



2021 Youth and Family Opportunity Bursary Guidelines

MARCH 2021

OUR SHARED
VISION

Safe and
thriving
children and
youth

Empowered
families

Stronger
communities

Who can apply for a bursary?

The Catholic Children's Aid Society (CCAS) of Hamilton, through the generosity of our dedicated donors, is able to offer a number of bursaries to support and enhance the life outcomes of individuals served by the agency. This includes:

- Current and former wards
- Kin families
- Children and parents receiving services from the agency
- Children in families that foster children through CCAS (to a maximum of one bursary).

Bursary awards are considered to support any activities that are seen to be life-enhancing, such as:

- ongoing education and skills training
- employment outcomes and possibilities (specialized equipment purchase, computer and electronic purchase, ongoing training).

If you are thinking about taking on a new, life-enhancing activity and would like to check its eligibility for bursary funding, please contact Amanda Deschenes at 905-525-2012 ext. 3052 or amanda.deschenes@hamiltonccas.on.ca

When are bursaries available, and how much are they?

Bursaries are awarded once per year. The **2021 application deadline is Monday, April 26 at 4:30 pm**. Funding decisions are made and communicated to applicants in May. Bursaries are awarded at our Annual General Meeting, which is on Monday, June 21, 2021. **Bursaries vary in amounts.**

How do I apply for a bursary?

The bursary application can be found on the [CCAS website](#) under the *Services and impact / Bursaries and scholarships* menu heading. You should review it well in advance of the application deadline. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Amanda Deschenes at 905-525-2012 ext. 3052. You can also speak to your worker for guidance. It is a good idea to let your worker know if you are applying for a bursary, as your worker will be contacted during the review phase for additional information.

Applications must be submitted to CCAS by Monday, April 26 at 4:30 pm via the CCAS website. **Late applications will not be considered.** All questions must be answered and incomplete applications may not be considered.



How are applications reviewed?

Applications are reviewed by a team of CCAS of Hamilton staff who bring a range of perspectives to the review process. Your worker will not be on the Review Team, but the team will consult with your worker to gain a more complete picture of your application

The Review Team will consider and compare the following aspects of each application when making its funding decisions:

- eligibility of the application and the proposed life-enhancing activity
- completeness of the application
- demonstrated ability to set and meet goals
- financial need.

When will I find out if my application is successful?

All funding decisions are communicated to applicants and their workers in May.

If my application is successful, what then?

It is a mandatory requirement that all successful applicants attend the agency's Annual General Meeting on Monday, June 21, 2021 to be recognized as a bursary recipient and to say a few words of thanks to the audience of approximately 100 guests, including donors. Your family and close friends are welcome to attend. You can ask your worker for assistance in preparing your brief comments.

Please note, disbursement of funds will be directed toward tuition at your selected post-secondary institution, or distributed as a reimbursement for supplies (ie, books, laptop) with proof of purchase. You can discuss the disbursement of funds further with your worker.

Can I apply again for another bursary the following year?

Yes, you can apply for another bursary to support multi-year activities, or to support a new life-enhancing activity. The next application deadline will be in the spring of 2022.

What if my plans change and I don't pursue the activity that I received a bursary for?

If your plans change, you must contact Amanda Deschenes at 905-525-2012 ext. 3052 to let her know about the change.

If I have questions, who should I contact?

You can contact Amanda Deschenes at 905-525-2012 ext. 3052 or amanda.deschenes@hamiltonccas.on.ca

