

Opportunity Scholarship

2026-27 Application Guide



OPPORTUNITY
SCHOLARSHIP

A PROGRAM OF THE DREAM.US

Make Your College Dreams Come True

TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship for Dreamer Students in Locked-Out States

TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarships are for undocumented students who live in states where they effectively have no access to college – either because they face paying out-of-state tuition or because their state will simply not admit them into its universities. We call these “locked-out states.”



You may be eligible for our Opportunity Scholarship if you (1) live in and you have or will soon graduate from a high school in one of the locked-out states shown here, and (2) are a first-generation immigrant student with or without DACA or TPS who entered the country before November 1, 2020.

Read more about our eligibility criteria below!

Our Scholars

Our Scholars have what it takes to succeed in college and in life. While we consider your GPA, we place great emphasis on your commitment to community service and your demonstrated ability to overcome the barriers and challenges that undocumented students face each and every day.

Our Award

The Opportunity Scholarship Award will cover your tuition, fees, and on-campus housing and meals at one of our Partner Colleges up to a maximum of \$100,000 for a bachelor’s degree for up to 4 years. You can renew the award each year so long as you meet the continuing eligibility criteria.

Important Dates

- November 1, 2025 - Application Opens
- **January 31, 2026 - Application Closes**
- Mid-March 2026 – Awardees Notified

More Than a Scholarship – A College Committed to Your Success

If you receive the Opportunity Scholarship, you can use it to attend one of our Opportunity Partner Colleges listed below. These colleges are committed to serving undocumented students and are prepared to offer you the support services you need to help you successfully navigate your college life. Each of our Partner Colleges designates a Scholar Advisor to work with our Scholars – individually and as a group. You will not be alone!

Please research each of these colleges (majors offered, proximity to home, cultural fit, etc.) prior to selecting your Partner College choice. **If awarded, you will not be allowed to switch colleges.**

- [Delaware State University](#), Dover, Delaware
- [Dominican University](#), River Forest, Illinois
- [Eastern Connecticut State University](#), Windham, Connecticut
- [Christian Brothers University](#), Memphis, Tennessee
- [Trinity Washington University](#) (women’s college), Washington, D.C.

Note: If you have received TheDream.US Scholarship in the past, you may not reapply.

Step 1: Determining Your Eligibility

Before you apply for the Opportunity Scholarship, you need to confirm that you meet the eligibility criteria.

You are eligible to apply if you:

1. Are a first-generation immigrant student who is currently undocumented with or without DACA or TPS who came to the United States before November 1, 2020, and have continuously lived in the United States since then;
2. Entered the United States before the age of 16;
3. Has earned or will earn by the start of the 2026-27 academic year a high school diploma from a public or private high school in the United States:
 - a. Live in and have graduated or will graduate from a high school in a targeted locked-out state by the end of the 2025-2026 academic year;
4. Graduated or will graduate with a high school GPA of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale and have a cumulative college/university GPA of 2.5 or better (if you have earned college credits outside of high school);
5. Intend to relocate to and enroll full-time in a bachelor’s degree program at an Opportunity Partner College in the Fall term of the 2026-2027 academic year.
6. Have significant unmet financial need.

Note: This scholarship is intended to support undocumented students. If you are a U.S. citizen, a legal permanent resident, an international student, or hold a non-immigrant work visa in the United States, you are not eligible, and we encourage you to explore other scholarship opportunities open to you.

Step 2: Completing the Application

You can apply for the Opportunity Scholarship by going to our website: [Opportunity Scholarship](#). If prompted, the Program Key is: **DreamOpportunity**.

You must apply for admission to the Partner College(s) of your choice before the application deadline of January 31, 2026. Applying to TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship does not guarantee admission to these Partner Colleges. *Helpful tip – you can apply to all of these schools at once by filling out the Common App.*

Application Deadline: January 31, 2026, 11:59 P.M. Pacific Standard Time

Seriously – don't miss the deadline! If you do, we cannot consider your application.

Our application is simple and straight forward. Below is an overview.

If you have any difficulties in completing the application, reach out to ISTS (our scholarship management provider):

Email: TheDream.US@applyISTS.com

Call: 1(855) 376-7076 and ask for the TheDream.US Scholarship Program

Applicant Information

You will provide us the same demographic information that you will include in most of your college applications.

We **DO NOT** ask for your home address and if you have DACA, TPS, or other work authorization you **DO NOT** have to upload your documents.

You will be required to certify that you:

Meet the Immigration Eligibility criteria and provide any requested data to confirm your eligibility.

Academic Information

You let us know which Partner Colleges you plan to apply to, and which one is your 1st choice in this section.

Please research each of these colleges (majors offered, proximity to home, cultural fit, etc.) prior to selecting your 1st choice. ***If awarded, you will not be allowed to switch Partner College.***

You will also provide your high school academic information (and college information if you have attended college after high school).

Transcripts:

You will be required to upload the following documents **by January 31, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. PST:**

- A copy of your official or unofficial high school transcript showing grades and cumulative GPA.
- A transcript for any community college credits and/or 4-year college/university credits earned after high school.

Financial Information

Our scholarship is available to low-income students who cannot otherwise afford to go to college. To assess this, we need to understand your financial situation.

- If you're a dependent student, we need your parents' and your financial information to get a full picture of the family's financial strength.
- If you're an independent student, we only need your financial information (and, if you're married, your spouse's) to assess your financial strength.

You indicate whether you are a dependent or an independent student and then, based on your status, provide:

- Annual household Income;
- Number in the household supported by this income; and
- Number of dependents supported by this income who will attend college in 2026-2027.

You DO NOT have to upload any financial records.

Essay

While we will consider your academic record and volunteer and community service activities in selecting finalists, the most important part of your application is your essay. This is your

opportunity to let the Selection Committee know that you have the motivation and persistence to exceed in college and in life.

Your essay should be no more than 750 words max.

The essay prompt is:

TheDream.US recognizes the challenges and aspirations of undocumented immigrant youth, also known as Dreamers. How has your journey and experiences as a Dreamer shaped your identity and perspective? In what ways do you envision leveraging who you are and your experiences to contribute to your community and college campus if awarded TheDream.US Scholarship?

Step 3: Submitting and Monitoring the Status of Your Application

Don't forget! You must submit your application and upload the required documents **by January 31, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. PST:**

Your application is not complete until all required transcript(s) are uploaded.

WE CANNOT CONSIDER INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS.

It is your responsibility to monitor the status of your application and transcript(s) and make sure your application is complete.

You may monitor the status of your application on your home page at <https://dream.applyists.net/dreamopportunity>. Allow 5 to 7 business days after submitting or uploading transcript(s) for your online status to update.

- **Incomplete:** Items are missing or are being processed by ISTS. Click on the status button to view additional information about your application, including the status of each requirement.
- **Completed:** All requirements have been met, and no further action is need. Your application will be reviewed and considered for the scholarship.

You may also monitor the status of your transcript(s) by clicking on the application status button (i.e. Incomplete, Complete):

- Not Received:** the transcript(s) have either not been received or have been rejected.
- Processing:** the transcript(s) have been received and are being reviewed.
- Rejected:** the transcript(s) have been rejected – you can see the reason.
- Accepted:** the transcript(s) have been verified and accepted by ISTS.

If a transcript has been rejected, you will receive an email letting you know why. **You should submit the corrected transcript ASAP.** If you have questions, difficulties, or the deadline has passed, and your uploaded transcript reads “Not Received” or “Rejected” reach out to ISTS at:

Email: TheDream.US@applyISTS.com

Call: 1(855) 376-7076 and ask for the TheDream.US Scholarship Program

Step 4: Award Notification

ISTS will notify you by email in mid-March 2026 if you have been selected as a recipient of the scholarship or not. If you receive a scholarship, your next step is to accept the award!

Make sure that you have added ISTS to your contact list as a safe sender. **Sadly, we have had awardees who missed their award because the ISTS email went to spam!**

Step 5: Accepting the Award

ISTS will send you an email with a link to the acceptance form. **You must accept the award by the deadline,** or you will lose the Scholarship.

If you decide not to accept our award, please indicate this on the form and let us know why.

Step 6: Taking the Pledge

Being selected as a TheDream.US Scholar is an honor and a privilege. You will become a member of a community of over 12,000 Dreamer Scholars. With them, you will commit to your own academic success and to supporting the academic success of other Dreamer Scholars. And we will be with you every step of the way.

Questions? We're Here to Help!

Email: TheDream.US@applyISTS.com (reference TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship Program)

Call: 1(855) 376-7076 and ask for the TheDream.US Scholarship Program

The Fine Print

TheDream.US is a project of New Venture Fund, a 501(c)(3). International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc. (ISTS) administers the program. Awards are granted without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability or national origin. TheDream.US reserves the right to review the conditions and procedures of this scholarship program and to make changes at any time, including termination of the program.