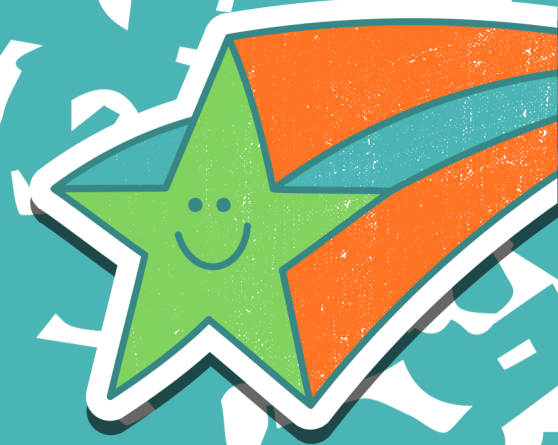




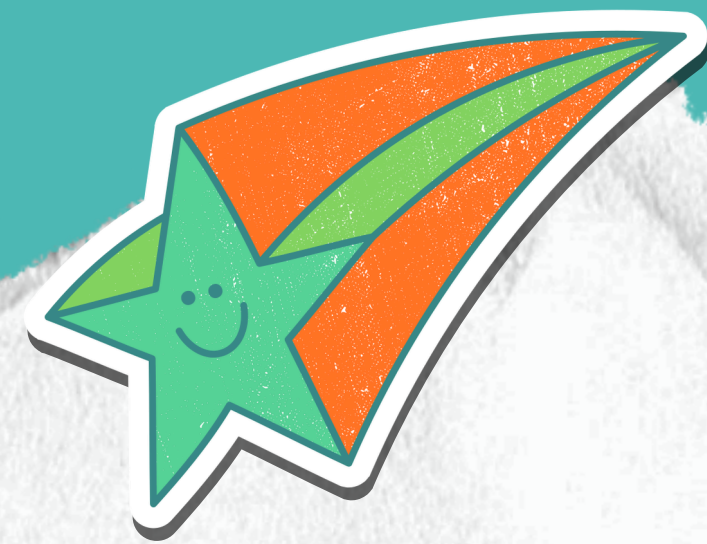
TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN

Application Guidelines

2026 - 2027

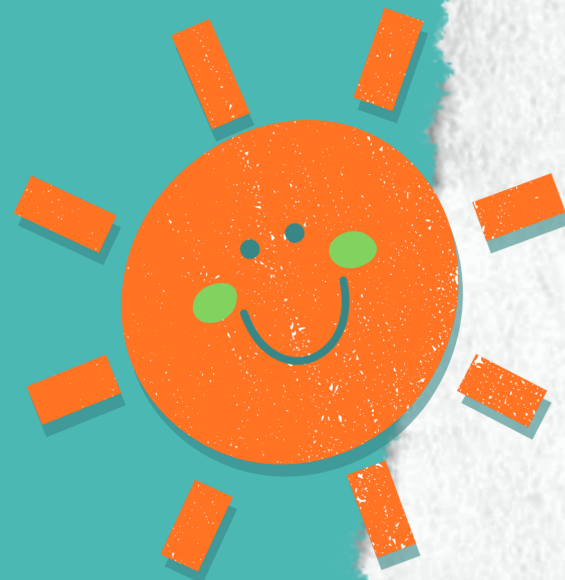


2026- 2027 TSIC Application Guidelines



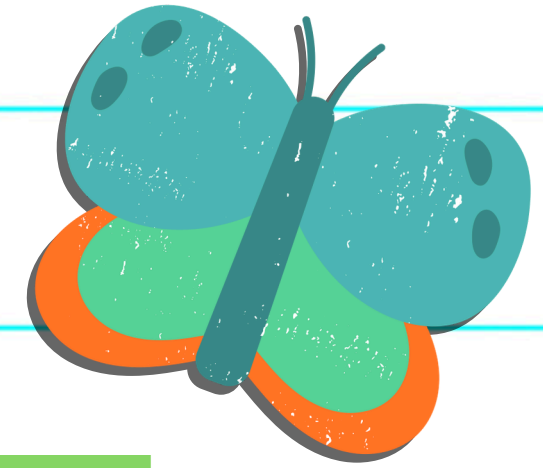
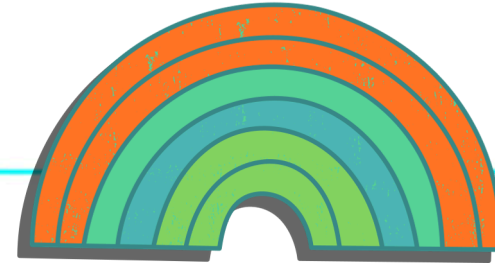
Happy 2026 - 2027 school year!

Welcome back! We are so excited to open our Annual Take Stock in Children Scholarship Application window and continue our service to the students of all Lee County Public Schools.



We are excited to kick off the application window and looking forward to seeing all of the qualified students of Lee County School District apply!

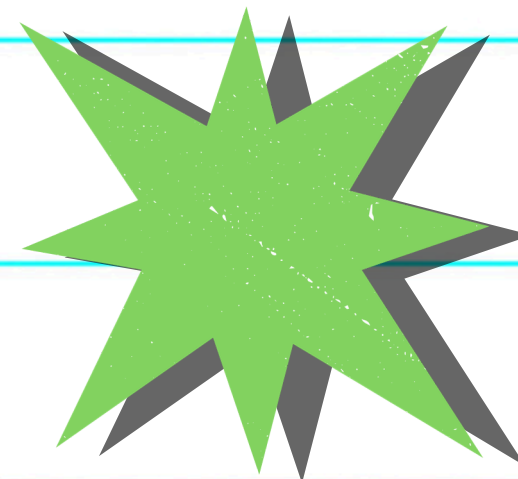
If you have any questions you can reach out to us anytime!



Take Stock in Children
is a state mandated
program. We get all of
the requirements
directly from FLDOE.

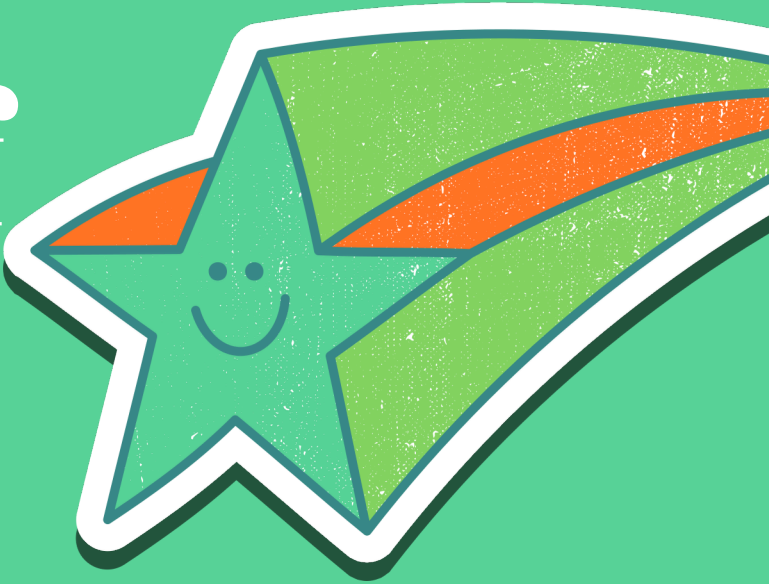


Take Stock in
Children®





Take Stock in Children Staff



Manuela Acheampong

STUDENT SERVICES
COORDINATOR

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Diana Alvarez

MENTOR COORDINATOR

diana@leeschoolfoundation.org

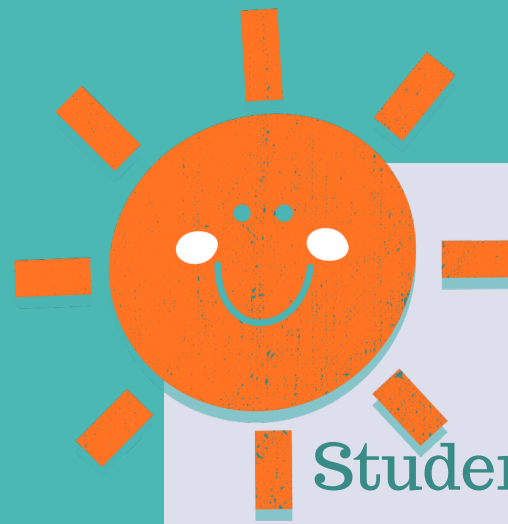


Chelsi Rivera-Mendez
Yohan Arana

COLLEGE READINESS
COACHES

chelsi@leeschoolfoundation.org
yohan@leeschollfoundation.org

Take Stock in Children Potential Scholars:

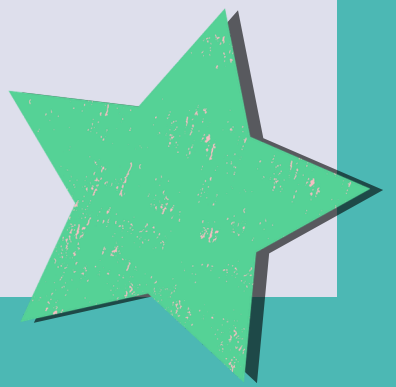
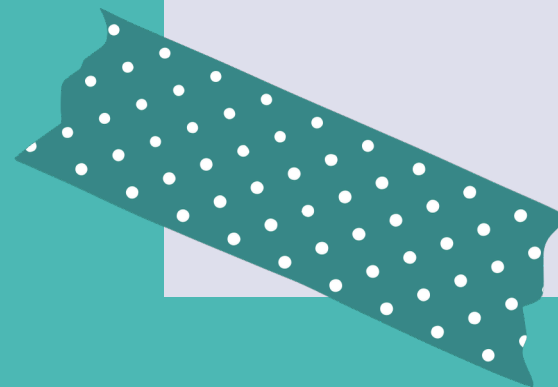


Students who hope to be accepted into the program must complete the online digital application at

<https://www.takestockinchildren.org/student-application/>

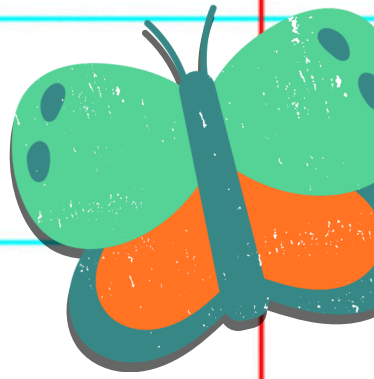
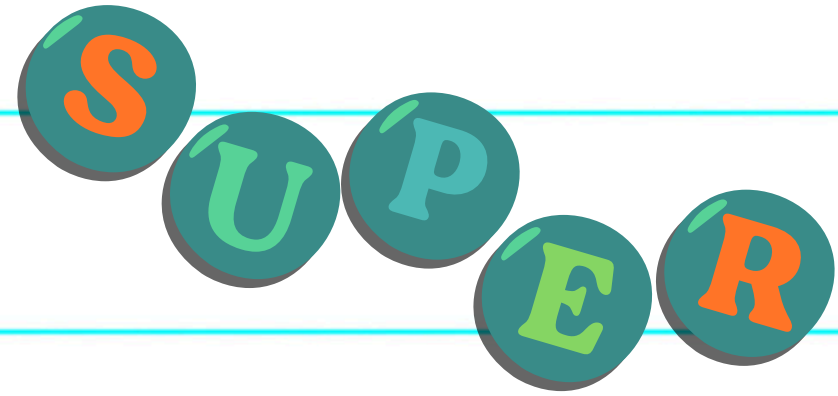
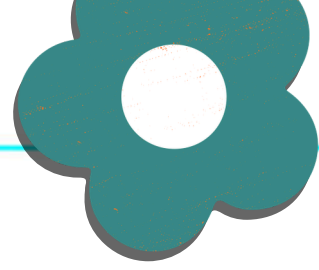
This includes ensuring that all required documentation is attached to the application when submitted. After completing the application all students who qualify and get selected will complete an interview and then be reviewed to be accepted* into the program. Once accepted, the students will have the ability to earn a 120 credit hour tuition scholarship.

*NOT ALL THAT APPLY AND INTERVIEW GET ACCEPTED



Who can help assist you?

School Counselors and Coordinators



School coordinators/counselors work with our staff to ensure all records are up to date; including behavior notices, discipline issues, grades, and attendance changes.



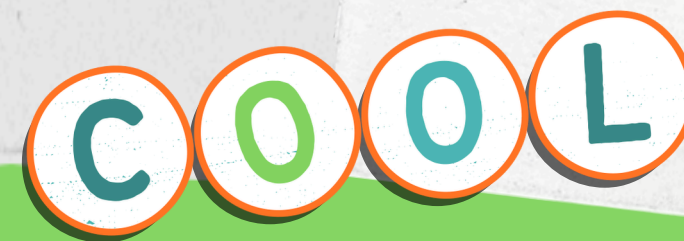
Organize and help the application process for your school. This means sharing the link and checking in with students who are applying to make sure they have all the required information.

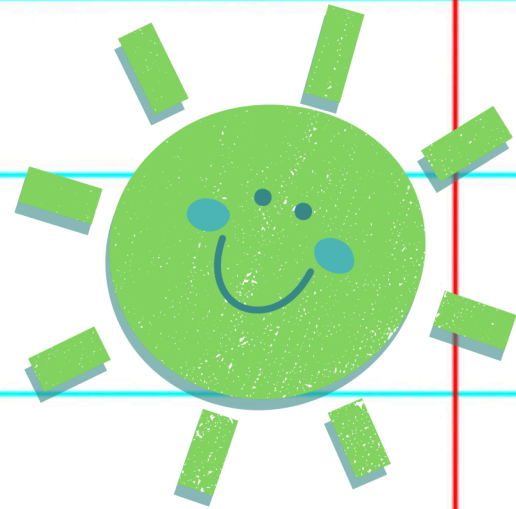
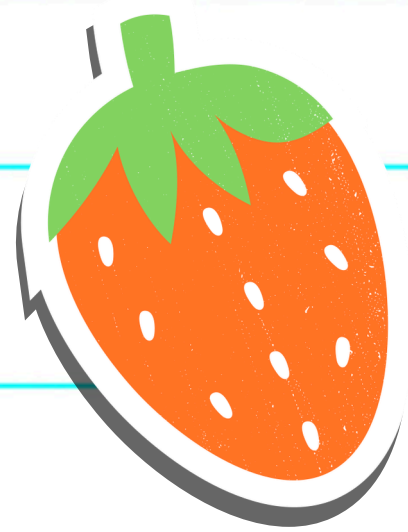
When can students apply?

Potential Take Stock scholars can apply in 6th grade and in 9th grade ONLY. Applications open on August 24, 2026 and ends on October 26, 2026.

If they apply and are not accepted in the 6th grade, they CAN re-apply in 9th grade.

Unfortunately, if they are not accepted in the 9th grade they will not have another opportunity to apply to the program.





How does the application process work?

1

Students must complete the digital application. The online application is hosted by the official Take Stock in Children of Florida website platform HOPEforce.

2

Once students complete the application, we process it to be sure they have all of the required information. If they are missing documentation, we will notify them, so they have an opportunity to turn all required documents in unless it is past the deadline. We then take the completed applications and submit them to a panel for blind scoring.

3

Students who score within the threshold will be invited to interview for one of the scholarships. We will schedule interviews once we get the rankings back. We make our final decision based on interview scores along with scores from the panel. All decisions are made by the entire team and will be a group decision.

2026-2027 Application Timeline



Applications Open

August 24, 2026

Applications Close

11:59 pm

October 26, 2026



What to Expect



Required Documents



In order for an application to be complete the students must submit ALL of the following WITH their application:

- 2 Letters of Recommendation from school staff, community personnel, or other non-family members.
- A copy of last year's (2025) Form 1040 Income Tax Return. The student MUST be listed as a dependent on this to verify financial eligibility.
- The FINAL report card from the 2025 - 2026 school year showing all absences, final grades and any behavior reports.
- All required documents must be uploaded directly into the application. There will be a section that says to upload specific items during specific parts of the application process.

Application Process



- Please remember you MUST be in 6th or 9th grade to apply. Also, remember this is for low income students, otherwise students won't qualify and we don't want to waste your time.
- Please contact us with any questions or concerns about an application's completeness or how to apply while the application window is open.

Application Help

Section A:

- This part is about YOU, the STUDENT. PLEASE make sure you list your student email, ends with students.leeschools.net
- PLEASE upload your 2025-2026 FINAL Report Card.

Section B:

- This section is about your parent(s)/guardian(s) and their information, Be sure to answer all parts of the questions about people living in the household and outside the house.

Section C:

- This part refers to your parent(s)/guardian(s) and their employment and the household income.

Section D:

- This part refers to the income eligibility guidelines. There is a slide with more information regarding what's allowed and not allowed for documentation.
- The biggest part is making sure the student is listed as a dependant on the Tax Form 2025.

Section E:

- When completing the essay portion, please be thorough and sell your story to us.
- This is a part that students struggle with the most, and we want to know as much as we can to know why YOU deserve this or are in need of the scholarship.

Section F:

- Please be honest and select all that apply on the eligibility factors.
- Many times, more factors come out during the interviews, but we would like to know all the factors when sending the application off for ranking.
- Parents, when writing your portion here, please sell your story to us, tell us thoroughly WHY your child deserves this.
- Be honest if there are other factors that we should know about.
- The more we know, the more we can help.

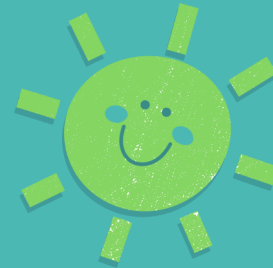
INCOME GUIDELINES



Household Size	Free/Reduced Lunch	HUD Eligibility
1	29,526	39,300
2	40,034	44,950
3	50,542	50,500
4	61,050	56,200
5	71,558	60,700
6	82,066	65,200
7	92,574	69,700
8	103,082	74,200
For each additional family member add:	10,508	4,500

FAQS

The whole county receives free lunch, what type of documentation is needed to verify income eligibility utilizing the Free/Reduced Lunch Standard?



What to do if the parents do not file taxes?
What documents can be used to verify a student's eligibility in this situation?

- Tax Return Form 1040 should be utilized to determine if a student applicant financially qualifies for the TSIC program.
- The student applicant must be claimed as a dependent on the tax return provided to verify income eligibility.
- The total number of dependents listed on the tax return provided should be used to verify income eligibility.
- The tax form 1040 should be from 2025.

Proof of Government Services

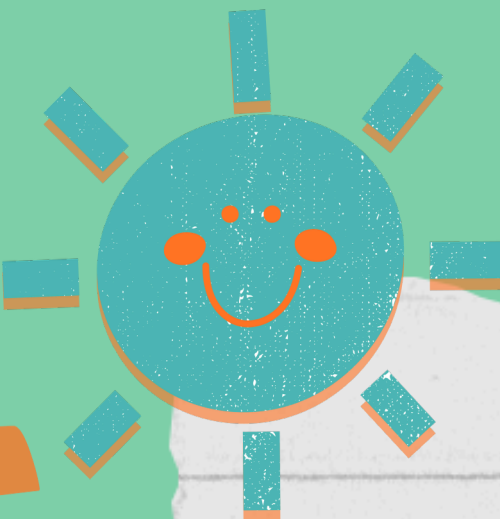
Income eligibility can be verified by providing the following government aid organizations that the student/family is receiving.

- HUD*
- Medicaid*
- SNAP*
- TANF*

*Documentation must include the student name and the date should align with the enrollment date.

Proof of Special Circumstances

- Official documentation that the student is in Foster Care.
- Signed documentation on school district letterhead, from the school district's Homeless Liaison, verifying in writing that the student is homeless and qualifies for free/reduced lunch.



We will NOT
accept the
following as
proof of
eligibility

- W-2 or Social Security statement ALONE! We must be able to verify all household income. Therefore, it must be accompanied with a completed 2025 Form 1040 Tax Return.
- Letters stating one or more family members is on Disability. It does not show all household income.
- Statement of non-filing taxes. This does not indicate household income.
- Screenshots from FOCUS alone showing grades, absences, etc.!



What happens after the application deadline?

- Applications close at 11:59pm on October 26, 2026. No exceptions..
- All applications are blinded before going to the Selection Committee.
- All applications are scored and ranked based on a Rubric provided by the State.
- School Coordinators will be notified of all students selected for interviewing.
- The interviews will be conducted at the school by the Take Stock local affiliate team from The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools.

TSIC Program Requirements



While applying for and as a member
of the TSIC program

ALL students must have and maintain:

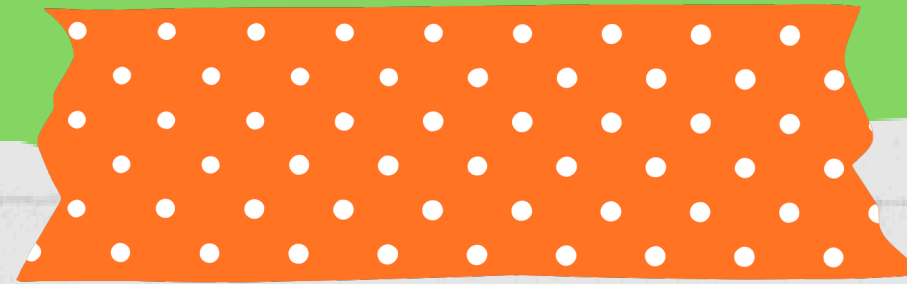
- GPA of 2.5 or higher (Quarterly)
- Good grades (A's, B's, and C's)
- No more than 5 unexcused absences per Quarter
- No behavior issues
- Remain crime, drug and alcohol free
- Be a good member of the community

Once students are accepted into the program they are required to:

- Meet with their mentor 2 times per month for a total of AT LEAST 16 sessions per year.
- Students in 6 - 10 grade must meet with their College Success Coach 2 times per year.
- Students in 11 - 12 grade must meet with their College Success Coach 4 times per year.
- Attend any mandatory events/workshops including the TSIC 5k, Expectations Workshop, FASFA Workshops, group meetings, etc.
- Maintain communication with the TSIC team about any information changes throughout the year.
- Remain active in our TSIC google classroom throughout the year.



Important Info



This is a STUDENT scholarship, therefore the STUDENT should be creating the account and filling out the application in THEIR name.

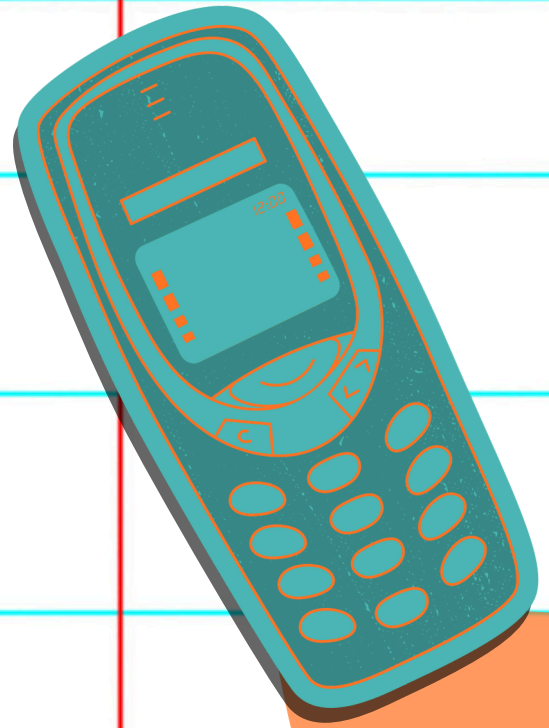
There are sections that the parent/guardian will need to fill out, but contact regarding documents will go to the STUDENT email. PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE THIS!

This also helps the verification process of the student being a Lee County School District Student.

Apply NOW

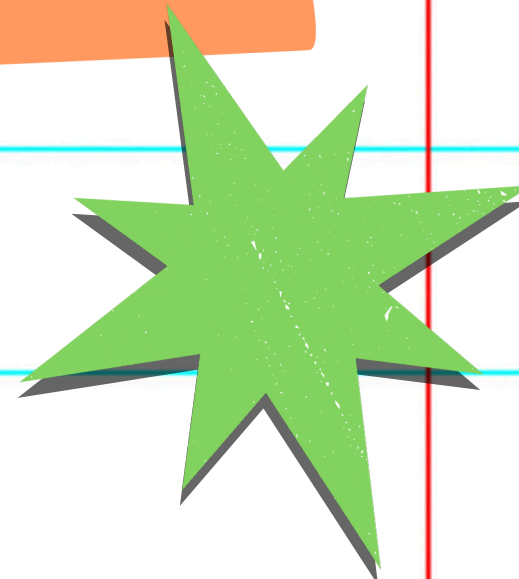


<https://www.takestockinchildren.org/student-application/>



S U P E R

Remember we are here to help and support you in any way! Please reach out to us anytime you have any questions or need us for anything!





Dream

Thank you!

