



Fall 2026 Mary Kaiser Education Scholarship Application

Dear Applicant,

The Mary Kaiser Education Scholarship is a partnership between LifeSTEPS and California Community Reinvestment Corporation (CCRC) providing scholarships in the areas of Fine Arts Programs, Academic Education, and accredited Vocational/Trade school programs to residents of CCRC-funded affordable rental communities. Special attention will be given to applicants pursuing careers and education in environmental sustainability.

Before applying, carefully review the eligibility criteria and required documents to ensure you submit a complete application. Incomplete applications will not be considered. If you need assistance, email us at scholarships@lifestepsusa.org. We strongly recommend submitting your application before the deadline for review to ensure completeness.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday, May 1st, 2026

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet ALL the following criteria to be considered for an education scholarship:

- Must have resided at a CCRC-funded affordable rental community for at least **one year**, with no more than **three late rent payments** in the past 12 months, and be in good standing. (*Exceptions: If the community is less than one year old, a minimum of **six months** of residency is required. Residency at multiple affordable housing properties totaling one year is also acceptable.*)
- Must demonstrate **at least one source of income** to help cover educational expenses.
- Demonstrate **community leadership** through volunteer work at school or in the community.
- Must be a **graduating high school senior, GED recipient, or undergraduate student** enrolling in an accredited undergraduate program or vocational/trade school. (*Graduate programs are **not eligible**.*)
- **Employees of CCRC and LifeSTEPS, as well as their family and household members, are not eligible** (*including property management staff*).

Additional requirements for academic scholarship applicants:

- Must provide **proof of acceptance** to an accredited university or community college.
- Documentation of financial need by providing a complete **Student Aid Report from FASFA**.
- Must be enrolled in a minimum of **6 units**.
- Must have a **minimum GPA of 2.0** from the most recently completed term. Student GPAs and academic progress will be monitored.

Additional requirements for vocational/trade School applicants:

- Vocational/ Trade School / Certification and/or program must be accredited.
- Must provide proof of acceptance to an accredited trade program for full or part-time status.
- Provide a document certifying vocational/trade school program cost.

Completed applications can be e-mailed or mailed.

Mail to: LifeSTEPS Corporate Offices, 3247 Ramos Circle, Sacramento, CA 95827

(Mailed Applications must be received by the deadline.)

Fax: 916-965-0102

Email: Scholarships@LifeSTEPSusa.org

Phone: 916-965-0110



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Instructions and Checklist

Use the following **checklist** to complete your application. If you have questions, email us at scholarships@lifestepsusa.org.

Required Documents (Arrange in the Following Order When Submitting Your Application):

Signed Instructions and Checklist (this page)

- Attachment A1:** Cover Page
- Attachment A2:** Annual School Budget
- Attachment A3:** Honors & Activities
- Attachment A4:** Autobiographical Essay Questions
- Attachment A5:** Signed Verification of Residence and Notice of Good Standing
- Attachment A6.1:** Signed Mary Kaiser Terms of Agreement for Academic Scholarship Applicants
- Attachment A6.2:** Signed Mary Kaiser Terms of Agreement for Vocational/Trade School Applicants
- Attachment A7:** Jpeg/PNG Photo with Signed Photograph and Information Release
- Attachment A8:** Recap of Supporting Documentation
- Attachments B1 and B2:** Provide two letters of recommendation from a teacher, guidance counselor, employer, clergy, youth group leader, etc.
- Attachment C:** Attach most current high school and/or community college or university transcripts. If your transcript is not yet available, please forward it as soon as it is. (*Academic scholarship applicants only*).
- Attachment D:** Provide proof of acceptance for the upcoming term/ vocational or trade program.
- Attachment E:** Attach Class Schedule for upcoming term/ trade or vocational program. If your schedule is not available, please forward it as soon as it becomes available. (Note: A copy of your class schedule is not required to apply; however, it is required before funding is disbursed.)
- Attachment F:** Student Aid Report from FASFA or, for trade school, another document certifying program cost and means of paying for education.
- Applicant Signature on all required pages**

Submission Guidelines

- Assemble your completed application as one PDF and submit it via:
 - Email: Scholarships@lifestepsusa.org or
 - Mail to LifeSTEPS corporate office (Ensure it is received by the deadline.)
- Do not include any additional, unrequested documents.
- Applications must arrive at the LifeSTEPS corporate office on or before the deadline. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applicants are responsible for verifying receipt of their application. LifeSTEPS is not responsible for lost applications.

I am applying for an: **Academic Scholarship** **Trade/ Vocational Scholarship**

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant Signature: _____

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ATTACHMENT - A1 Cover Page
The application must be typed.

DEADLINE: Applications must be received at the LifeSTEPS Corporate Office by **May 1st, 2026**. The applicant is responsible for ensuring timely receipt. Email Scholarships@LifeSTEPSusa.org to verify receipt of your application.

SPECIAL NOTE: Scholarships must be used within 12 months of the award date.

General Applicant Information			
First Name _____	Middle Name _____	Last Name _____	
Housing Community Name _____			
Address & Apartment # _____	City _____	State _____	Zip Code _____
() - _____	Email _____	Your Date of Birth _____	
Your Phone # (###) ### - #####		MM/DD/YEAR	
Ethnicity (Optional):			
<input type="checkbox"/> Alaskan Native/American Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> White/Caucasian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
EDUCATIONAL HISTORY			
<i>Please mark the highest level of education completed.</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> High School	<input type="checkbox"/> College or University	<input type="checkbox"/> Graduate School	<input type="checkbox"/> Vocational School

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ATTACHMENT - A1 Cover Page cont'd

FOR ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS:

University/ College Information			
Name of School Attending in Fall 2026			College Student ID#
Anticipated Degree/Major		Anticipated Graduation Date	
School Mailing Address * Financial Aid office, Student Services, etc.	City	State	Zip Code

FOR VOCATIONAL/TRADE SCHOOL APPLICANTS:

Trade/ Vocational Information			
Name of School Attending in Fall 2026			Student ID#
Trade/ Vocational Program		Anticipated Completion Date	
School Mailing Address *School mailing address = the Financial Aid office, Student Services, etc.	City	State	Zip Code

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ATTACHMENT A2 - Annual School Budget

LifeSTEPS scholarships are intended to go directly towards annual tuition, books, required fees, and any other related student expenses. When determining award amounts, the Scholarship Committee will review the annual budget of the family, the student, and the type of institution attending. If an item does not apply, please enter N/A.

SPECIAL NOTE: A complete Student Aid Report from FASFA is required for academic scholarships.

<u>Annual Expenses (for both semesters)</u>			<u>Annual Aid Sources for School</u>		
School Expenses	Annual School Tuition:	\$	Financial Aid (include student aid report)	Loans (payback required)	\$
	+ Annual Books	\$		+ No payback required	\$
	+ Annual Rent or Room and Board	\$		+ Cal/ Pell Grant	\$
Personal Expenses	+ Gas or Transportation	\$	Additional Aid	+ Other Scholarships	\$
	+ Food	\$		+ Individual or Expected Family Contribution	\$
	+ Other	\$			
Total Annual Expenses =		\$	Total Annual Aid Sources =		\$

Annual Household Income: \$ _____ # of Dependents in Household: _____

Type of Educational Institution	Maximum Award Amount Available
Vocational / Trade Program	Up to \$5,000
UC system	\$5,000
Private system	\$3,500
CSU system	\$2,800
Community College system	\$750
Requested Amount of Scholarship	\$ _____
*Maximum award amounts are not guaranteed. Awards will be granted as funds are available.	

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ATTACHMENT A3 - Honors and Activities

Applicant Name: _____

The Scholarship Committee will assign one point for each where applicable. Please type in the space provided below. **Items listed without a year/month associated will not be considered.**

I. HONORS RECEIVED (academic, sports, community service, etc.) in the last 18 months. *Must Specify month/year award was received. (3 Possible Points)*

<i>Name/Type of Honor or Award</i>	<i>Year & Month</i>

II. SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (list memberships in clubs, participation in athletics, special classes and activities, positions held, etc.) in the last 18 months. *Must Specify month/year associated with activity. (3 Possible Points)*

<i>Name/Type School Activity</i>	<i>Year & Month</i>

III. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES (Civic committees, church groups, scouts, tutoring, charitable groups, project-sponsored activities, etc.) in the last 18 months. *(4 Possible Points)*

<i>Committee or Group Name</i>	<i>Contact Name and Phone</i>	<i>Dates of Service</i>

IV. EMPLOYMENT within the last 18 months. *(4 Possible Points if Presently Employed)*

<i>Employer</i>	<i>Job Title/Duties</i>	<i>Number of Hours Worked Per Week</i>	<i>Dates of Employment</i>

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ATTACHMENT A4 - Autobiographical Essay Questions

Applicant Name: _____

The Scholarship Committee will award points for essay thoughtfulness, organization, clarity of responses and how you, the applicant, tell your story. **Please write approx. 100-200 words for each question.** COMPLETE the questions **BY TYPING** the answers in the space provided below. You may attach answers on a separate piece of paper. **(4 Possible Points Each)**

1. Describe your upbringing and any challenges you've faced growing up in affordable housing. How have these experiences shaped your character, aspirations, and educational goals?

Write approx. 100-200 words

2. Please describe any of your outstanding accomplishments or activities which have been particularly meaningful to you. **Write approx. 100-200 words**

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3. Please tell us how your educational success and long-term goals will give back to your community, or create community for others?

Write approx. 100-200 words

4. Describe your academic, professional, or personal goals for the next 5-10 years.

Write approx. 100-200 words

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5. Explain your financial need and how receiving this scholarship will impact your ability to pursue your academic and career goals. How will it alleviate any financial burdens and allow you to focus on your studies? **Write approx. 100-200 words**

6. Please provide any additional information that you believe is important for us to consider in relation to your application. (optional)

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ATTACHMENT A5 - Verification of Residence and Notice of Good Standing

Applicant Name: _____

To be eligible for a Mary Kaiser Education Scholarship award, the applicant **must be a current resident of a CCRC-funded affordable rental community for at least 1 year and in good standing.** Exception: *If a housing community is less than one year old, a minimum of six months required, or residency at multiple properties totaling 1 year is acceptable.*

To certify your status, **please have the Community Manager complete this form for you.** This form can be handwritten.

FOR COMMUNITY / PROPERTY MANAGEMENT OFFICE USE ONLY			
I hereby certify that the above-named applicant is a resident of:			
Housing Community Name		Management Company	
Address & Apartment #	City	State	Zip Code
The resident has lived here since _____.			
Notice of Good Standing:	The resident has had three or fewer late rent payments during the past 12 months and is considered to be in good standing. Therefore, based on these criteria, I recommend this resident be eligible to apply for a Mary Kaiser Education Scholarship Award.		
Signature of Community Manager: _____			
Printed Name			
Address of Community Manager			
Date	Community Manager Telephone #		

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ATTACHMENT A6.1 – (For Academic Scholarship Applicants)

Mary Kaiser Academic Education Scholarship Fund Terms of Agreement

- 1. I understand that I must enroll in and complete a minimum of 6 academic units per term and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 or higher. I understand that if I withdraw from or achieve less than a 2.0 GPA while receiving scholarship funds, LifeSTEPS has the authority to adjust or cancel the award accordingly.
2. I understand that it is my responsibility to notify LifeSTEPS immediately if I:
(a) change my college
(b) change my permanent address
(c) cease to carry the minimum of 6 academic units
(d) achieve less than a 2.0 GPA while using Mary Kaiser Education Scholarship funds
(e) stop attending an institution of higher education
3. I understand that LifeSTEPS has the right to request transcripts to verify my GPA and my academic progress.
4. I understand that there is one scholarship opportunity each year.
5. I confirm that all the information that I have provided for this scholarship fund is valid and is subject to verification.
6. I understand that late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered.
7. I understand that all award checks will be sent directly to the applicant for payment of tuition, books, required fees and any other expenses related to the students education.
8. CCRC and LifeSTEPS employees and their family members and household members are not eligible for funding (includes property management).
9. I have provided a valid email address on the Cover Page and understand that LifeSTEPS will use the address provided to communicate with me about my application.
10. I understand that points will be deducted in the subsequent semester if I withdraw from classes resulting in enrollment in two or fewer classes. Students that withdraw from classes in two consecutive semesters are ineligible for funding until proof of successful completion of one semester with enrollment in at least 2 classes can be provided.
11. I confirm and agree to release, defend and hold harmless LifeSTEPS and Mary Kaiser Education Scholarship, including any firm publishing and/or distributing the Marketing Materials in whole or in part, from and against any claims, damages or liability arising from or related to the use of Student's Story, Student's Identity, and Student's Information. Any person mentioned in Student's Parental Family shall be deemed to have consented to the use of their name, signature, picture/photograph, image, likeness, and any other indicia of such person's identity of any nature by Applicant and/or Student shall defend and indemnify Mary Kaiser Education Scholarship against any claims that any of Student's friends, family or other persons mentioned in the Mary Kaiser Education Scholarship may assert against or arising from, or related to, Mary Kaiser Education Scholarship use of any name, signature, picture/photograph, image, likeness, and any other indicia of such person's identity of any nature.

Applicant Printed Name: _____

Applicant Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (If under age): _____

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Fall 2026 Mary Kaiser Education Scholarship Application

ATTACHMENT A6.2 – (For Trade/ Vocational Scholarship Applicants)
Mary Kaiser Education Scholarship Fund Terms of Agreement

- 1. I understand that I must enroll in and complete the entire vocational and trade program. I understand that if I withdraw from or don't complete the vocational or trade program while receiving scholarship funds, LifeSTEPS has the authority to adjust or cancel the award accordingly.
2. I understand that it is my responsibility to notify LifeSTEPS immediately if I:
(a) change my trade / vocational school
(b) change my permanent address
(c) cease to complete the trade / vocational program
(e) stop attending the trade / vocational program
3. I understand that LifeSTEPS has the right to request transcripts to verify my academic progress.
4. I understand that there is one scholarship opportunity each year.
5. I confirm that all the information that I have provided for this scholarship fund is valid and is subject to verification.
6. I understand that late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered.
7. I understand that all award checks will be sent directly to the applicant for payment of tuition, books, required fees and any other expenses related to the students education.
8. CCRC and LifeSTEPS employees and their family members and household members are not eligible for funding (includes property management).
9. I have provided a valid email address on the Cover Page and understand that LifeSTEPS will use the address provided to communicate with me about my application.
10. I confirm and agree to release, defend and hold harmless LifeSTEPS and Mary Kaiser Education Scholarship, including any firm publishing and/or distributing the Marketing Materials in whole or in part, from and against any claims, damages or liability arising from or related to the use of Student's Story, Student's Identity, and Student's Information. Any person mentioned in Student's Parental Family shall be deemed to have consented to the use of their name, signature, picture/photograph, image, likeness, and any other indicia of such person's identity of any nature by Applicant and/or Student shall defend and indemnify Mary Kaiser Education Scholarship against any claims that any of Student's friends, family or other persons mentioned in the Mary Kaiser Education Scholarship may assert against or arising from, or related to, Mary Kaiser Education Scholarship use of any name, signature, picture/photograph, image, likeness, and any other indicia of such person's identity of any nature.

Applicant Printed Name: _____

Applicant Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (If under age): _____

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ATTACHMENT A7 - PHOTOGRAPH AND INFORMATION RELEASE FORM

Property Name: _____

Please note that signing this form is voluntary and that one's decision to sign or not to sign will not affect their eligibility. Please include jpeg photo attachment.

Photo Release

By signing below, I consent, without further consideration or compensation, to the use (full or in part) of photographs, videos, and/or details made of me as a participant of LifeSTEPS/CCRC scholarship programs and services for the purposes of LifeSTEPS and/or CCRC reports, newsletters, internet, social media, web production to the websites www.lifestepsusa.org or https://www.e-ccrc.org/scholarship, and/or other digital promotional outlets, and printing on paper for distribution, and any other marketing and publicity materials. Further, I release LifeSTEPS and CCRC, its contractors and/or employees or any other related party from any liability that may arise from the use of such materials. The release will remain in full force and effect until withdrawn in writing by me. This release is intended to grant permission for photos and/or videos that include my/our minor children when applicable.

Public Release of Impact Story Information

I am aware I have provided personal information on myself including my participation in LifeSTEPS and CCRC activities. I understand the information about me may be used for publicity purposes and I consent to having it released for this purpose.

Photo is attached to application

Applicant Printed Name: _____

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

(If under 18 years old)
Parent Printed Name: _____

*Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

*If applicant is under 18.



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ATTACHMENT A8 – Recap of Supporting Documentation

- 1. I have completed my budget (Attachment A2) to the best of my knowledge. True False
2. A jpeg/PNG picture of myself (Attachment A7) is attached. True False Decline
3. My 2 letters of recommendation (Attachment B1 & B2) are attached. True False
4. My high school/college transcripts from Spring 2026 (Attachment C) are attached. (For academic scholarship applicants only.) True False n/a

If FALSE: My transcripts from Spring 2026 will be available (specify date) _____, at which time I will submit them to LifeSTEPS.

- 5. My Proof of Acceptance* for the specified school (Attachment D) is attached. True False

If FALSE, please explain: _____

*Proof of Acceptance can be enrollment verification/letter of acceptance/class schedule or registration appointment for the upcoming term.

- 6. My class schedule for the upcoming term/ program (Attachment E) is attached. True False

If FALSE: My schedule for the upcoming term/ program will be available (specify date) _____, at which time I will submit it to LifeSTEPS.

- 7. My Student Aid Report from FASFA or, for trade school, another document certifying program cost and means of paying for education (Attachment F) is attached. True False

If FALSE: My Student Aid Report will be available (specify date) _____, at which time I will submit it to LifeSTEPS.

I attest that I am submitting a complete application with all the required documents.

I have included all attachments and assembled them in the order listed on the checklist. I will submit additional documents as stated above.

Applicant Signature: _____

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