resident with an I-51 or Green Card), or an undocumented immigrant, or a refugee.”

Scholars are required to secure a paid position within a Colorado county department of human/social services, or a Colorado Tribal child welfare agency, post-graduation where they will work with children, youth, and families who are IV-E eligible, for each year they receive the award. This commitment entails applying for and being hired by the agency. Currently, international students attending a social work program in Colorado face challenges in meeting the post-graduation work requirement due to visa restrictions, making them ineligible for this scholarship.

Scholars must meet the legal requirements for employment within the USA as defined by 8 U.S.C. § 1324a. They must show proof of one of the following:

- Citizenship
- Noncitizen national status
- Lawful permanent residency
- Authorization to work

County child welfare agencies are typically unable to provide legal sponsorship to international students. This limits international students’ ability to fulfill a work requirement for longer than one year. In addition, this hinders the goal of the CCWSC to retain social workers in Colorado county-based child welfare positions, as they would not be able to be retained long-term.

An exception to this policy may be made if an international student has identified a Colorado-based visa sponsorship at a county department of social/human service that fulfills the CCWSC scholarship requirements.

For questions regarding this policy, please contact: childwelfarescholars@msudenver.edu