



ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES

- [CFSJC.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS](https://cfsjc.org/scholarships) -

Looking for additional scholarship support? Here are our top 5 tips to help you maximize your school funding!

1

Everyone should complete the **Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA)**. Indiana residents need to complete the form by **April 15** to be considered for state grants!

2

Use your junior year of high school to research dates and requirements for scholarships.

3

Cast your net widely - apply for all scholarships you can.
Hint: most ask for the same information.

4

Never pay to complete a scholarship application or the FAFSA!
Reach out to school counselors, colleges or other professionals if an application asks for secure information to be sent!

5

You don't know how scholarship awarding entities determine if you qualify for need-based scholarships. You only complete the FAFSA or CSS Profile once a year, so why not apply for consideration?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR CLICKABLE LINKS TO OTHER FUNDERS!



Regularly check in with your school's counseling office for scholarship opportunities. Your school counselor is an invaluable resource when it comes to completing your college applications and staying on track for graduation.

Each college or university you are considering will offer institutional scholarships, which are awarded on several factors. As you begin completing college applications, make sure you work with an admissions counselor or the financial aid office to understand the scholarship opportunities available and the accompanying deadlines. While each school varies on deadlines, many require a college application, FAFSA and scholarship application submitted around December 1. Awards can vary greatly from one college to the next.

Companies may offer scholarships or tuition benefits to the children of their employees. Ask your parent or guardian to touch base with their human resources office to explore opportunities. If your parent or guardian is a member of a union, social club, or other organization, those are also great places to look for scholarship opportunities!

Local service organizations may have awards available. Below are a few organizations that may offer scholarships to local students:

[Rotary Club of South Bend](#)

[Find a Local Lions Club](#)

[Indiana Tri Kappa Service Sorority](#)

Reduce or eliminate application fees. Getting ready for college can be expensive, but you might qualify for fee waivers:

[Common App Waiver](#)

[CSS Profile Waiver](#)

[ACT Test Waiver](#)

[SAT Test Waiver](#)

EVEN MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Scholarship Foundation of St. Joseph County

This nonprofit organization is different from the Community Foundation and has its own scholarships for high school seniors, current college students, and non-traditional students residing in St. Joseph County.

Learn More Indiana

Provides resources for students and families preparing for college, including information about state financial aid, such as the 21st Century Scholarship Program.

INvestED

Indiana's free expert resource for students and parents seeking help planning for higher education and financial aid. INvestEd's team assists families in understanding how to fund college wisely and minimize student loan debt.

FAFSA

Available October 1 and free to complete. Complete early to ensure you are considered for the greatest amount of financial aid. Federal Pell Grants and Loans are awarded to students completing this form. Indiana residents should complete the FAFSA by April 15 to be considered for **state grants and scholarships**.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH PLATFORMS

[Scholarship America](#)

[The Gates Scholarship](#)

[NAACP Scholarships](#)

[Horatio Alger Association](#)

[Stamps Scholars](#)

[UNCF](#)

[Jack Kent Cooke Foundation](#)



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PRO TIPS

- [CFSJC.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS](https://cfsjc.org/scholarships) -

Ready to submit a successful scholarship application?
Follow our top 5 pieces of advice!

1

Teach your audience by using the space provided to share specific information. What story does your application tell?

2

Scholarship essays should highlight the important parts of your experience you want to celebrate. Two or three sentences is probably not a strong response.

3

If you want a committee member to spend more than a few minutes reviewing your application, invest time in compiling your application materials.

4

Preserve your story and voice by proofreading, revising, and not relying solely on content-creation tools to give you the final product.

5

Make your application specific to you. If you are one of 100 students in National Honor Society, what makes you unique?

ADDITIONAL TIPS FOR YOUR APP

- [CFSJC.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS](https://www.cfsjc.org/scholarships) -

Start preparing now!

Make a game plan the summer before your senior year, listing important due dates for various forms and applications. Gather as much information as possible to make sure you don't miss an opportunity. This should include asking guidance counselors, teachers, admissions officers, and financial aid staff about opportunities.

Fill out a lot of applications.

It's to your advantage to fill out as many applications as possible to increase the likelihood of receiving a scholarship. The Community Foundation makes it easy for you – completing the [CFSJC Scholarship Application](#) provides students access to 20+ scholarship opportunities!

Make a list.

Make a list of all school activities, sports and clubs, community service, work experience, and internships throughout high school. Think about dates involved, hours completed, and any leadership positions held.

Be specific when listing activities.

Educate the review committee by explaining acronyms and happenings in your participation. Activities that may seem minor to you are important in building a picture of school, career and primary interests.

Strong essay responses are authentic, focused, and polished.

There is no right or wrong answer essay response, but students with stronger responses showcase their strengths and passions, are genuine, and highlight their most important ideas and experiences. Use the space to articulate your thoughts in a clear and concise manner. Content is more important than word count. Make sure your work is free of grammatical and spelling errors. Ask a teacher, parent, or trusted friend to provide feedback before you submit.

Recommendations matter!

If the scholarship application you are completing requires a letter of recommendation or a reference form, choose wisely. Your reference should come from someone who knows you well and can speak to your academic achievements and personal character, such as a teacher, coach, or counselor. References should not come from family members or friends.