

## Scholarship FAQ Fact Sheet

### 1. What types of scholarships are offered by the Community Foundation?

- Graduating high school seniors
- Continuing college students
- Individuals attending a trade/vocational school
- Adults who are returning to school

### 2. Which scholarship fits me?

Start with the [Scholarship Eligibility Chart](#) to find all scholarships for which you qualify.

### 3. Does it cost anything to apply for a scholarship?

No, there is no cost to apply for a scholarship with the Community Foundation.

### 4. How is eligibility determined?

Each scholarship has specific eligibility requirements defined by the individual, business or organization that created the scholarship. The criteria are listed under each scholarship description. All of our scholarships require that applicants:

- demonstrate financial need
- be residents of Sonoma County or graduates of a Sonoma County high school (unless otherwise noted)
- attend an accredited two-year college, four-year university or licensed trade/vocational school in the United States
- be full-time students (unless otherwise noted)
- have a measure of academic and civic achievement

NOTE: Applicants who are (or are related to) current staff, volunteers or board members of Community Foundation Sonoma County are NOT eligible to apply. In addition, individuals who are related to scholarship fund representatives are NOT eligible to apply for that particular scholarship. Please contact our Scholarship Coordinator at 707.579.4073 x18 for more information.

### 5. How do you define a Sonoma County resident?

A Sonoma County resident is defined as someone who has lived in Sonoma County for one full year and has a permanent Sonoma County address. Students attending a college or university outside of Sonoma County are eligible to apply for a scholarship from the Community Foundation as long as their family permanently resides in Sonoma County and claims them on their taxes.

**6. Must I be a U.S. citizen or certified U.S. permanent resident to apply?**

No, we do not require a U.S. citizenship to apply to our scholarship programs.

**7. If I am not a straight 'A' student or an athlete, can I still qualify for a scholarship?**

Many of our scholarships are based on financial need, attendance at a particular school or pursuit of a specific course of study. While scholarships are sometimes based on either merit or athletic ability, this is not always the case.

**8. May I apply for and receive more than one scholarship?**

Yes, as long as you meet the criteria for each scholarship for which you are applying. Carefully review the criteria and check the appropriate box in the [Scholarship Check List](#) for each scholarship for which you would like to apply.

**9. Must I re-apply if I received a Community Foundation scholarship last year?**

Yes, if you wish to be considered for continued scholarship support, you must re-apply each year that you will attend school.

**10. How much will I receive if I am selected as a recipient?**

Scholarship awards vary depending upon the criteria, number of students selected, students' financial need and other circumstances. Scholarships range from \$1,000-\$10,000, with the average award around \$1,000.

**11. Do I receive a check if I am awarded a scholarship?**

No. All scholarship checks are made payable to your school and are sent directly to your school's financial aid or scholarship office. There are no exceptions to this rule. Checks are paid upon receipt of proof of registration as a full-time student (unless otherwise noted) and/or official transcripts and the Financial Aid Information Summary.

**12. Are scholarships taxable?**

The scholarship is not taxable for degree-seeking students using the scholarship for tuition, fees, books and school-required supplies. If the scholarship is used for room, board, travel or miscellaneous expenses, it is generally taxable to the student. We recommend that you and your parents consult a tax expert or your school's financial aid office for advice.

**13. Will I be notified even if I don't receive an award?**

Yes, you will be notified sometime between early May and mid-June, after the selection committee has made their decisions.

**14. Where do I send a thank you note?**

You may address a thank you note to the scholarship name and send it to:  
Community Foundation Sonoma County, 250 D Street, Suite 205, Santa Rosa, CA 95404-4773

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Please contact our Scholarship Coordinator at 707.579.4073. x18.