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## Organization Background

### What is the Stanislaus Community Foundation?

We are a place-based public charity created by and for a specific region of people. We house approximately 150 unique charitable funds set up by individuals, families, corporations, public and nonprofit agencies. Since 2002, Stanislaus Community Foundation has provided over \$15 million in grants and scholarships within our region. Whether established to honor or memorialize a loved one, recognize a specific academic institution, or to support a particular field of study, Stanislaus Community Foundation Scholarship Funds provide benefits to students that impact their lives and our community today and for future generations.

### What types of scholarships are offered by/through Stanislaus Community Foundation?

Stanislaus Community Foundation awards needs-based scholarships (based on financial need) and merit-based scholarships (based on some type of achievement such as grades or extracurricular activities). You may click [here](#) for a list of our scholarship funds, and [here](#) for additional scholarship resources.

### How many scholarships/how much money does SCF award each year?

For the 2017-2018 scholarship cycle, we awarded 253 scholarships worth approximately \$390,000.

## Scholarship Eligibility and Requirements

### What do I need in order to apply?

- **Internet access** (Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, or Safari are recommended) on a computer or on a mobile device.
- An **e-mail address** that you check regularly. You'll need an email address for your college applications, as well.
- **High school transcripts** (official or unofficial) that show your GPA. Ask your counselor or school registrar if you are unsure about where or how to get your transcripts. We ask that you upload a clear, legible file. Photos taken on digital devices, such as cell phones, are fine if they are readable.
- Your **Student Aid Report** (SAR). The SAR is available *after* you submit your [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA). For instructions on how to view your SAR, click [here](#).
  - You will be asked to provide the **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** amount shown on your SAR on your scholarship application. Your EFC is an index number that college financial aid staff use to determine how much financial aid you would be eligible for if you were to attend their school. The information you report on your FAFSA form is used to calculate your EFC. We use the EFC amount to determine eligibility for our needs-based scholarships, and we weigh it with other variables for our merit-based scholarships.
  - If you are a DACA recipient, please visit [United We Dream](#) for additional information on the FAFSA.
  - If you parent(s) is unwilling to provide their financial information, or to learn more about how parent information is used, click [here](#).
- You will be asked to provide extracurricular activities and employment history. Prepare a list beforehand to make the application process easier.



**Can I apply for a scholarship if I am undocumented?**

You can apply for scholarships at SCF if you, or your parent(s), are undocumented. We do not ask for social security numbers on our application. For more information on financial aid for undocumented students, please click [here](#).

**Do I need to be a resident of Stanislaus County to apply for scholarships?**

For most scholarships, you need to be a resident of Stanislaus County and be enrolled at certain high schools within county lines. There are a few scholarships, however, that you may be eligible to apply for despite living in a different county (Gemperle, etc.).

**Do I need a letter of recommendation?**

No. We removed this requirement to make the application process easier for you.

**Can I apply if I'm not a straight-A student with a lot of extra-curricular activities?**

Definitely! We have many kinds of scholarships for many kinds of students. We also have needs-based scholarships, which are primarily based on financial need. You may click [here](#) for a list of our scholarship funds.

**Does it cost money to apply for these scholarships?**

There is no cost associated with the application.

**Application and Evaluation**

**Where do I apply for a scholarship?**

We use an online application for our scholarships. You can apply online [here](#).

**What do I do if I forgot my Smarter Select password?**

Click the "forgot my password" link on the login page. An email will be sent to you detailing how to reset your password.

**Can I apply for/receive multiple scholarships?**

Yes. We use a universal application that will match you with scholarships you are eligible for. Once you've been notified of which scholarships you can apply for, you can apply to as many or as few as you'd like. To see a full list of our scholarships, please visit our scholarship's [webpage](#).

**How is my application evaluated?**

We have a diverse scholarship selection committee made of 15-20 people. Each application is evaluated and scored according to a rubric by two people. We average the two scores and then meet to discuss why each evaluator scored the applications as they did. We try to make the best decisions based on the information you provide in your application. This means that the more detail you provide in responses, the better picture we can get of you.

**Is there an interview involved in the scholarship selection process?**

We do not have interviews in our selection process.

**When is the scholarship application due?**

Friday, March 6, 2020 by 11:59pm



**Award and Post-Award**

**When will I be notified if I am chosen for an award?**

Students will be notified of our decisions via e-mail in early May 2020. You will also receive a letter in the mail about a week after that.

**What do I do after I've been awarded a scholarship?**

You will need to complete and submit the following items:

- [Scholarship acceptance form](#)
- [Data release form](#)
- A **thank you letter** to the donors. You can make the letter out to "Scholarship Donor."
- Your **financial aid award notification**. This is a document your school creates for you upon admittance that details which grants and loans you are eligible for and your cost of attendance per year. It is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that you accept or decline your financial aid award. Failure to do so can jeopardize the aid you're eligible for as well as your enrollment. The financial aid award notification can usually be found in your student portal and will be similar to the photo below.

Financial Aid

**Award Package**

**Summer 2009-Spring 2010**

You are eligible to receive the awards listed below. Please review each award and corresponding message. You may Accept, Reduce and/or Decline any or all of the awards that are currently available.

Last Updated: 02/27/2009 12:06:46PM      Status: New Package

Award	Category	Career	Offered	Accepted	Accept	Decline
<a href="#">Federal Work-Study</a>	Work/Study	Undergraduate	2,500.00	0.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Federal Subsidized Loan</a>	Loan	Undergraduate	3,500.00	0.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Federal Unsub Loan</a>	Loan	Undergraduate	2,000.00	0.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Adams Scholarship</a>	Scholarship	Undergraduate	1,000.00	1,000.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Federal SEOG</a>	Grant	Undergraduate	600.00	600.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Federal Pell Grant</a>	Grant	Undergraduate	4,481.00	4,481.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Scarlet and Gray Grant</a>	Grant	Undergraduate	3,000.00	3,000.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>17,081.00</b>	<b>9,081.00</b>		

- **Proof of registration.** Typically, students submit their class schedule (available in your school's student portal) for the upcoming semester. The document should show you are taking at least 12 credits, as well as your name and the name of your school. If you're unable to do this, or if you're having any trouble, please reach out to us! We can find a way that works for you.



**Where do I submit my documents?**

You can submit all forms and documents via e-mail to Program and Scholarship Specialist, Martha Flores, at [mflores@stanislauscf.org](mailto:mflores@stanislauscf.org), or you can mail them to our office at the following address:

Stanislaus Community Foundation  
100 Sycamore, Suite 200  
Modesto, CA 95354

**Can I use my scholarship for expenses other than tuition?**

Yes. If tuition and fees are paid, our scholarships may be applied to books, rent, or any other expense associated with the total cost of attendance at your campus for the specified year. You must contact your school's financial aid office to discuss alternative ways of using your scholarship money.

**Is the scholarship check mailed to me or go to my school?**

We send scholarship checks to your school's financial aid office, but the checks are written out to the school AND/OR the student.

**Is my scholarship renewable?**

While we do offer some renewable scholarships, not all scholarships are renewable. Renewable scholarships are contingent on a student maintaining a GPA above or equal to 2.0 and remaining enrolled full-time.

**Will my scholarship be affected if I transfer colleges or universities?**

- If you won a scholarship that was specific to a school and you are no longer attending that school, you may lose your award.
- If you won a "Stanislaus Futures" scholarship and you transfer schools, your award size is subject to change (students attending a UC receive up to \$2,200; students attending a CSU or other four-year institution receive up to \$2,000; and students attending a community college receive up to \$1,000).

**Do I need to pay back my scholarship?**

No. A scholarship, much like a grant, is a financial gift that does not need to be paid back.

**Contact Information**

**Who do I contact if I have questions about scholarships?**

Please contact Program and Scholarship Specialist, Martha Flores, at 209-576-1608 or [mflores@stanislauscf.org](mailto:mflores@stanislauscf.org).

**What is SCF's mailing address?**

Stanislaus Community Foundation  
100 Sycamore, Suite 200  
Modesto, CA 95354

**What is SCF's phone number?**

(209) 576-1608