

The SEE THE FUTURE 'Tools for Life' Program

P.O. Box 63022

Colorado Springs, CO 80962-3022

You may email applications or questions to: twtheune@comcast.net

- **Application Deadline: April 15, 2024**
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The SEE THE FUTURE Fund is pleased to award scholarships to qualified visually impaired and blind students who are Colorado residents. This scholarship fund is made possible through generous donations by ophthalmologists, optometrists, opticians, staff, corporations, educators, foundations and many others with an interest in the lives of the visually impaired and blind. All scholarships are awarded based on individual need.

AMOUNT:

Scholarships will be awarded in the form of adaptive technology which is medically necessary due to a student's visual impairment or blindness. Technology will be purchased by the SEE THE FUTURE Fund and delivered to the recipient. Requests can be made for adaptive technology for no less than \$250 and no more than \$5,000.

Who is Eligible?

Any Colorado resident * who submits a completed application prior to the above deadline, and meets the following criteria:

* For STF purposes, a Colorado resident is one who has lived in Colorado as a dependant at least one year prior to deadline stated above or has held a valid Colorado ID for at least one full year prior to the deadline.

1. Educational Criteria:

Student must be at least entering a Pre-K program of school and must NOT be holding a high school diploma (Pre-K – Transition). Student must also be working with a certified teacher of the visually impaired (TVI).

2. Vision Loss Criteria:

20/70 or less, central vision, best corrected, in better eye,
and/or

20 degree peripheral field or less in better eye
or

20/40 or less, best corrected, in better eye, and associated field loss with a prognosis of further vision loss secondary to underlying disease process.

Entitlement vs. Need:

“Tools for Life” is a “Need Based” program and not an “Entitlement Based” program. Being visually impaired or blind does not entitle the student to receive assistance in purchasing tools. Qualifying financial brackets (see below) determine the amount which the SEE THE FUTURE Fund will assist in the purchase of technology. All families will be required to pay at least a portion of the purchase price.

Financial Brackets (Please note that “total family Adjusted Gross Income” refers to Line 7 on IRS Form 1040:

1. **\$30,000 or below total family Adjusted Gross Income:** Program will pay 95% of purchase price of authorized equipment. Family pays 1%.
2. **\$30,000 - \$50,000 total family Adjusted Gross Income:** Program will pay 90% of purchase price of authorized equipment. Family pays 5%.
3. **\$50,000 - \$70,000 of total family Adjusted Gross Income:** Program will pay 67% of purchase price of authorized equipment. Family pays 10%.
4. **\$70,000 - \$85,000 total family Adjusted Gross Income:** Program will pay 50% of purchase price of authorized equipment. Family pays 33%.
5. **\$85,000 - \$100,000 total family Adjusted Gross Income:** Program will pay 33% of purchase price of authorized equipment. Family pays 50%.
6. **\$100,000 & above total family Adjusted Gross Income:** Program will not provide assistance for equipment.



The SEE THE FUTURE Fund's "Tools for Life" selection committee will review all applications. Individual phone interviews may be arranged and will be determined on an individual basis.

Appropriate Sources for recommendation for the "Tools for Life" program:

Having a student evaluated by an appropriate professional is critical for the success of the technology for the student. A statement or report from at least **one** of the resources below needs to be included with the application:

Please note: Assessments by the professionals listed below need to have been performed within two calendar years of the date of application.

1. The **Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic** (Discuss with your child's Teacher of the Visual Impaired (TVI))
2. **Optometrist specializing in Low Vision care (email Dr. Theune twtheune@comcast.net for current list).**
3. **Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVI's).**
4. **Certified Sales Representatives in conjunction with the low vision optometrist or the TVI:** Most, if not all, technology is supported by a sales representative. This representative is able to demonstrate the latest technology to the student and the optometrist or TVI is then able to determine the functional outcome for the student.

Selection Process:

Applications will be reviewed by the "Tools for Life" Selection Committee and applicants will be informed of the committee's decision as soon as possible. Bi-annual or quarterly review of applications may be established depending on the number of applicants and the amount of money available. Students who are denied, due to lack of scholarship funds, will be kept on a "wait list" and re-evaluated when appropriate funding is available.

Payment, Ordering, Delivery, & Training:

The SEE THE FUTURE Fund will inform the applicant via mail or email if they will receive the requested adaptive technology. Payment by the family will need to be received by the SEE THE FUTURE Fund prior to ordering the device.

The SEE THE FUTURE will order the device and coordinate with the family and TVI the location of delivery. Sales representatives may be contacted to assist in dispensing & training of the adaptive device.

The SEE THE FUTURE Fund is not responsible for providing training with the adaptive technology. The SEE THE FUTURE Fund will be available to assist in locating professionals who may assist in the training process.

The recipient and his/her family will own the equipment. All warranties and repairs are the responsibility of the recipient and are not, in any way, the responsibility of the SEE THE FUTURE Fund.

To apply to the SEE THE FUTURE 'Tools for Life' Program please complete this application form (typewritten or printed legibly) and send, along with required attachments to:

The SEE THE FUTURE Fund
P.O. Box 63022
Colorado Springs, CO 80962-3022
You may also email applications to: twtheune@comcast.net

*** MUST BE POSTMARKED OR RECEIVED BY April 15, 2024**

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Home address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ School Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Address same as above? Y N

If No: Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent / Guardian Email Address: _____

Teacher of the Visually Impaired (Vision Teacher): _____

TVI Email Address: _____

Name of Technology Requested?: _____

Company / Manufacturer: _____

Estimated Cost of Technology: _____

Father's 2023 Adjusted Gross Income on IRS Form 1040: _____

Mother's 2023 Adjusted Gross Income on IRS Form 1040: _____

Legal Guardian(s) 2023 Adjusted Gross Income IRS Form 1040: _____

Student receives Medicaid? TriWest (ECHO): Y N

Student receives Foster Car Subsidies? Y N If yes: \$ _____ per year

Please include the following with your SEE THE FUTURE Fund’s ‘Tools for Life’ application:

- 1. Completed application form**
- 2. Letter written by student stating his/her need of acquiring the technology. No shorter than one paragraph and no longer than one type written page (for 3rd grade and above).**
- 3. Letter written by parent or guardian stating why their child is in need of this technology (one paragraph to one page maximum).**
- 4. Letter written by Teacher of the Visually Impaired) stating why the student is in need of this technology (one paragraph to one page maximum).**
- 5. Documentation by an appropriate source (see list below) that the equipment was assessed and beneficial for the student’s educational needs.**
- 6. Copy of your IRS 1040 Form (1st two pages) for the previous year (2023). Please include a 1040 for each parent or guardian who financially supports the student. Please note: Strict privacy will be maintained by the Selection Committee.**
- 7. Letter from an Eye Care Professional stating medical visual condition and includes a diagnosis, prognosis, and current visual acuity.**

Appropriate Sources for Recommendation of ‘Tools’ (A statement by at least one of the following needs to be included with application to satisfy #5 above):

Please note: Assessments by the professionals listed below need to have been performed within two calendar years of the date of application.

- 1. The Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic (Discuss with your child’s Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI))**
- 2. Optometrist specializing in Low Vision care (see list of providers below)**
- 3. Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVI’s).**
- 4. Certified Sales Representatives in conjunction with the low vision optometrist or the TVI: Most, if not all, technology is supported by a sales representative. This representative is able to demonstrate the latest technology to the student and the optometrist or TVI is then able to determine the functional outcome for the student.**

Complete application must be received or postmarked April 15, 2024

Applications will be reviewed by the “Tools for Life” Selection Committee and applicants will be informed of the committee’s decision by mail or email as soon as possible.

Receiving Family Contribution in a timely manner:

If the SEE THE FUTURE Fund does not receive the family contribution within 6 months of the notification date, the scholarship will be forfeited and the family will need to reapply unless the family has received an extension by the “Tools for Life” Selection Committee.