

LICKING COUNTY FOUNDATION

Frequently Asked Questions about LCF Scholarships

GENERAL INFORMATION

Is there a cost to apply for a scholarship?

There is no charge to apply.

What is the dollar amount of Licking County Foundation scholarships?

The dollar amounts can vary each year. Award amounts vary based upon the funds available, the number of recipients selected, and sometimes the amount of other aid a student has from other scholarships or grants. The minimum scholarship offer is \$1,000. For recent school years, the Foundation's scholarship offers ranged from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Can I receive more than one Licking County Foundation scholarship in the same year?

It is possible to receive more than one Licking County Foundation scholarship; however, recipients typically receive only one scholarship offer.

Will the Foundation's scholarship give me enough money to pay the entire cost of my college education?

Typically, no. We encourage you to look into additional financial aid resources.

What expenses can the scholarships pay?

Licking County Foundation scholarships can be used for education-related expenses. While most expenses such as tuition, books, and fees are considered tax-exempt, we recommend you check with a tax professional to understand whether any portion of your scholarship is considered taxable income.

Am I required to repay scholarship money?

No. Scholarships are considered "gift aid" and are charitable grants. Recipients are required to return a donor acknowledgment as part of the acceptance process.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Who is eligible to apply?

The Foundation's scholarships are open to all types of students; high school seniors; high school graduates within the last two years (no school after high school due to gap year, deferment, AmeriCorps, work); current undergraduate college students; graduate/professional degree students; and, adult re-entry students (21+ years old; either never attended post-secondary school or currently/previously attend post-secondary school.) Full-time and part-time students pursuing post-secondary education may apply for LCF Scholarships.

Who is not eligible to apply?

Any member of the Foundation's Governing Committee or Executive Committee, any employee of the Foundation, any donor or donor advisor to the fund making the award, any substantial contributor to the Foundation or fund making the award, any major contributors as determined by the Governing Committee, any member of the Scholarship Committee or Scholarship Review Committee, and the relatives of any of the foregoing individuals are not eligible to receive Foundation scholarships. A relative includes a spouse, ancestor, child, grandchild, great-

grandchild, brother and sister, and a spouse of a child, grandchild, great-grandchild, brother and sister.

Do all scholarships have the same eligibility requirements?

No. Each scholarship fund has specific eligibility requirements that were defined by the donor(s) when the fund was established. These requirements are considered when someone applies, based on the answers provided.

Do I have to attend an Ohio college?

Not necessarily. Licking County Foundation scholarship recipients attend accredited colleges, universities, and technical or trade schools across the United States. However, some funds require that recipients do attend institutions in a specific geographic area (e.g., Ohio or Licking County), or a specific institution.

Are scholarships open to graduate students?

Graduate students or people seeking professional degrees are eligible to apply for some Foundation scholarships.

Can I apply for a scholarship if I don't know where I'll be going to school?

Yes. If you don't know which school you're going to attend, you can still apply for many Licking County Foundation scholarships by selecting *Undecided* as your answer. (Please note that some scholarships require attending specific institutions.)

I don't have the best grades. Will I still be considered for a scholarship?

Yes. All of our scholarships take grades into consideration, but some emphasize other areas of performance as well. A well-written application essay is also an important component of the review process. Good grades help, but they're not the only requirement for Licking County Foundation support. We encourage you to apply!

What if my household income is relatively high?

There is no specific income limit or financial cut-off. Since many funds consider other criteria besides financial need, all students who meet eligibility requirements are encouraged to apply. Some Foundation scholarships are merit-based, and therefore do not consider financial need.

I'm planning to go to trade school, not college. Can I still apply for a scholarship?

Yes. Some Licking County Foundation scholarships are available for students planning to attend a technical, vocational, or trade school.

Do I have to live in Licking County, and also be a graduate of a Licking County high school to be eligible for Licking County Foundation scholarships?

No, some scholarships require you to be a Licking County resident, some require graduation from a Licking County high school, and some require graduation from a specific high school. You would be considered for any scholarships for which you qualify based on your responses to the application questions.

Can an Adult Re-entry student who didn't graduate from high school apply for scholarships?

Yes, if the student has a GED and is a Licking County resident.

Can a student who was home-schooled apply for scholarships?

Yes, except for scholarships that require graduation from a Licking County high school as part of the eligibility criteria.

Can Licking County Foundation scholarships be used for Adult Education Programs at C-TEC?

Yes, certain Licking County Foundation scholarships can be used for Adult Education Programs at C-TEC provided: the program is Pell-eligible (see C-TEC's Adult Education Catalog); the scholarship criteria does not specify that the applicant must be enrolled in a 2-year degree or 4-year degree program; and the program (and applicant) meet all other requirements for the scholarship.

If I receive a scholarship one year, will I automatically receive an award the following year?

Not necessarily. In most cases, students must re-apply each year. Some scholarships allow prior recipients to re- apply. Some scholarships are renewable, provided that recipients continue to meet all eligibility requirements. Renewable scholarship distinction will be clearly identified if you receive an offer.

I received a renewable scholarship, do I submit renewal paperwork online?

Yes. Recipients of renewable scholarships are contacted via email in December about continuing eligibility, so it is important to notify the Foundation of any contact information changes.

APPLICATION PROCESS**Will the Foundation release any of the personal information that I submit?**

The Foundation takes confidentiality of your data seriously. We do not collect social security numbers. All information received is confidential and will only be reviewed by the appropriate Foundation staff and Scholarship Review Committee members who agree to maintain confidentiality. If you are chosen to receive a scholarship, your name and award will be used by the Foundation in publicizing awards. Living donors will receive scholarship winners' names. Any other information shared with donors requires recipient's consent.

Is an essay required?

Yes, an essay is required from all applicants. In addition, certain scholarships require an additional essay. In your essay(s), let your personality shine through; present your ideas in a focused, thoughtful, and meaningful manner; and write in a natural style and support your ideas with specific examples. Have someone else review and spell check before you submit.

Why is an essay required?

The essay is required of all applicants because it provides the reviewers with additional information to assist in the selection of the best candidate. An essay is evaluated on how effectively it addressed the topic you chose; if it was thoughtful, well-written, and specific to the applicant; and, if proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation were used.

Are recommendation letters required?

No, the Licking County Foundation does not require recommendation letters.

Where can I find the scholarship applications?

The link is located in the Scholarship section of the Foundation's website when the application is open for submissions. All applications are completed and submitted online.

Can my application be handwritten?

No, the Licking County Foundation Scholarship Application is an online scholarship application with online submission.

What file types are acceptable when uploading my required student materials?

All attachments must be in .pdf files.

What if I do not have Internet access or a computer at home?

All applicants must complete and submit the online application; please contact your school, local library, community center, employment agency, or senior center to determine if you are eligible to use their public-use computer terminals.

Can I apply for more than one scholarship?

Yes. You may apply for as many scholarships for which you meet the eligibility criteria.

If I qualify for more than one scholarship, do I need to fill out separate applications?

Each scholarship has its own criteria; however, LCF uses an online application system that gathers all the basic information needed in one application. You will only complete this section one time. Many scholarship opportunities also have *Supplemental* sections that contain required application items specific to just that scholarship, such as eligibility questions or second essays, which must be completed and submitted in order for your application to that scholarship to be complete. Any scholarships that contain *Supplemental* sections will be specified after you submit the first section. You must submit each *Supplemental* section separately. All of these instructions are clearly provided within the online application.

What's the deadline for applying?

The annual application deadline will typically be near the end of January; see the Foundation's website for the specific date each year. **The deadline is at 5:00pm EST.**

Can I get an extension if I need one?

No. Because the Foundation receives thousands of applications, in fairness to all applicants, we are unable to extend the deadline to individual applicants. Any known technical issues with our system will be updated in the *Announcements* section of the Scholarship page.

What is the FAFSA?

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is a form that may be submitted annually by current and prospective college students (both undergraduate and graduate) in the United States to apply for federal student financial aid, such as Pell grants, Stafford loans, PLUS loans, and work-study programs. The FAFSA is also used to apply for most state and college financial aid. Once the FAFSA is submitted to the U.S. Department of Education, it will be processed and a **Student Aid Report (SAR)** will be produced.

What is a SAR?

The Student Aid Report (SAR) is a summary of the information provided on the FAFSA. The SAR also includes your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) number, which is used to determine your eligibility for financial aid. **You will attach a .pdf file of page one only of your SAR to your LCF application if you want to be considered for financial-need based LCF scholarships.** The SAR is not the submission confirmation received immediately after submitting the FAFSA, even though the confirmation email may contain a projected/estimated EFC.

What is an EFC?

The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is a measure of your family's financial strength and is calculated according to a formula established by law with the information you report on your FAFSA. Schools use the EFC to determine your federal student aid eligibility and financial aid award. *The Foundation uses the EFC to determine your composite score for financial-need based scholarships.*

How do I complete and file the FAFSA?

You must file the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Where can I go for help with FAFSA?

Your guidance counselor or the financial aid office of your school can help you. They can tell you what forms to fill out and the steps to follow to receive the financial aid available to you.

TRANSCRIPTS

I'm a high school senior. Do I need to submit my high school transcript?

High school seniors will report their cumulative GPA as of the date of application and provide contact information for their guidance counselor. The student-reported GPA will be verified with Guidance Counselors after the application period has closed. Unexplainable discrepancies between student-reported GPA and Guidance Counselor-confirmed GPA may result in disqualification of application(s). If high school transcripts are required, they will be provided by Guidance Counselors.

I'm a high school graduate, but have not yet attended school after high school. What do I attach for a transcript?

You will attach your official high school transcript to your online application.

I checked a status of Current College, Adult Re-entry, or Graduate/Professional Degree Student. Can I provide a printout of my transcript from my school's website?

Your transcript must be attached to your online application. The application provides specific instructions about what versions are acceptable.

I am currently attending college. Do I need to submit an official college transcript?

No, official transcripts are not required, though still accepted. Unofficial transcripts are also accepted as long as they contain the required information listed in the application. Contact your school's Registrar's Office with questions about how to access transcripts. If you are an Ohio State University undergraduate student, the *OSU Advising Report* is acceptable as an unofficial transcript.

MAJORS and SCHOOLS

I'm undecided about which institution I'm going to attend; can I list more than one?

No, you can only select one school. If you are undecided, select *Undecided* on your application. If you are selected to receive a scholarship, you will provide the actual institution name when you respond to the offer.

I don't know what I want to major in; what do I do?

You would select *Undecided* or *Undeclared* as your response.

What happens if I'm selected to receive a scholarship offer, but I have changed my plans about my major or school after I submitted my application?

It depends. If the scholarship is not major-specific, then nothing happens. If the scholarship is major-specific and the new major still qualifies for the scholarship, then nothing happens. If the scholarship is major-specific and the new major does not qualify for the scholarship, you are no longer eligible to accept that scholarship offer. Similarly, if the scholarship requires attendance at a specific school or in a specific geographic location, and the post-application change no longer meets these requirements, you are no longer eligible to accept that scholarship offer.

APPLICATION REVIEW & SELECTION

What are my chances for receiving a scholarship?

Scholarship awards are based on scholarship criteria, the availability of funds, and the competitiveness of the applicant pool for each scholarship. These factors change with every funding cycle and some years are more competitive than others. The only way to be considered is to apply! Not being selected in a previous year does NOT affect the review of your application in future years.

Who makes the award decisions?

A volunteer Scholarship Review Committee appointed by the Governing Committee of the Licking County Foundation and comprised of impartial Licking County residents will review each application and select the recipients based on the criteria established by donors. The Scholarship Review Committee members are unaware of the applicants' names when reviewing applications, and each application is reviewed by multiple Committee members.

How will my application be evaluated?

In evaluating the applicants, the Scholarship Review Committee will review and score the applicant's Activities, Honors/Recognitions Received, and Essay sections. The selection process utilizes those scores, as well as a score for GPA, and financial need (only for need-based scholarships) to calculate a composite score for each applicant; that composite score is used to select recipients.

NOTIFICATION & AWARDS

How will I be notified if I received a Licking County Foundation Scholarship Offer?

All applicants are notified as to whether or not they received an offer, typically in April. These notifications are emailed to the applicant's email address associated with their online account. High School seniors also receive certificates in May at their school award ceremonies.

What happens if I receive a scholarship offer?

You will receive email notification of your scholarship offer, the terms, and the amount of the scholarship. You will be required to complete an online *Follow-up Form* to accept the offer, and submit a Donor Thank You to the Foundation before the scholarship can be fully processed.

If you no longer meet the terms of your scholarship offer, or have made a different decision about attending school, you are asked to return your *Follow-up Form* indicating that you cannot accept the offer. This acknowledgement allows us to select another recipient who may use the scholarship.

Will I receive a check for my scholarship?

No. Scholarship payments are mailed directly to the institution on behalf of the recipient.

When will my school receive my scholarship check?

After you have returned your acceptance materials, the Foundation begins sending scholarship checks to schools at the end of July. Your award may be applied in equal amounts to your fall and spring semesters, depending on your school's procedures for external scholarships.

What happens if I move or change schools after I've been awarded a scholarship?

If you move or transfer to a new school and want to have any unused portion of your scholarship follow you, you must notify the Foundation. Please contact us as soon as you have made your decision to transfer; we will send a check to your new school for your second semester expenses upon receipt of reimbursement from your previous institution.

May I contact the donors who provided the funds for my scholarship?

We require all recipients to send donor acknowledgements. Donors enjoy reading thank you notes and like to know something about the person who is receiving their scholarship. This is the best way for the donor to understand how important the scholarship is to recipient. The notes are also shared with Foundation board members and Scholarship Review Committee members, and anonymous excerpts are included on the Foundation's website and in publicity materials.

I have a question you didn't answer here. What should I do?

Please contact us for assistance. Our Program Team is here to help!

- Amy Dell, Program Officer, amy@thelcfoundation.org, (740) 349-3863 ext. 108
- Leeah Mahon, Program Associate, leeah@thelcfoundation.org, (740) 349-3863 ext. 113