



**2020**  
**SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**  
**OVERVIEW**

Revised April 15, 2020

# Hispanic

## Educational, Cultural and Scholarship Fund

---

---

### SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

---

#### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Scholarship Program of the Hispanic Educational, Cultural, and Scholarship Fund, Inc. (Hispanic ECS Fund), a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, is to promote and advance Hispanics in the Greater St. Louis region. The scholarship program rewards academic achievement by providing funding for higher education.

#### II. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Hispanic Educational, Cultural, and Scholarship Fund Scholarship Program is funded through the organization's Learning Fund and the annual operating budget. The Hispanic Educational, Cultural, and Scholarship Fund awards and disburses the money to Hispanic students who attend an accredited college, university or institution of higher learning.

##### A. Scholarships to be Offered

Scholarship awards to students have ranged from \$500 to \$1,000 per year. Each year, the Board of Directors determines the number of scholarships to be awarded and their amount. The Board has decided that at least five (5) Hispanic ECS Fund scholarships of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) will be offered during 2020. An additional one will be offered by Grupo Atlántico:

- *Hispanic Educational, Cultural and Scholarship Fund Scholarship*  
\$1,000 Hispanic ECS Fund scholarships.  
Institutional/corporate and individual scholarships could be awarded in the name of contributors.  
Minimum donation to be so considered is one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
- *Grupo Atlántico Scholarship*  
This \$1,000 scholarship is to be awarded to a female student heading for a career in science, technology, engineering, mathematics or medicine (STEMM).

#### III. ELIGIBILITY

Family and relatives of members of the board of directors of Hispanic Educational, Cultural and Scholarship Fund are not eligible.

The scholarship is open to Hispanic/Latino students with permanent residency in the St. Louis region, which is the bi-state region that includes: the City of St. Louis; the seven (7) Missouri counties of Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis, Warren, and Washington; and the eight (8) Illinois counties of Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair.

Applicants must be:

- Hispanic/Latino (at least one grandparent must have been Hispanic/Latino).
- A permanent resident of the St. Louis region under the following status: a U.S. citizen or a permanent legal resident in the United States holding a permanent resident card (USCIS 1-551) or a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program student.
- Important Note: Students residing in the St. Louis region because they are studying in the area but who reside outside of the region when not in school are not eligible for the scholarship.
- Seeking an associate, baccalaureate or graduate degree at an accredited not-for-profit college/university, or a diploma or certification from a not-for-profit trade or vocational school.
- Have a minimum cumulative grade average of B (3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale) on all prior work attempted in high school and/or college, as applicable.
- Accepted or enrolled in a not-for-profit, accredited college, university or institution of higher learning in the United States as a degree-seeking student by May 15. Must be full-time students: twelve (12) or more credits each semester.
- Submit all required documentation on time

#### IV. GUIDELINES

- The scholarship check must be deposited or cashed no later than sixty (60) days after the date of the check. Failure to deposit or cash the scholarship check (or failure to report it lost or missing) within the required time can result in making the student ineligible for future scholarships.
- Regarding any check which is lost or otherwise unaccounted for, the costs and bank fees to stop payment on the check and to issue a replacement check will be subtracted from any replacement check.
- The scholarship funds must be used for school related expenses as the recipient deems appropriate.
- Previous scholarship recipients are eligible to reapply for further scholarship award by submitting a current application according to the eligibility and guidelines as applicable. Renewal of award is not guaranteed.
- After receiving the scholarship, recipients must report back to Hispanic ECS Fund about the use of their award via e-mail or letter. If the recipient does not report the use of funds, he/she will not be eligible to win another scholarship subsequently.
- Scholarship recipients will not be eligible to re-apply for another scholarship if they:
  - Deliberately have provided false information.
  - Fail to return to, drop out from or are dismissed by the institution of higher learning.
  - Have not reported on the use of their award via email or by letter.
  - Have used the scholarship funds for expenses not related to their education.
  - Have used the scholarship funds in an illegal or improper manner.
  - Have exhibited unacceptable conduct.
- Recommendations must come from individuals who can provide information about the student from the academic as well as the personal perspective; one of the recommendations must be from a teacher, professor, or counselor.
- A scholarship selection committee composed of not less than three members of the local community, including educators, will determine the scholarship recipients based on selected criteria.

The scholarship is open to all Hispanic/Latino students with permanent residency in the St. Louis region, which is the bi-state region that includes: the City of St. Louis; the seven (7) Missouri counties of Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis, Warren, and Washington; and the eight (8) Illinois counties of Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair.

## V. AWARD PROCESS

Scholarship decisions are based on the Hispanic Educational, Cultural, and Scholarship Fund's Scholarship Evaluation Council assessment of an applicant's previous academic background and other criteria. Applicants will be considered for scholarship based upon an indicator derived from the applicant's academic grades in high school or college/university as the case might be. Academic scholarship decisions are made based on this comparative index.

If a talent recommendation has been submitted, the Hispanic ECS Fund's scholarship decision will be based on the academic index, with consideration given to the evaluation of the applicant's talent.

If a service and/or volunteer recommendation have been submitted, the Hispanic ECS Fund's scholarship decision will be based on the academic index, with consideration given to the evaluation of the applicant's service and/or volunteer activities.

## VI. AWARD NOTIFICATION

A scholarship applicant receives written notification of the Hispanic Educational, Cultural, and Scholarship Fund's decision. A student who is awarded a Hispanic ECS Fund scholarship receives a letter that details the amount, eligibility requirements for the disbursement of money, and the conditions for reapplying. Hispanic Educational, Cultural, and Scholarship Fund scholarships are awarded directly to the applicant at a time, date, and place determined by the Board of Directors every year. The scholarship for academic year 2020-21 is scheduled to be presented on **Friday, July 31, 2020** at St. Louis Community College at Forest Park.

## VII. APPLICATION PACKAGE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

To be considered for Hispanic Educational, Cultural, and Scholarship Fund Scholarship funds, the following items must be submitted. Applications may be downloaded from the Funds website at [www.hispanicecsfund.org](http://www.hispanicecsfund.org).

Applications will not be processed without the following documentation:

### **First Time College-Bound Students (High School Seniors)**

- Completed scholarship application
- Admission letter from the college, university or institution of higher learning
- Official academic transcripts
- Copy of post-secondary admission test score: ACT, SAT
- Two (2) recommendations, of which at least one must be from a high school teacher or guidance counselor (sent by those recommending the student)

### **College Students**

- Completed scholarship application
- Official academic transcripts
- Two (2) recommendations, of which at least one must be from a college/university instructor (sent by those recommending the student)

All essential documents must be received by the Scholarship Program Committee by **May 31, 2020** for consideration for awards that apply to the following academic year. The Fund's decision is communicated in writing no later than June 30.

The application package may be downloaded at [www.HispanicECSFund.org](http://www.HispanicECSFund.org).

The complete application package may be submitted and sent to the following address:

Hispanic Educational, Cultural and Scholarship Fund  
Scholarship Program Committee  
PO BOX 411872  
St. Louis, MO 63141

The complete application package may also be submitted via email: [hispaniccecsfund@gmail.com](mailto:hispaniccecsfund@gmail.com)

## VIII. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Hispanic Educational, Cultural, and Scholarship Fund's Scholarship Program Committee shall be responsible for overseeing the methods and process used for awarding the scholarships.

## IX. SCHOLARSHIP EVALUATION COUNCIL

Each year, the Scholarship Program Committee selects a Scholarship Evaluation Council composed of three respected members of the greater St. Louis community, which screens and selects the Hispanic(s) to be awarded the scholarship(s).

The Scholarship Evaluation Council will determine the scholarship recipient based on the selection criteria as defined by the Hispanic Educational, Cultural, and Scholarship Fund. Such criteria include the following, as applicable:

- The student's grade point average (GPA)
- Standardized test scores, such as SAT, ACT
- Community involvement, i.e. community service/volunteerism, and extracurricular activities
- Recommendations
- Interview

If there is an apparent conflict of interest caused by a relationship between an applicant and a member of the evaluation council, the scholarship evaluation council member will not participate in the selection process. The Scholarship Evaluation Council shall make its selection no later than **June 15** of each year and submit its decision to the Scholarship Program Committee not later than one day after making its selection.

The Scholarship Program Committee is responsible for all correspondence with applicants and for ensuring that the Scholarship Council receives the items required for consideration and submitted by the applicants, the academic institutions, and/or recommenders.

The Hispanic Educational, Cultural, and Scholarship Fund, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation whose objectives include, (1) providing educational programs to promote understanding and work to eliminate prejudice and discrimination among the general public concerning Hispanic minorities, (2) offering programs on Hispanic business practices and rendering general guidance and insights on doing business in Latin America and Spain, and (3) promoting scholarship among Hispanic students by distributing academic scholarship grants for study at accredited institutions of higher education. The Fund was founded on August 3, 1998.

El Fondo Educativo, Cultural y Becario Hispano es una corporación sin fines de lucro 501(c)(3) cuyos objetivos incluyen, (1) proveer programas educativos para promover entendimiento y laborar para eliminar prejuicios y discriminación en el público en general con respecto a las minorías hispanas, (2) ofrecer programas sobre las prácticas de negocio empleadas por hispanos y brindar asistencia general sobre cómo hacer negocios en América Latina y España, y (3) promover la escolaridad entre los estudiantes hispanos mediante la distribución de becas educativas para estudios en instituciones de educación superior acreditadas. El Fondo se estableció el 3 de agosto de 1998.