# Find Your Future
# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. What are the qualifications for this program?**

Each participant must be enrolled in one of the following DCFS programs and meet the following GPA requirements:

1. Youth in College
2. Youth in Scholarship
3. Independent Living, Transitional Living Program, or Foster Care
4. Self-selected placement

Each participant must also meet the following educational requirements:

1. A GPA of 2.0 or greater through the spring semester. Accepted students are required to provide fall and spring semester unofficial transcripts.
2. Each participant must be enrolled in a 2 or 4 year college or vocational program during and after the application process.

**Q. Am I eligible for Find Your Future if I graduate college in May 2027?**

Possibly. All participating students MUST be enrolled in school post Find Your Future internship. You may be granted an exception if you are scheduled to graduate and will be attending graduate school in the fall. Students graduating in December 2027 are eligible to apply.

**Q. What if I am a freshman and I don't have transcripts to send with my application package?**

Submit all other Find Your Future application requirements and a brief cover letter explaining that because you are freshman you do not at present have college transcripts.

Student's final acceptance will be contingent upon the receipt of their transcripts and meeting all other Find Your Future requirements.

**Q. What type of transcripts do I need to submit official or unofficial?**

Unofficial transcripts must be submitted at time of application to Find Your Future. However, students may be required to submit official transcripts to the internship placement interview.

**Q. When does the program start and finish?**

The Program begins on Tuesday, May 25, 2027 with four days of mandatory workshops. Workshops will be held virtually, with a possible hybrid format. Students will then report to their internships in the following weeks. Students are then eligible to work up to 375 hours throughout the summer.

When accepting this internship each intern is required to sign an agreement outlining obligations and responsibilities.

**Q. Where are internships located?**

Internships are based on the geographical location of the student. Find Your Future has established partnerships across the state and country, but the Find Your Future (FYF) Coordinator continually seeks new partnerships.

**Q. How is my internship chosen?**

Internships are determined by college concentration, interviews, and location in relation to student's summer housing.

If students secure an internship on their own prior to or after acceptance, Find Your Future can collaborate with the employer, regardless of whether it is a paid or unpaid internship.

**Q. What if I want to take summer classes or have additional employment?**

The Find Your Future Program is a rigorous internship program that can include 25-40 hours per week at the assigned internship provider. It is highly recommended that the student prioritize the internship. However, if the student needs to attend summer classes, it must be communicated to the FYF Coordinator and a summer schedule must be provided prior to enrollment. In

addition, if you intend to have additional employment during the summer, it also must be communicated to the FYF Coordinator to eliminate scheduling conflicts.

**Q. Am I required to take summer classes to maintain my Youth in College/Scholarship stipend?**
No. Enrollment in Find Your Future meets the Youth in College/Scholarship academic requirements to maintain a student's monthly stipend. If accepted into the program, you will be able to collect the stipend in addition to your FYF paycheck.

**Q. Am I an employee of Kaleidoscope?**
No, interns are not employees of Kaleidoscope. Participating students are considered independent contractors; therefore, all students are required to pay the income tax on earned stipends.

**Q. As an intern do I have any benefits?**
No. As an intern of the Find Your Future Program you do not earn vacation, sick, holiday, or personal time. For any time taken off, students must have supervisory and FYF Coordinator approval and will not receive pay for hours not performed.

**Q. How is my stipend calculated?**
Interns earn a stipend of the hourly rate of $18.00. Youth can earn up to $6,750 for the normal schedule of 37.5 hours per week for ten weeks. Under no circumstances can an intern perform more than 40 hours each week.

**Q. When do we receive our stipends? Can stipends be directly deposited?**
Interns receive stipends bi-weekly. Yes, stipends can be direct deposited.

**Q. How many workshops are there?**
There are (8) mandatory workshops which are: Orientation, Office Etiquette, Resume Writing, Interviewing, Networking and Business Dinner Etiquette, Financial Literacy, Team Building Activity, and Professional Social Media. Additional workshops, retreats, or luncheons may be added.

**Q. Why are all workshops mandatory?**
Attendance is **required** for each workshop and activity. Your acceptance into the FYF Program requires you to participate in the workshops. The workshop curriculum is part of the Find Your Future professional learning experience; therefore, they are all mandatory and students must make arrangements with work, school, and travel.

**Q. Is transportation or clothing assistance provided?**
Students receive a one-time transportation stipend to assist with gas, bus fare, etc. and a one-time professional development stipend to assist with clothing, office supplies, etc.

**Q. Is housing provided?**
Housing is not provided, as internships are found based on each student's summer geographic location. If this location is outside of Illinois, Find Your Future can accommodate out of state placements.

**Q. Will this internship lead to permanent employment?**
Possibly. Several students have been offered employment, but this is determined by employer needs, student's performance, and student availability.

**Q. Can I receive academic credit for my internship?**
Yes, as long as your University/College is aware you are being compensated for hours worked. This must be communicated with the FYF Coordinator.

**Q. What happens if I can't find a summer internship?**
This can happen from time to time, as certain internship opportunities aren't available within a student's summer location or the student doesn't have the required experience for a position. If an internship isn't secured, students are offered the opportunity to transfer their internship to the following summer or upcoming fall semester.