

## 2024 Community Action Board Scholarship

Achieving a higher education is an important life choice for young people and their families. Hillsborough County Department of Social Services and Hillsborough County Community Action Board (CAB) are committed to assisting eligible Hillsborough County students reach this milestone by offering scholarships up to the amount of \$5,000 via Community Services Block Grant funds.

The number of scholarships awarded, and the amount awarded, depends on grant funding availability. Applications may be awarded to eligible students with all required documentation on a first come, first-serve basis.

Please read carefully and complete the entire **online application**, including providing all required documentation. The 2024 **Community Action Board Scholarship deadline is April 18, 2024**. Applications will not be accepted after the deadline. **Incomplete applications are not accepted**. If it is determined during the application review that documents are missing or incomplete, the applicant will be required to submit a new application. First-come, first-serve selection criteria are completed applications, with no pending documents which include the Fall 2024 College Enrollment Letter.

### Requirements for Scholarships

This scholarship is for graduating high school students, GED recipients, post-secondary institution students pursuing an associate degree for the first time, an undergraduate bachelor's degree, or specialty degree from an accredited institution, and planning to attend an accredited post-secondary college institution in Fall 2024. Post-graduate students do not qualify for this scholarship.

Eligible applicants must submit all required supporting documentation and meet all criteria listed below.

**\*\*If claimed as a dependent for income tax purposes by your guardian or parent, or if you are a minor, the parent or guardian must complete and sign the scholarship application.**

**\*\*If no one claims you as dependent for income tax purposes, the applicant will be you, and you must complete and sign the scholarship application.**

Next page is a list of the required documents and the acceptable document types for each. Please have all information ready to be uploaded before starting this application process.

### **Current Identification:**

#### **One from list below for each adult in household**

- Driver's license
- State ID
- Immigration verification (green card)
- Military Photo ID
- VA Identification card with DD214
- Passport
- Certificate of Naturalization
- Employment Authorization Card

#### **One from list below for each minor in household**

- Driver's License
- State ID
- Immigration verification (green card)
- Birth certificate
- Passport
- Certificate of Naturalization
- Court/State/State Provider document for foster children/custody cases

### **Social Security Number Verification for all members of the household:**

- U.S. Social Security Administration (SS card)
- Court/State/State Provider document for foster children/custody cases

### **Hillsborough County Residency:**

**Head of Household must provide 2 separate verifications of Hillsborough County residency from list below at current assistance address and all additional adults in the household must provide one verification of Hillsborough County residency from list below at current assistance address:**

- Current Driver's license
- Current State ID
- Current Utility bill statement
- Current Vehicle registration
- Current Mortgage Statement
- Current Voter registration card
- Current education documentation
- Current SS Administration Award Benefit Letter
- Current VA Award Benefit Letter
- Current cell phone bill statement
- Current cable/internet bill statement
- Current car insurance policy/bill statement
- Current renter's insurance policy/bill statement
- Current Homestead Exemption documentation
- Current DCF Award Benefit Letter
- Current Section 8/Housing Authority Award Benefit Letter
- Current HUD owner certification award statement

**Income Guidelines** Gross income at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines ([Click Here to review Federal Poverty Guidelines](#)). Verification of income (Gross income for ALL household members for the past 30 days, from day of appointment):

- Employment pay statement
- Social Security Administration Award Benefit Letter
- Unemployment Award Benefit Letter
- TANF Award Benefit Letter
- VA Award Benefit Letter
- Alimony Documentation
- Workman's Compensation
- Pension/Retirement/Cost of living allowance
- Other income
- Strike Benefits from Union Funds
- Foster Independent Living Programs payments
- Annuity/Insurance
- Education Assistance (allotted for living expenses)
- Long term/Short Term Benefits (Employer disability)
- Rental income receipts or statements (Net)
- Foster Independent Living Programs payments
- Bank Statement (SSI, eBay, PayPal, cash deposits only)

For non-verifiable income (Self-Employment: Odd jobs or paid in cash, Cash from a relative or friend, or No income): Self-Declaration form

**Verification of Resources:** Current award letters with benefit amount for: Food Stamps; Section 8/HUD/THA

**Academic Record:** Official school transcripts demonstrating a minimum GPA of a 2.0

**College Enrollment Letter for Fall 2024 Classes: Submission deadline for Fall 2024 Enrollment Letters is May 17, 2024.** (An application is not approved until receipt of the enrollment letter.)

**Essay Statement:** Essays must be a full page, two (2) page limit, with 1-inch margins and typed in 12-point standard font (Times New Roman or Arial). Essay requirements are lists below depending on the applicant's current academic status.

#### **High School/GED Students (Applicants starting first year in college)**

- Why should you be selected for the award?
- What are your academic strengths and weaknesses?
- What are your career goals?
- What extenuating circumstances might prevent you from entering college?
- Please include anything else that you would like to share with the scholarship review committee.

#### **Currently college enrolled applicants (pursuing second year or above in undergraduate studies)**

- Describe your most meaningful achievements since entering college and how they relate to your field of study and your future career goals.
- How will this scholarship help meet your financial needs while pursuing your post-secondary education?
- What are your non-financial needs while pursuing your college education goals?
- Please include anything else that you would like to share with the scholarship review committee.

**Letters of Recommendation:** Recommendations from principal, assistant principal, guidance counselor, teacher/professor, academic advisor, or dean

**Photo Talent and Release Form**

**Forfeiture of Scholarship:**

If the applicant does not continue enrollment in the educational institution on the application within the institution's official drop-add period for the 2024 Fall semester, the applicant's scholarship award is forfeited.

If the applicant changes their education institution after being awarded a scholarship, the scholarship will be forfeited and returned to the scholarship fund.