

Access to Achievement Education Foundation Grant Application for Individual Students

Foundation mission:

The mission of Access to Achievement Education Foundation is to enhance knowledge and academic success among low-income and under-represented minority students primarily via partnerships with schools and educational programs. The goal is to provide funding for unmet educational needs, often unavailable from traditional sources of financial assistance for higher education. The focus is on reaching and providing support to groups of students often overlooked in funding initiatives—motivated students who show academic promise but are not necessarily recognized as the most accomplished students. By supporting the educational needs of such students, the Foundation increases the number of students in the educational pipeline and helps create a cadre of future professionals who will help meet the next generation of America's workforce needs.

Students eligible for funding:

The following students are eligible for funding:

- Low-income students from any ethnic background referred to the Foundation from its network of staff and alumni, with priority given to the most disadvantaged students.

Types of resources funded:

- Educational workshops or materials (e.g., SAT, ACT, GRE preparation, test taking strategies, college admissions/financial aid, college essays), career exploration, life skills.
- Learning materials or supplies to enhance learning (e.g., inquiry-based science education kits, interactive algebra computer software).
- Classes to improve college readiness (e.g., fees for community college classes not available in students' high schools).
- Learning specialists or teachers for students needing academic remediation (e.g., students having difficulty in an organized academic program, English language skills).
- College campus tours to experience college life and meet with admissions officers.
- Field trips to technology, science, or art centers to foster experiential learning.
- Travel expenses for educational experiences (e.g., gas cards for attending educational conferences; fees to participate in competitions including math, science, debate, music, language arts).
- Computers, technology/software, and other supplies to support academic work.
- College fees and books not covered by student scholarships or loans.
- Career or job-based learning programs (e.g., fees for internships, job shadowing).

Priority geographic areas:

The priority geographic areas for funding are Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties in California, with additional consideration given to Northern and Central California counties.

Funding limits:

Funding for individual students is limited to approximately \$2,000 per year with possible renewal of funding on an annual basis. Funding can be for any academic discipline including the life sciences, mathematics, technology, social sciences and humanities.

Criteria for individual students:

Note: Applications will only be accepted from students identified and referred by the Foundation's network of alumni and staff (solicited proposals).

Low-income students from any ethnic background are eligible. The funding to individual students benefits a broad charitable class of students and the selection process is made on an objective and non-discriminatory basis. Recipients cannot be related to any Access to Achievement Education Foundation officers or major contributors. Records are kept by the Foundation showing the recipient's name and address and the purpose of the funding. When possible, funds are paid directly to the service provider

(e.g., computer store, test taking organization).

Priority is given to low-income students who are:

- From under-represented ethnic minority groups (American Indians or Alaska Natives, Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders) as defined by the National Institutes of Health
- First generation college students
- Experiencing family hardships: parent(s) deceased or disabled, incarcerated, or with substance abuse problems
- Are in (or have been in) the foster care system

One or more of the following indicators determines low-income status:

- Family income: at the lowest 25th percentile of incomes in the region
- Parents' occupation: unskilled, semiskilled or clerical
- Parents' level of education: less than a college degree
- Student eligible for the National School Lunch Program
- Family eligible for food stamps and/or government assistance

Application process:

Students complete a grant application that describes their specific need, the amount requested, and how the funds will enhance their education. The Foundation's board members, with input from the advisory committee, evaluate the applications on a quarterly basis or more often as needed, and select the strongest applicants for funding.

The proposal should be no more than 2 pages in length and should include:

1. Name, address, phone and email of student .
2. Current school attended, address, and name of principal or counselor.
3. The program, activities or resources for which the funding is being requested, why it is needed, how it will benefit the student's education, and estimated cost.
4. The anticipated results of the funding, what changes might occur as a result of the funding.

Progress reports:

All students receiving funding will submit a short essay or an audio presentation to the Foundation about how the funding helped support their educations. This should include:

- How funds were spent.
- Difference funding made in student's life (e.g., enhanced grades; computer or college books that allowed for success in school; travel expenses to see colleges to acquaint student with higher education opportunities, fees for educational conference).

Prepared by:

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