



SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST APPLICATION

Special Note: It is a necessity for Fresh Start to validate every financial request; in this regard Fresh Start will ask for documentation. Often it may be no more than pay statement or insurance certification, however, additional documentation may be requested for financial support. Approval of financial support will depend on the timeliness and completeness of fulfilling the request for documentation.

DATE OF APPLICATION: _____

FULL NAME OF APPLICANT: _____

START DATE INTO FRESH START PROGRAM: _____

MY CURRENT AND/OR PAST SITUATION: (Circle all that apply)

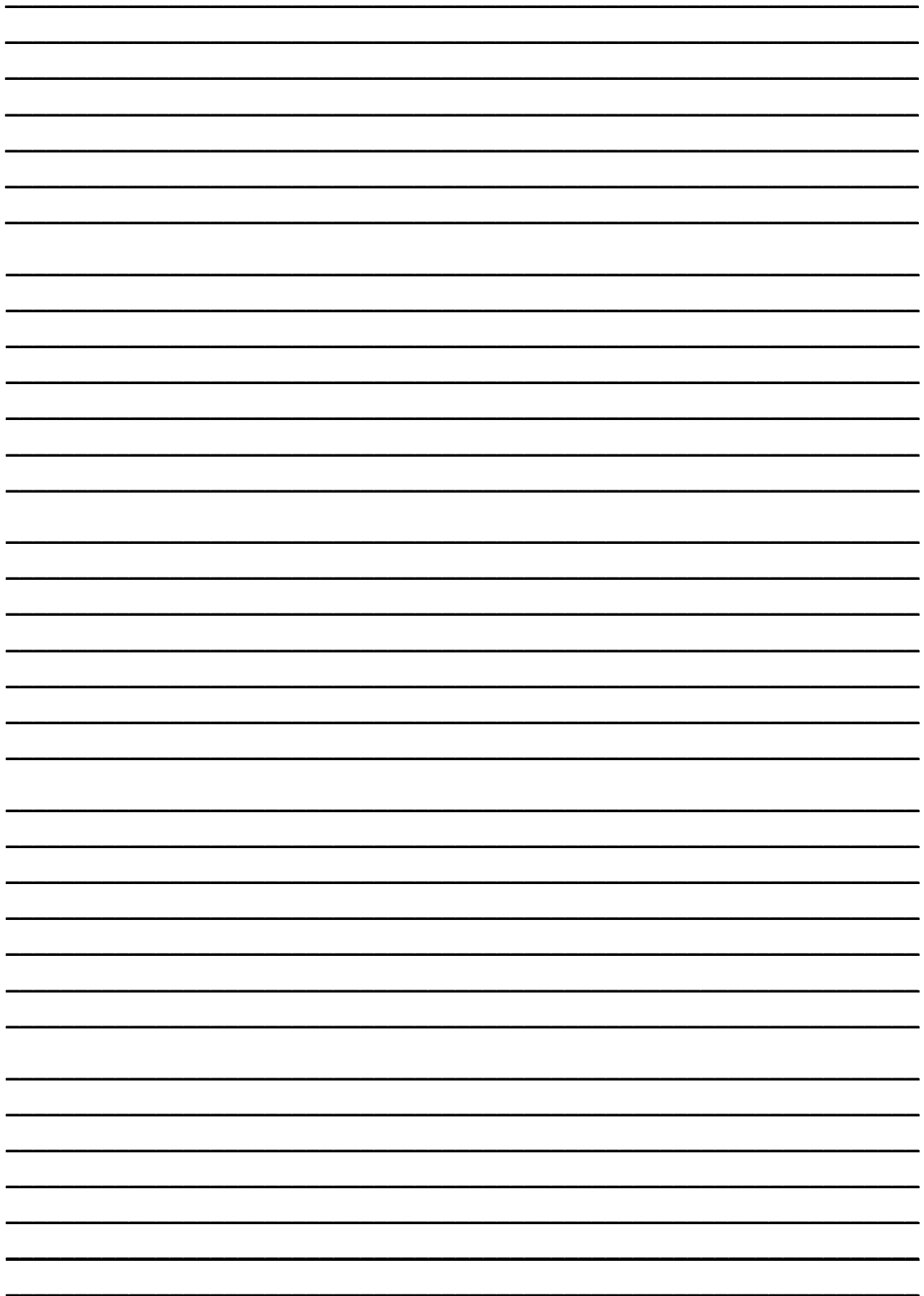
- Drug Court
- PTI
- Probation
 - Probation officer Name/Office: _____
 - Expected Release Date: _____

I REQUEST FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR: (check those applicable to your needs)

- Education
 - Housing
 - Driver's License Assistance
 - Other Financial Needs
- _____

PLEASE EXPLAIN ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE:

- HOW YOU GOT INTO THIS NEED?
 - WHAT HAVE YOU ALREADY DONE TO TRY TO TREAT THIS PROBLEM?
 - HOW WOULD THE SUPPORT BE USED?
 - YOUR MENTOR SUPPORTS THIS REQUEST BECAUSE?
- _____
- _____



REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL REQUESTS WILL INCLUDE:

- Complete at least the first five sessions of Fresh Start’s “Managing Finances.”
- Provide Budget (Include documentation for both income and expenses listed, i.e., paystubs, invoices, letters...etc.) (see unit 5 in Managing Finances for budget/spending plan).
- Complete 1 of 6 Court Challenges (see attached challenge specifics):
 - Art Challenge
 - Fitness Challenge
 - Haircut Challenge
 - No Smoking Challenge
 - Reading Challenge
 - Judge’s Pick Challenge

EDUCATIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT REQUESTED:

- **REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL GED SUPPORT:**
 - Currently enrolled in or have completed Fresh Start Mentoring Program and Pinellas Drug Court requirements.
 - Provide documentation showing that all entry requirements for enrollment in an adult education center leading to a High School GED.
 - Include a letter of support from their Fresh Start mentor.
 - Submit a letter to the Fresh Start Scholarship Program Committee detailing their motivation and desired outcome of a High School GED course completion and a letter indicating which courses are required for GED completion.
 - Will, upon completion of each GED course submit to the Fresh Start Scholarship Program Committee the appropriate documents indicating successful completion of that course or semester.

Name of Adult Education Center:

Note: Clearview Adult Education Center, 3815 43rd St. St. Petersburg that provides day and evening courses with several semesters each year.

• **REQUIREMENTS FOR COLLEGE FUNDING SUPPORT:**

- Currently enrolled in or have completed Fresh Start Mentoring Program and Pinellas Drug Court requirements.
- Provide documentation showing all the entry requirements for enrollment or re-enrollment in an accredited college or university.
- Provide documentation showing sufficient credits to be within one year of completion.
- Provide a letter indicating which course of study, the courses and the number of credits required for college or university completion.
- Include a letter of support from their Fresh Start mentor.
- Submit a letter to the Fresh Start Scholarship Program Committee detailing the motivation and desired outcome of a college/university completion.
- Will, upon completion of each course or semester submit to the Fresh Start Scholarship Program Committee the appropriate document indicating successful completion of that course or semester.

Name of College:

• **REQUIREMENTS FOR TRADE SCHOOL FUNDING SUPPORT:** (Electric, Irrigation, Heat and Gas, Air-Conditioning, Other _____)

- Currently enrolled in or have completed Fresh Start Mentoring Program and Pinellas Drug Court requirements.
- Provide documentation showing all the entry requirements for enrollment or re-enrollment in the trade school program.
- Include a letter of support from their Fresh Start mentor.
- Submit a letter to the Fresh Start Scholarship Program Committee detailing the motivation and desired outcome of obtaining a trade.
- Will, upon completion of each course or semester submit to the Fresh Start Scholarship Program Committee the appropriate document indicating successful completion of that course or semester.

Name of Trade or Technical School:

DRIVER'S LICENSE & OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT REQUESTED:

- ***REQUIREMENTS FOR DRIVER'S LICENSE SUPPORT:***

- Currently enrolled in or have completed Fresh Start Mentoring Program and Pinellas Drug Court requirements.
- Provide document indicating requirements for issuance of a Florida State driving license.
- Include a letter of support from their Fresh Start mentor.
- Submit a letter to the Fresh Start Scholarship Program Committee.
 - Detailing the motivation and desired outcome of a Florida State driving license.
 - Documentation from the insurance company indicating the annual car insurance premium.
 - Documentation of paid car insurance indicating at least 3 months of car insurance premiums have been paid.

- ***REQUIREMENTS FOR OTHER SUPPORT:***

- Have completed all elements and requirements as imposed or required by the Pinellas County Drug Court and/or Fresh Start Mentoring Program.
- Submit:
 - A copy of the driver's license, car registration and proof of insurance.
 - A letter from current employer attesting to employment.
 - A letter from their mentor attesting to the progress of the mentee.
 - Documentation to support the amounts required for rental deposits, security deposits, or other required initial costs.

MY COMMITMENT

By accepting the funds contributed by Fresh Start Mentoring Scholarship Program, I _____ will commit to the following:

- Respect myself and others by remaining drug and alcohol free.
- Continue to pay all fines, fees and reimbursements as ordered by the court.
- Take responsibility for any actions that have been a result of my current and existing situation.
- Consider sharing my goals, achievements and failures with others who may gain from my life's story.

Signed:

(FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Date Considered: _____

Review Committee Members In Attendance:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

APPROVED: _____

DISAPPROVED: _____

COMMENTS:

Drug Court Challenges:

Art Challenge



If you'd like to get creative, bring any artwork (painting, drawing, sculptures, etc.) you've completed to court for the opportunity to be considered for early termination and receive credit!

Fitness Challenge



If you participate/volunteer for a 5k race, bring your race bib or documentation for volunteering to court. You can also bring any personal fitness logs, such as a gym membership log or fitness journal. You'll receive credit and be given the opportunity to be considered for early termination!

Hair Cut Challenge



Got long hair or a long beard? You can cut your hair and may donate your hair to charity if eligible. You'll receive credit towards your court costs!

No Smoking Challenge



Participation in the no smoking/vaping challenge will waive cost of supervision for every month that you're smoke free! That's \$52 a month!

Reading Challenge



Choose a book of your choice to read. Write at least a page of what it's about and what you thought of it! Further instructions can be found on the gold reading challenge handout.

Judge's Pick Challenge



Judge Todd picks a challenge of her choosing not listed above! You'll be given credit towards your court costs!

Fresh Start Mentoring

Guide to

MANAGING FINANCES

**Units 1 – 5
Scholarship Application Requirements**

You may request Units 6 – 12 from your mentor.

MANAGING FINANCES - Introduction

The following 12 units are designed for one-on-one mentoring; however, classes of students could also be taught these principles of finance. This study is very important for our clients for two reasons. First, financial education is mostly not taught in public schools so that the general population is quite ignorant of this important part of life. Second, if a person has recently escaped from a life of crime or drug use, he could easily slip back into the old life if the finances in the new life fall apart. We want Fresh Start Mentoring to help people rebuild and protect their life far into the futures, not just a few months while on probation.

Financial knowledge is important but let us stress that the emphasis in this program is in the doing, not in parroting back an important concept. Mentors, each unit has a part of doing. Make sure your client comes back the following week with completed assignments. The most tedious part of all might be in the building of a spending plan, a budget. Once done, however, the plan can be quickly tweaked each week as a new concept arises. Therefore, clients must (must!) complete assignments (showing you, not just telling you). A spending plan locks in the lessons learned; no spending plan means a lot of time has been wasted.

Four of us facilitated a two-month course on finances for seven clients going through Drug Court. We felt a program set up for one-on-one mentoring increased the likelihood that all clients could be reached—such is the importance of this topic. Should there be a question about any part of this package, send an email to freshstartreferral@gmail.com. Clients need to know that money isn't the single most important thing in their lives, but it can make or break a life. An ex-offender who recovered strongly, told me he began to turn his life around when he accepted this truth: life is a pain. But you get to choose which pain: do you want the pain of discipline or the pain of disappointment. Finances need discipline.

MANAGING FINANCES – UNIT 1

Connecting Money and Relationships

1. How has money affected your relationships with friends? Family?

2. Describe the top two things you value most in your life. Be specific please.

3. One reason that money hurts our relationships is because we are not honest with ourselves about the way we spend money. Where is your money going? Write down eight specific purchases that you have made in the last 10 days. Include each item and total cost.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1) _____ | 5) _____ |
| 2) _____ | 6) _____ |
| 3) _____ | 7) _____ |
| 4) _____ | 8) _____ |

4. Compare what you've recorded to the list of what you value above. Does the way you are currently spending your money reflect your top priorities? Explain why or why not.

MANAGING FINANCES – UNIT 2

Exploring Values and Attitudes

1. Read the statements below and put a check next to the ones you agree with. Cross out those you don't believe are true.

- Having a lot of money is a sign of blessing.
- I will get more respect and have better friends if I have money.
- Money can make me secure and happy.

2. Assets are things we have that have value. Assets can be physical (house, car, land, furniture) financial (cash, savings, retirement) and human (education, training, abilities and even relationships). List your physical, financial, and human assets.
-
-

3. Building assets allows us to:

- provide for the basic needs of our family
- help others in case of an emergency
- generate more income
- cope with an illness or pay for health care
- pass value down to our children
- borrow money to buy a home

4. To build assets you must plan to save. To save, you must track every cent you spend. Look at your spending from last week and identify one item you can reduce or cut out. Can you reduce your spending by \$10-20? Write down what item you will try to cut out or reduce this next week.
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MANAGING FINANCES – UNIT 3

Overcoming Financial Challenges

1. What are your financial needs?

2. What are your financial wants?

3. List 3 purchases you made this week. Label them as a want or a need. Suggest an alternative you could have chosen that would have been cheaper or saved you money. (Ex. Shoes: \$50 – want – could shop for sales, buy cheaper brand)

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4. We all face internal and external obstacles that keep us from using our money wisely. These obstacles may be prior arrests, convictions, illness, low self-esteem, past trauma, lack of transportation, rising housing costs, childcare costs, impulsive spending, etc. Some things we can control, others we cannot. What are some of your obstacles to good financial management?

MANAGING FINANCES – UNIT 4

Setting Savings Goals

1. In terms of savings goals, it's best to set a long-term savings goal first, these are usually 1-5 years away. Where do you want to be in five years?

What are some possible long-term goals you'd like to set?

2. Short-term goals are things you want to accomplish in the next six months to one year. Usually, short-term goals are steps toward reaching long-term goals. What are some ideas for short-term goals?

Savings goals should be **SMART**:

Specific – a precise goal to reach

Measurable – set an amount to save per week

Accountable – ask people to check on you weekly

LONG TERM GOAL (1-5 years)	Total Cost	Timeframe (years and months)	Monthly Cost	Short-term plan to meet the goal
Want to save money to help my 14-year old with college	\$3,000	4 years (48 months)	\$62.50	I will completely pay off a credit card debt so I can start saving
SHORT-TERM GOAL (6 mo-1 year)	Total Cost	Timeframe (months and weeks)	Amount to save weekly	Plan to meet this goal
Need to pay off a credit card	\$630	9 months (36 weeks)	\$17.50	I will cut down to 2 coffees “out” per week, making the rest of my coffee at home; and I will pack a lunch 4 days a week

- Since there are about 4 weeks in a month, multiply the amount to save weekly (from short-term chart) by 4. This is how much you should be able to save each month.

Weekly savings of \$_____ x 4 weeks = \$_____ Monthly savings

The weekly amount needs to be added to the “Expenses” in your tracking this week. Remember to include all expenses and income as you track on the following page. Save receipts to have an accurate record.

Week 4 Daily Tracking Income & Expense

My Daily Income		
Date	Description	Amount

My Daily Expenses		
Date	Description	Amount

MANAGING FINANCES – UNIT 5

Creating a Spending Plan

1. A monthly spending plan is a basic budget for how we use our money each month. Although it may seem limiting, a spending plan really gives you freedom. When we put everything into a plan, we know our limits and can use money without guilt. To create a monthly spending plan, add up all your income from the expense sheets you've been keeping, and then add up all your expenses. Afterwards, subtract your total expenses from your total income to see how much you have leftover to save.

Your total income: \$ _____ Your total expenses: \$ _____

Income _____ - Expenses _____ = \$ _____

2. Think back to the values you listed on the first week. Does the way you spend your money show that these are the things you actually care most about? Look over your weekly spending sheets to see where your money has been going before you answer.

If not, what changes could you make in your spending to be more in line with what you value?

3. Using what you've learned from your weekly expense reporting, you will now create your own Monthly Spending Plan. For income think about: employment, government assistance, child support, family, social security, disability, food stamps, etc. And for expenses consider: rent, electricity, gas, water/sewer, cell phone, laundry, cable tv/streaming services, groceries, snacks, cigarettes, pet costs, childcare, eating out, credit cards, insurance, clothing, school expenses, etc.
4. I commit to spending at least _____ minutes at home this week creating/examining my Monthly Spending Plan.

