

## The Future Begins Today LAST DOLLAR GRANT APPLICATION CRITERIA

The Future Begins Today will offer *Last Dollar Grants* (renewable) of up to \$2,500 to selected high school graduates who demonstrate unmet financial need for post-secondary education.

### Criteria are subject to change in subsequent application years:

1. Students living in Troy, Ohio, who are graduates of high schools within the Troy School District are eligible to apply. An applicant may participate in the program for a maximum of four years. Students are eligible to apply up to five years after high school graduation.
2. Students shall be considered for a **Last Dollar Grant** only after they have demonstrated that they have applied for all other sources of financial aid and they demonstrate unmet financial aid need (see Application Checklist below).
3. Students must meet the minimum Grade Point Average requirement of 2.0 at all times.
4. To be eligible for grants, students must be attending full-time accredited or qualified post-secondary school (as defined by the Department of Pupil Services), and high schools within the Troy district, as described by Section 170 (B)(I) (A)(II) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
5. **Last Dollar Grants will be paid directly to the post-secondary institution at the beginning of each term.**
6. Students shall submit to The Future Begins Today their grade reports at the end of each term before remaining **Last Dollar Grants** money will be issued to the institution. Submit to [nrohlf@thefuturebeginstoday.org](mailto:nrohlf@thefuturebeginstoday.org).
7. Recipients of **Last Dollar Grants** must volunteer 15 hours of community service in (or for) Troy, Ohio each grant year. A community service form can be found at [www.thefuturebeginstoday.org](http://www.thefuturebeginstoday.org).
8. Recipients of **Last Dollar Grants** for any term or year do not guarantee receipt of grants in any additional year or term.
9. Upon further review by the Board of Trustees, students who fail to complete a term in which they received grants shall pay back such grants to The Future Begins Today.
10. Grants will be awarded for undergraduate education only. **Students who have participated in The Future Begins Today school program will be given first consideration.**

## Application Process

1. Applicant must have completed financial aid from federal (FAFSA) (and state and college/school sources) before that institution's priority deadline or June 1, whichever comes first.
2. Applicant must have a cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.0 at the beginning of the senior year of high school. Applicant may appeal based on special circumstances.
3. **Renewing applicants must have completed 15 hours community service in Troy for their most recent Last Dollar Grant and submitted their forms to TFBT.**
4. Applicant must return all requested documents in one packet to The Future Begins Today.  
**Mail:** P.O. Box 511, Troy, OH 45373, postmarked by June 30.  
**Fax:** (937) 335.7757  
**Hand Deliver:** 305 W. Staunton, Troy, OH (*black dropbox attached to the back of the house, next door to THS*)
5. Applications that are incomplete on June 30 will not be considered for funding for any part of the school year.

## Your Application Check List

- Financial Aid Certification Form (page 4) completed by the Financial Aid Office at your institution.
- Copy of your Financial Aid Award Letter from the institution that you will attend.
- A recent photograph for promotional purposes if we do not already have one on file. (name on back)
- Completed application pages 2 – 4, including a separate page for your Essay Answers.

### **RENEWING APPLICANT** (*in addition to the items above*)

- Copy of most recent college grade report, if we do not already have it on file.
- Community Service forms submitted to TFBT for total of 15 hours for the past academic award year.



## Essay Questions

Please type your essay answers on a separate page with the associated number and attach to this application.

1. **What are your academic goals? What are your job/career goals?**
2. **How will a Last Dollar Grant from The Future Begins Today help you achieve your goals?**  
(If you have received this Last Dollar Grant before, describe how it has helped you! This may be shared with our generous donors.)
3. **During the last three years, what extracurricular, leadership or community service activities have you been involved with, such as community organizations, athletics, arts or service organizations? How were you involved?**
4. **If you receive a Last Dollar Grant, you are expected to complete a minimum of 15 hours of community service in Troy during the academic year separate from other service requirements you might have. What Troy organization(s) are you interested in volunteering for and why?**
5. **Are there any special circumstances that you feel The Future Begins Today should know in consideration of providing you a Last Dollar Grant?** (Examples of what other candidates have shared include personal challenges you've overcome, memories and involvement as a TFBT (Leadership) Club student, aspirations, goals already achieved, family or personal financial situations, etc.)

## Agreement

The undersigned agrees that The Future Begins Today (TFBT) may use, transmit or receive information from this application and from the undersigned's FAFSA, PROFILE and PELL GRANT reports, as well as from the undersigned's college award letter when used for admission, determining aid eligibility or referral, and may also request the undersigned's high school and college Grade Point Average and/or transcript. The guidelines for **Last Dollar Grants** from TFBT are also available in your school's Guidance Office (Troy H.S., Troy UVCC, Troy Christian H.S.). Initial grants are offered only to persons who have graduated from a high school in Troy, Ohio, on or after the year 2000 for a period of five years after graduation. Grants are offered for a maximum of four years. The maximum amount of each year's **Last Dollar Grant** is in most cases the lesser of \$2,500 or the student's unmet need for financial aid as determined by the student's post-secondary school in its analysis of the student's most recent FAFSA form. TFBT does not discriminate in awarding **Last Dollar Grants** on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, employment, handicap, marital status, sexual orientation, or age.

The undersigned gives permission for this completed application to be shared with any other organization(s) that grants scholarships for which the undersigned may qualify. **By signing this application, the applicant hereby acknowledges receipt of the guidelines and agrees to abide by them.**

If I'm selected to receive the **Last Dollar Grant**, I agree to:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Complete/submit minimum of 15 community service hours in Troy during the award year. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Give my permission to use my picture for promotional purposes.                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Write a "thank you" to donors who make this <b>Last Dollar Grant</b> possible.       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Meet the requirements in the Application Criteria on page 1.                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Applicant's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

To be considered for a **Last Dollar Grant**, all application criteria from page 1 should be met and included **in its entirety by June 30**. Return to:

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*Black mailbox attached to the back of the house, next to THS*

