



Community Scholarship Fund

The Community Scholarship Fund pools funds from multiple donors to provide larger scholarships with greater impact. With a focus on completion and career readiness, the Fund helps students pay for college or vocational/technical programs and facilitates access to services and supports to help students during their educational journey.

Students supported by the Community Scholarship Fund are from low-income families in the Community Foundation's eight-county region who have the aptitude and drive to complete a post-secondary education program but are less likely to be awarded merit-based scholarships.

The Fund has three components:

- I. **A scholarship program for graduating high school students pursuing two- or four-year college degrees.** This offers the greatest potential for impact in that it provides the option to award renewable scholarships in amounts sufficient to support completion and allows scholarship dollars to be used flexibly for tuition, fees, books, and room and board. Additional support to help students complete their education includes access to a peer support network, mentoring, and tutoring through community organizations such as Urban League of Rochester, and regular communication with Foundation staff, volunteers, and others committed to helping students successfully navigate the academic environment.
- II. **Scholarships for graduating high school students who are enrolled in business, vocational, or technical schools.** These programs take place in specialized training facilities and help students gain the skills, knowledge, and experience that enable them to enter the workforce in a short period of time.
- III. **Financial support for students whose needs cannot be addressed with our current scholarship funds or other funding sources.** Examples include assistance for students who are on course to completing a degree or certificate program but have exhausted their finances, and payment of outstanding charges that have to be cleared before a diploma is awarded.

The Foundation's Scholarship Advisory Committee establishes eligibility criteria for the Fund, assists in the selection of scholarship recipients, monitors its impact, and ensures the highest level of stewardship on behalf of the donors who have entrusted the Community Foundation with their philanthropic dollars.