CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

ABODE COMMUNITIES' BEYOND HOMES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

This guide provides you with instructions on how to register for the scholarships portal at the California Community Foundation, how to confirm your registration, and provides helpful tips on filling out the application. A preview of the scholarship application is provided at the end of this guide, should you prefer to prepare your answers offline and then copy/paste them into the online application.

In short, here is a summary of the application process:

1. Register as an applicant in the scholarships portal
2. Confirm registration in your email
3. Navigate to the scholarship application in the portal
4. Fill out the application and submit

If you have questions or experience difficulties, please contact scholarships@calfund.org.

REGISTER yourself as an applicant here: https://californiacommunityfoundation.my.site.com/scholarship/s/login/SelfRegister. The registration page looks like this:

- You will be prompted to create a profile, including your first name, last name, and email address. Your email address should be one that you check often, as award information will be communicated via email.
- For **What type of access are you requesting?**, select Scholarship Applicant.
- Under Access Level, select "no."

Once you register, you'll receive this message:

California COMMUNITY Foundation

Sign Up for an Account

Create an account to access funding opportunities and track submitted applications.

Thank you for registering to our portal.
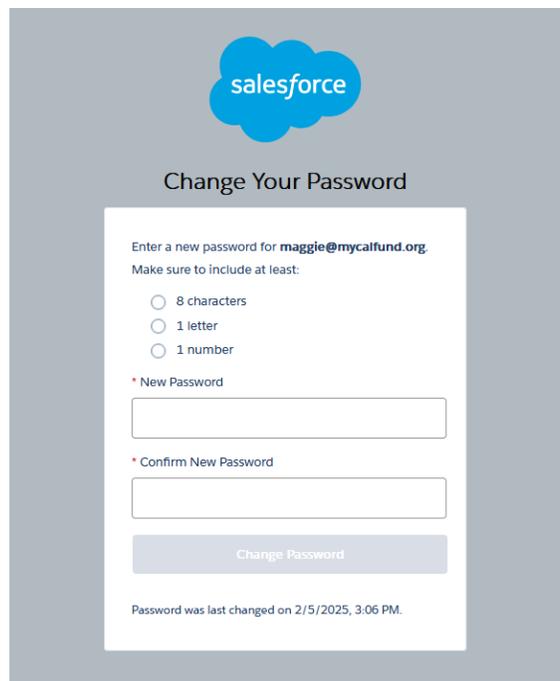**Please check your email for the confirmation and to set your password.**
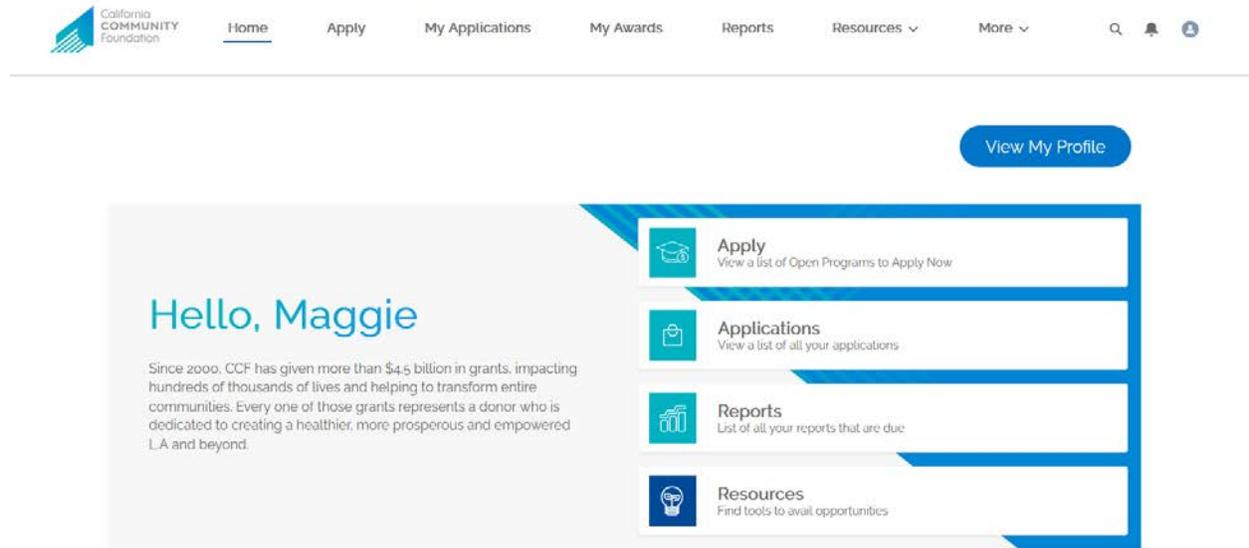
Done

Already have an account?

Navigate to the email you provided. You will receive the following email from Scholarship Portal (grantsmanagement@calfund.org). If the email is not in your inbox, be sure to check the SPAM folder and add grantsmanager@calfund.org and scholarships@calfund.org as a contact.

Welcome to CCF Portal External Inbox ×

Scholarship Portal <grantsmanagement@calfund.org>   3:06 PM (0 minutes ago)
to me ▾
Hi Maggie,

Welcome to CCF Portal! To get started, go to https://californiacommunityfoundation.my.site.com/scholarship/login?c=Kcw2gaa5Q3qpjdYNhOr3OsmpLlHbDxmSObvTjWRnAkZYGu96_z0Yq621i8UWYg92ehiCNRz4qfnyjsWOolg0JiHMUkIyU2Arux8mXDJzEHRH6excXqfhxLylbaNH34T2w1htEydMglgDLQKr91A5DdDxUPUyjDazfBs1SfvU6LQSFQtc2pnb56yOrio3z5n_APoSAg4V

Username: maggie@mycalfund.org

Thanks,
California Community Foundation

The link in the email will prompt you to create a password:

salesforce

Change Your Password

Enter a new password for **maggie@mycalfund.org**.
Make sure to include at least:
○ 8 characters
○ 1 letter
○ 1 number

* New Password

* Confirm New Password

Change Password

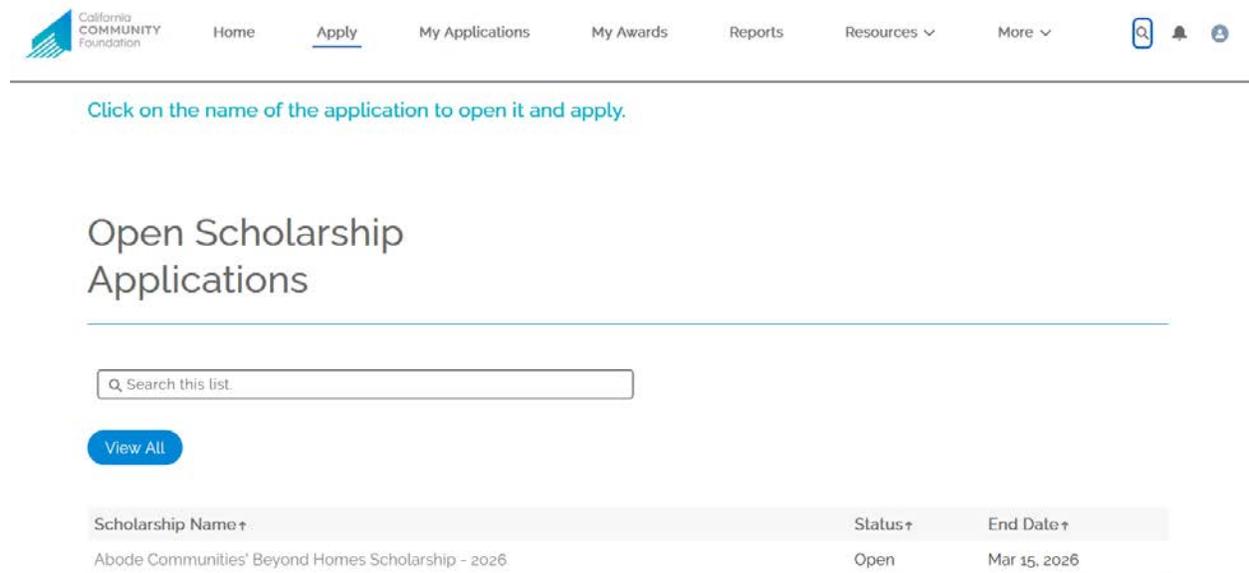Password was last changed on 2/5/2025, 3:06 PM.

You will then be taken to the home screen of the application portal:

Once you have registered, you will be able to access the application through your secure portal log in here: https://californiacommunityfoundation.my.site.com/scholarship/s/login/.

APPLICATION

Upon logging in, select Apply tab at the top of the page, and navigate to the Abode Communities' Beyond Homes Scholarship – 2026.

Abode Communities' Beyond Homes Scholarship - 2026

APPLY NOW

Application Due Date

03/15/2026

Type
Scholarship

Status
In progress

Description
Established in 2008, this fund awards college scholarships to disadvantaged youth that live in an Abode Communities property.

Once you click on the name of the scholarship, you'll need to click on the "Apply Now" button. This will take you to the main application page.

You may work on your application and save your progress as you go, but you must have information in all of the required fields (marked with a red asterisk) in order to save the application as a draft. You may put placeholder information into the required fields and return to the application if you save it as a draft. It is recommended you prepare your answers offline and then paste them into the fields when you are ready to submit. A copy of the application is provided at the end of this guide.

You can return to your saved application on the My Applications page on the scholarship portal. Your saved draft will reopen when you click on your application ID.

California COMMUNITY Foundation   Home   Apply   My Applications   My Awards   Reports   Resources ⌄   More ⌄   Q 🔔 👤

Click on the Application ID to open and access your application .

All Applications

🔍 Search this list.

View All

Application ID↑	Status.↑	Applying Contact Name↑	Funding Cycle↑
360000	In Progress	Maggie Rose	Children of Securitas Scholarship - 2025
363564	In Progress	Maggie Rose	Adiba Shaby Scholarship - 2025

SUBMISSION

In order to successfully submit your application, you must provide 1) all required information 2) all required attachments and 3) when your application has been finalized you must type your name into the box at the bottom of the application, select "yes", and click Submit. You will receive a submission confirmation email.

When you view your submitted application on the portal, you will **not** be able to see your file submissions or checkboxes. If you are missing materials after you've submitted your application, the Foundation will contact you. If you'd like to confirm receipt of materials, please contact scholarships@calfund.org.

Tips:

- Please use an email that you check regularly. Please **avoid** providing a school-associated e-mail address if you will be transferring schools.
- We may need to send you information by mail. Be sure to include your full mailing address which should include your street address (ex. 2000 Smith Street), your city (ex. Los Angeles), your five-digit postal zip code (ex. 90012), and if applicable an apartment or unit number. Please **only** put the country of United States in the Country box.
- It is permissible to consult an adult and seek guidance on the essay portion of the application. It is the committee's expectation that you are the sole author of your essay and that you have not received assistance in editing your essay by an adult or peer. If you are quoting another individual, be sure to properly cite and identify direct quotes using quotation marks.
- If you have any clarifying questions, seek guidance from a counselor or teacher. If they are unable to assist you – contact the Foundation at scholarships@calfund.org and we will do our best to address your question in a timely fashion.

Helpful Resources:
Essay Writing
- http://www.studentscholarshipsearch.com/tips/scholarship-essay-tips.php
- https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/ways-to-make-your-scholarship-essay-stand-out

Abode Communities' Beyond Homes Scholarship

Description: Abode Communities is deeply committed to ensuring its residents have the resources, tools, and support needed to achieve higher education.

Amount and Criteria: In addition to the higher education and career planning services offered through Abode Communities' resident services program, Beyond Homes, the organization offers two unique academic scholarship opportunities for young adults to pursue a two- or four-year college, university, vocational/trade school, or certificate program:

- Building Hope Fund – $2,500 per year, up to $10,000 for graduating high school seniors with a minimum GPA of 3.5
- Building Equity Fund - $2,500 per year, up to $5,000 for students ages 17-28 with a minimum GPA of 2.0 or a GED Score of 400 who have demonstrated experience with, or a commitment to Black, Indigenous, and/or other communities of Color

Instructions: PLEASE SUBMIT ONLY (1) APPLICATION. APPLICANTS DO NOT NEED TO SUBMIT TWO APPLICATIONS. Abode Communities' Scholarship Committee will make fund assignments upon candidate evaluation.

All scholarship awards are made directly to the educational institution and can be used to pay for tuition, books, living expenses, and more!

You will be required to submit the following application components:

- Academic achievements
- Community activities
- Essay questions
- Letters of recommendation
- Building Hope Fund: Two (2) signed letters of recommendation. Building Equity Fund: Two (2) signed letters from persons who can speak on behalf of your character, goals, motivation, achievements. Letter cannot be from a family member.
- Current school transcript (If selected for an interview, an official high school transcript for the Building Hope Fund or official documentation of past high school graduation or GED test scores for the Building Equity Fund will be required to determine eligibility.)

Deadline:

- Application Opens: February 1, 2026
- Unofficial transcripts must be dated no earlier than: February 1, 2026
- Application Closes: March 15, 2026

PLEASE NOTE, ANY APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Contact: If you have any questions about this scholarship, please contact scholarship@abodecommunities.org. For questions about this form, please contact scholarships@calfund.org.

NOTE: Make sure to save your application often!
Navigate to the "Submission" section and select "No, Save as a Draft"
(You will need to put placeholder text, such as "TBD," for all required questions)

Scholarship Application

Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements to proceed. *

☐ I attest I am a resident of Abode Communities.

☐ I attest I meet the minimum threshold for the GPA/GED Score.

☐ I attest I plan to pursue a two- or four-year college, university, vocational/trade school, or certificate program.

Contact Information

First Name *

[   ]

Last Name *

[   ]

Preferred Pronouns

[Please select...   ⌄]

Date of Birth *

[   ]

Email *

[   ]

Student Primary Phone *

[   ]

Parent/Guardian Full Name *

[   ]

Parent/Guardian Phone *

[   ]

Student Address

Property Name *   Please select your property name from this drop-down menu.

[Please select...   ⌄]

Street Address *

Include unit/apartment number in this line

City *

State *

Please select...

Country *

United States

Ensure that the country reads United States. The application will not go through if you have a different variant (USA, United States of America, etc.).

Zip Code *

High School Question

Are you currently in high school? *

○ Yes

○ No

If you select "yes" to this question, a section will populate for you to fill out your high school information.

Higher Education Information

College/University Name *

(Anticipated)

Expected Graduation Year *

Enrollment Status *

Please select...

Intended Degree *

Please select...

Major

Skip if undecided

Intended Career

Skip if undecided

College/University G.P.A.

Enter "n/a" if currently in high school

Personal Information

Will you be the first person in your immediate family to enter college? *

○ Yes

○ No

What is your total annual household income before taxes (including any income your family receives from people who do not live with you)? *

This income supports how many people? *

If you have applied for financial aid via FAFSA, upload information showing your SAI

Browse...   No file selected.

Please upload prior to your final submission. You do NOT need to upload in order to save your application as a draft.

Do any of the following circumstances apply to you?

☐ I identify as someone with a disability or neurodiversity

☐ I was raised by a single parent for all or part of my childhood

☐ I am currently employed at least part-time

☐ I am or was formerly involved in foster care

☐ I have experienced homelessness

☐ I have been impacted by the justice system

☐ I am a caretaker for my family member(s)

☐ I am (or my family that I live with is) a recipient of state or federal assistance programs

☐ I have children that are my dependents

☐ I am a refugee

Academic Information

Describe any Honors or Awards received from your School and/or Community

Include (1) Year of the Award, (2) Organization, and (3) Description. These can be: Academic, Sports, Community Service, etc.

Describe any School-related Extracurricular Activities

Include (1) Year, (2) Activity, and (3) Description. These can be: Special Classes, Tutoring, Memberships, Clubs, Athletics, etc.

Describe any Community Activities, Volunteering, or Employment

Include (1) Name of the organization, (2) Description of the activity/work, and (3) Duration in months or years. These can be: Civic Committees, Church Groups, Scouts, Leadership Roles, Volunteering, Charitable Groups, Neighborhood Clean-Up, and/or any employment positions you have held.

Other Academic Scholarships

Include (1) Year, (2) Organization, (3) Description, (4) Amount, and (5) Awarded Yes/No.

Scholarship Questions and Narrative

Have you received this scholarship in the past? *

○ Yes

○ No

Autobiographical Essay Questions

Each answer must be between 1800 and 3000 characters (approximately 300 - 500 words).

Tell us why you are seeking an Abode Communities' scholarship. *

Describe your academic, professional, and personal goals. *

Describe any outstanding accomplishments or activities that have been meaningful to you. *

Describe how your upbringing has shaped your plans for the future. *

How would you use your personal strengths and education to address a specific need in your community? *

How has living at (indicate your building name) or participating in resident services provided opportunity in your life? *

If you would prefer to upload your narrative(s), you may do so here

Browse... No file selected.

Attachments

Please upload high school transcript or confirmation of GED Score (unofficial documents will be accepted) *dated no earlier than February 1, 2026*. Failure to provide documentation will result in immediate disqualification.

Academic Transcript

Browse... No file selected.

Academic Transcript is REQUIRED. Please upload prior to your final submission. You do NOT need to upload in order to save your application as a draft.

I hereby acknowledge that I am required to submit a sealed official high school transcript separate from this online application or other verifying documentation should I be selected for an interview to confirm my eligibility. The address is:

2420 E. Cesar E, Chavez Ave, Suite 101
Los Angeles, CA 90033
Attn: Scholarship Administrator *

☐ Yes, I acknowledge

Please upload two original signed letters of recommendation (PDF format). These letters may be obtained from your teacher, employer, community leader, clergy member, mentor, etc. *Recommendation letters from Abode Communities' staff members are prohibited and will result in disqualification.*

Letter of Reference #1

Browse... No file selected.

Letter of Reference #1 is REQUIRED. Please upload prior to your final submission. You do NOT need to upload in order to save your application as a draft.

Letter of Reference #2

Browse... No file selected.

Letter of Reference #2 is REQUIRED. Please upload prior to your final submission. You do NOT need to upload in order to save your application as a draft.

Any Additional Information

Browse... No file selected.

Submission

Terms of Agreement *

☐ I understand that I must maintain full-time enrollment or equivalent for vocational, trade, or certification programs.

☐ I understand that I must maintain the minimum GPA to remain eligible.

☐ I understand in the case of hardship, I am permitted to take a deferment. I understand that a deferment request must include circumstantial information and be submitted in writing to scholarship@abodecommunities.org.

☐ I understand that is it my responsibility to immediately notify Abode Communities (scholarship@abodecommunities.org) if I: Change educational institutions, Change my permanent address, and/or Withdraw from school

☐ I understand that I may be requested to participate in photoshoots, interviews, donor-sponsored activities, or other communications-related activities regarding the scholarship program.

☐ I understand that funding for my scholarship is contingent upon my completion of an annual survey prior to the start of each academic year.

☐ I hereby confirm that all the information provided in this scholarship application is accurate to the best of my knowledge and as such, is subject to verification.

☐ I hereby confirm my candidacy for the Beyond Homes Scholarship Program.

I hereby confirm that all of the information provided in this scholarship application is accurate to the best of my knowledge. If yes, please type your name in the box. *

[   ]

Are you ready to submit the application for review?

○ Yes, Submit my Application

○ No, Save as a Draft

Once you click "Yes" and "Save" to submit the application, you will no longer be able to edit your responses.

Submit

Contact Information