



FOUNDATION *for* CALIFORNIA
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Educating for Change

Scholarship Guidelines 2025–2026

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

The Educating for Change Scholarship, made possible through a generous gift from Dr. Joseph Bick and Ms. Stephanie Koop, provides financial support to California community college students who have a parent incarcerated in a prison administered by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

The Educating for Change Scholarship is non-competitive. To receive an award, applicants must meet the eligibility requirements and complete an application through their Financial Aid or Scholarship Office.

FoundationCCC anticipates that \$20,000 will be available for the 2025-2026 academic year. Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis while funds remain available. The award amounts are as follows:

- \$500 per semester
- \$1,000 per academic year

Scholarships may be used to cover a wide range of education-related expenses, including tuition and fees, books, instructional materials, computer equipment, internet access, educational tools, and uniforms.

Additionally, scholarships may also help with personal needs, such as food, healthcare, household items, clothing, childcare, housing, and transportation. However, any portion of the scholarship used for these personal expenses is considered taxable income under IRS regulations. Scholarship recipients should be aware of this distinction to make an informed decision about how to allocate their scholarship funds.

APPLICATION PERIOD

- The **scholarship application filing period opens on October 1, 2025**. Since funds are limited, students and colleges are encouraged to apply as early as possible.
- Scholarship offices must verify eligibility and submit scholarship invoices to FoundationCCC **no later than June 1, 2026**.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To qualify, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be one of the following:
 - A high school senior planning to attend a California community college. **Colleges are encouraged to promote this opportunity to dual enrollment students.**
 - OR
 - A student currently enrolled in a California community college.
- At the time of application, have a parent in a prison administered by CDCR.
 - Students with a parent in a federal facility or an out-of-state facility are **not** eligible.
 - The term “parent” includes a biological or adoptive parent, step-parent, foster parent, or legal guardian.
- Prior to disbursement of scholarship funds, the college must verify the student’s enrollment in a California community college for at least 12 units or confirm an alternate full-time equivalent status.

VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The scholarship officer or designated official is responsible for reviewing each scholarship application to ensure the applicant(s) meet all program eligibility requirements before submitting the Educating for Change Scholarship application. The scholarship officer or designated official must also maintain a record of each application and all related application and eligibility materials for every applicant listed on the Educating for Change Scholarship Invoice.

SCHOLARSHIP DISBURSEMENT PROCEDURES FOR COLLEGES

To initiate award requests, colleges must submit the Educating for Change Scholarship Invoice form to Foundation for California Community Colleges (FoundationCCC) online through Submittable. Whether an applicant is funded depends on the availability of funds at the time the invoice is received. Since scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis—even for applications submitted before the deadline—it is critical for institutions to submit invoices as quickly as possible.

Prior to disbursing funds, institutions must verify that the applicant meets all eligibility requirements.

Awards may cover the entire academic year based on the student’s anticipated enrollment and performance. However, disbursements should be made by semester or quarter, contingent on verification of program criteria. If an institution initiates a scholarship award for the entire academic year but the student is subsequently determined to be eligible for only one semester or quarter, the award must be prorated and any remaining funds returned to FoundationCCC.

RENEWALS

Students must reapply for the scholarship each academic year. Scholarship awards may be renewed as long as the student continues to meet all eligibility criteria.

CONTACT

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