

# LILLY ENDOWMENT COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP 2018 PROGRAM GUIDE

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Community Foundation  
of Morgan County

## 2018 PROGRAM INFORMATION

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The 2018 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program (LECSP) awards full-tuition scholarships to students from each county in Indiana.

Apply at: <https://goo.gl/Dlvayn>

**Deadline: 4pm on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017**

Eligibility:

- Students must be Morgan County residents at the time of application.
- Applicants must be high school seniors graduating by June 30, 2018.
- Applicants must have a high school diploma from an Indiana high school accredited by the State Board of Education or by a national or regional accreditation agency that is recognized by the State Board of Education.
- Recipients must pursue undergraduate study in a baccalaureate program on a full-time basis.
- Recipients may attend any accredited public or private four-year college or university in Indiana

Benefits:

- Two scholarships will be awarded for Morgan County residents
- Pays full tuition and required fees for four years; no re-application process is required
- \$900 book stipend each year
- Does not pay room, board, or travel expenses

Timeline:

- Thursday, Aug. 17: How-to-Apply Seminars
  - 4-5pm: Mooresville Public Library
  - 6-7pm: CFMC Martinsville Office
- Tuesday, Sept. 5: Applications Due by 4pm
- Wednesday, Sept. 27: Finalists receive interview notices
- Tuesday, Oct. 5: Finalist Interviews
- Thursday, Nov. 2: Celebration Banquet
- Wednesday, Dec. 20: Scholarship winners will be notified by Winter Break

Application Criteria:

- 30% Academic Performance: Factors such as GPA, class rank, SAT/ACT/AP scores, rigor of courses, and academic honors will be used.
- 20% Extracurricular Involvement: Evaluators will assess the quality and quantity of extracurricular, community, or work activities.
- 20% Essays: A strong essay will clearly explain personal and professional goals, include specific examples of involvement, and will use proper spelling/grammar/punctuation.
- 15% Financial Need: Students must complete the online College Costs Estimator report and release form.
- 15% Reference/Interview: One reference form and one “reverse reference” will be required. Select students will be invited to interview as Finalists.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### HOW CAN I APPLY?

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Our easy-to-use online application platform is Smarter Select. You'll be able to see all of the application criteria and create an individualized account. After creating an account, you can save information to your application and see any incomplete sections. Even if you submit the application early, you'll be able to edit the application up to the deadline. You should receive automated emails from the system confirming application creation and submission: you may need to check your spam folder.

### HOW CAN MY PARENTS HELP ME WITH THE APPLICATION?

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We encourage parental support during the scholarship application process. Parents can help proofread essays or extracurricular activity summaries, and household financial information will be needed to complete the College Cost Estimator. If you are considered a dependent for tax purposes, your parents will need to electronically sign the release form as well.

Because this is a competitive college scholarship, it is expected that students take full responsibility for completing their own application by the deadline. All information in the application must be written by the student. In compliance with privacy laws, we can only answer questions coming directly from the student.

### WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN APPLICATIONS?

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We assess the following application criteria. Other information is collected for record-keeping, communication, or due diligence purposes.

- 30% Academic Performance: Factors such as GPA, class rank, SAT/ACT/AP scores, rigor of courses, and academic honors will be used.
- 20% Extracurricular Involvement: Evaluators will assess the quality and quantity of extracurricular, community, or work activities. Leadership positions, a longstanding commitment to an organization or an activity, well-rounded involvement, and substantial community service are all good to have!
- 20% Essays: A strong essay will clearly explain personal and professional goals, include specific examples of involvement, and will use proper spelling/grammar/punctuation. Outline, proofread, and proofread again!
- 15% Financial Need: Students must complete the online College Costs Estimator report and release form. See below for more information.
- 15% Reference/Interview: One reference form and one "reverse reference" will be required. The reference form can be completed by any non-family community leader or educator and should only take a few minutes to complete. One "reverse reference," or "gratitude letter," will be requested. See below for more information. Only a few select students will be invited to interview as Finalists.

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## CAN I APPLY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP IF I DON'T KNOW WHAT SCHOOL OR PROGRAM I WANT TO ATTEND YET?

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Yes! We know that plans change (or may not even be formulated yet). That's okay. Just give us an idea of what you're thinking about pursuing at this point, and explain what you're looking for in a future college or career.

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## I HAVE TAKEN THE SAT/ACT MULTIPLE TIMES: WHAT SCORE SHOULD I INCLUDE?

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There is only space to put one test score: list your highest overall score. This should be a composite score. Don't break it down into categories (like math, science, English).

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## HOW SHOULD I WRITE THE ESSAY?

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Tell us why you deserve the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship. You could consider this like a cover letter for a job application: tell us about who you are, what you want to do in the future, what past experiences you've had, and why you would represent Morgan County well. You have a maximum of 750 words, but you don't have to use them all: remember that the scholarship committee is reading LOTS of these essays. Keep it interesting but get to the point. Some tips:

- Smarter Select does not have a comprehensive spelling and grammar checking feature, so you may want to compose your essays in Word or another word processing program before pasting them into the essay fields.
- Outline your thoughts before you start writing: this will help keep your essay clear and concise. Don't forget transitions!
- Consider breaking the essay into paragraphs or sections:
  - First you could present your particular skills, achievements, or strengths. Tell us about who you are. Use action verbs and concrete results. For example, if you helped raise money for a charity event, tell us exactly how much.
  - Then explain why you are applying for the scholarship. What do you want to study, what postsecondary institution do you want to attend, and how will that translate to your future career?
  - Third, explain why you've chosen this path. What specific experiences helped you identify or develop your passion?
  - Finally, be sure to explain why this scholarship would help you achieve your goals. Why should the scholarship be "invested" in you?
- The order is completely up to you, but be sure to answer each part of the prompt. Specific examples are better than generic statements. Show the committee what you're talking about, don't just tell them.
- There is no required citation style for the essay. However, you should be consistent throughout. Proper grammar, correct spelling, and accurate punctuation are a must. Talk to your English teacher, guidance counselor, or parent about proofreading your essay. They may catch an error that you didn't see.
- Check out our website listing on page 8 for more help.

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## WHAT IS THE COLLEGE COST ESTIMATOR?

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In an effort to assess the financial need of applicants, all applicants must complete an online College Costs Estimator form and corresponding release form (even if one has been completed previously). Students should use figures as close as possible to those that will be reported on the FAFSA.

**College Costs Estimators must be submitted online by September 5, 2017.**

A summary report based on your completed College Costs Estimators will be generated for the Foundation by the National Center for College Costs. The summary report will provide enough information to evaluate this factor in the selection process. We consider the information that you provide to the National Center for College Costs personal and confidential, so the Center's analysis of your numbers will only be released once a release form has been signed online. The applicant summary report will be the only financial information seen by the scholarship committee and will be used only during the scholarship selection process.

- Connect to [www.indianacollegecosts.org/project/morgan2017](http://www.indianacollegecosts.org/project/morgan2017)
- Click on the yellow "Click here to Begin!" button
- Click on "Estimate your college costs" at the top of the page.
- Gather the information necessary to complete the form, read the confidentiality note, and if you agree, check the box and click "Start New Estimator." You will then be sent to a "Demographics" page, the first of six pages that make up the form.
- **Be sure to check "yes" to the question in the yellow box that asks if you are applying for scholarships. Also be sure to check that you are applying for "Morgan County Scholarships."**
- Once you have completed the page, you may click "Create Account" to create a new account, or "Login" if you already have a username and password through the site.
- Click "Submit your Estimator" after you've reviewed the summary page.
- Choose the delivery method for your report (email or mail).
- Sign the release form electronically (if you are listed as a dependent, your parent will also have to sign).
- Click "Submit my Estimator." You will be able to view your results at this time, but after verification and/or follow-up by Center staff, the final result may vary.

**An added benefit:** By completing the College Costs Estimator form for this scholarship, you and your family will receive a customized report summarizing the results of your Estimator analysis. You will also have access to the staff at the National Center for College Costs in the months/years ahead **at no cost to you**, should you need assistance dealing with college costs and financial aid issues. Call (877) 687-7291 to discuss your report with a consultant, or if you have any questions.

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## WHO SHOULD I ASK TO COMPLETE MY REFERENCE FORM?

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You only need one reference. This can be a teacher, employer, coach, pastor, scout leader, or any other educator or community leader who can provide feedback on your personal character, work ethic, and potential to succeed in college. This cannot come from someone related to you. Think about who can give you a high-quality reference: who knows you well, can speak to your character and potential, and can spend adequate time writing a good reference?

The online reference form does not take long to complete, but you should still ask your reference right away. Many educators and community leaders are asked to complete multiple references, so the earlier you ask, the better chance you have that they will agree and be able to complete the form with quality information about you. You should provide them with any information they may need to complete an accurate recommendation (you may want to remind them of your relevant coursework, community/work involvement, or future aspirations).

You will not be able to see the information provided by your reference, but you will be able to see when it has been completed. It is your responsibility to talk to your reference and remind them of the September 5 deadline. Remember to thank them for helping with your application!

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## WHAT IS THE REVERSE REFERENCE?

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At the Community Foundation of Morgan County, we realize that scholarships would not be possible without the help of dedicated community members. We think it's important for scholars to also take time to thank those who have provided a positive impact in one way or another. Plus, research shows that expressing gratitude can have a multitude of benefits for all involved!

Is there someone who has helped you become the strong student and active citizen that you are today? In lieu of a second reference letter, we'd like you to write a 'reverse reference' and express your gratitude to someone else. We'll even send the letter for you! No one will read the contents of your letter, and it will not be used to score your application. We will not share the address you provide, and we will not send any other communications to your letter recipient. Please help us pilot this project and see how much positivity we can spread throughout the community.

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## WILL MY INFORMATION BE KEPT PRIVATE?

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The Foundation will only gather and store information reasonably necessary to make award determinations, to communicate with educational institutions regarding enrollment, check processing, and related matters, or to otherwise comply with laws regarding use and storage of educational information. These laws include but are not limited to: Indiana Code §§ 20-3-7-3(e), Indiana Code §§ 21-12-12-1, and the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g. Select information will only be seen by the Scholarship Committee, Interview Committee, and Foundation program staff as appropriate. Basic information about the scholarship winners and finalists (name, school, intended course of study) may be shared with news outlets or on social media for publicity purposes.

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## ARE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS GUARANTEED FOUR YEARS OF SUPPORT?

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The LECSP is designed as an automatically renewable four-year scholarship. However, annual updates are required to stay “in good standing” to continue receiving scholarship funds. Violations of the Character and Citizenship criteria at any time, including violations occurring on dates up to and including the date the funds are transferred to the educational institution, may result in investigation and temporary withholding of funds, as well as possible subsequent withdrawal or termination of the award.

Character and Citizenship Criteria: This criteria requires scholarship recipients to be of upstanding character and to display good citizenship. This includes, but is not limited to: accountability (honoring commitments, being responsible for decisions, accepting consequences and admitting mistakes), showing a drive for excellence (having a good work ethic, getting results, showing continuous improvement, putting in time above basic requirements, and being involved in the community), respect (showing good judgment and not showing inappropriate behavior, treating others fairly, listening to others and accepting their input, living up to promises made to others, maintaining self-control, and exhibiting consideration for others), and integrity (honesty, trustworthiness, caring for others, being ethical).

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## WHAT OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE?

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The Community Foundation of Morgan County (CFMC) offers 40+ unique scholarships with varying requirements and benefits. The Kendrick Foundation offers sizeable scholarships for students pursuing careers in healthcare. The applications for these scholarships use the same standard form as the LECSP, and will open in the winter with a deadline in February 2018.

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## I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS. WHO SHOULD I TALK TO?

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Please direct questions to the Community Foundation of Morgan County at 765-813-0003. Please note that questions must come directly from the student.

Questions about the College Cost Estimator service should be directed to [info@collegecosts.com](mailto:info@collegecosts.com) or (877) 687-7291.

## HELPFUL WEBSITES

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➔ [WWW.COLLEGECOSTS.COM](http://WWW.COLLEGECOSTS.COM)

Great resources for helping families plan and prepare for the college financial aid process

➔ [WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV](http://WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV)

File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid online

➔ [WWW.FINAID.ORG](http://WWW.FINAID.ORG)

Lots of information, glossary of terms, scholarship search and more links

➔ [WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG](http://WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG)

Provides information on various aspects of college preparation

➔ [WWW.LEARNMOREINDIANA.ORG](http://WWW.LEARNMOREINDIANA.ORG)

Offers information on Indiana colleges and universities, scholarship opportunities, etc.

➔ [WWW.ICINDIANA.ORG](http://WWW.ICINDIANA.ORG)

Link to all 31 private colleges in Indiana with tuition and enrollment information

➔ [WWW.COLLEGEISPOSSIBLE.ORG](http://WWW.COLLEGEISPOSSIBLE.ORG)

Great resource guide for parents and students

➔ [WWW.FASTWEB.COM](http://WWW.FASTWEB.COM)

One of the largest free scholarship searches

➔ [WWW.COLLEGENET.COM](http://WWW.COLLEGENET.COM)

Large database of free scholarship searches

➔ [WWW.WIREDSCHOLAR.COM](http://WWW.WIREDSCHOLAR.COM)

Access to College Aid Sources for Higher Education, one of the oldest scholarship databases

➔ [WWW.COLLEGEVIEW.COM](http://WWW.COLLEGEVIEW.COM)

Offers an extensive financial aid search

➔ [WWW.STUDENT.GOV](http://WWW.STUDENT.GOV)

Federal information on scholarships/grants, loans, state financial aid, work-study, and military funding



## EXAMPLE ESSAY

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I believe that my excellent academic record and extensive community involvement make me a good candidate for this scholarship. Throughout high school, I have maintained a high level of academic achievement while volunteering for community organizations and working 15 hours a week. In addition to pursuing challenging courses, such as AP English and Physics, I am a member of the choir and captain of my church puppet team. This demands time management skills and an abundance of self-motivation: I also intend to apply these skills to studying elementary education at IU next year.

As an active student, employee, and volunteer, my interests have been varied. My extracurricular activities provided creative outlets, as in show choir, and my involvement in my church youth group has provided opportunities for personal growth. Of all of my experiences, though, the most impactful has been serving as a volunteer in an after-school program for kindergarten children. Every Wednesday for the last two years, I have helped tie shoes, put on name tags, sing songs, teach lessons, supervise art projects, and much more. Working with ten young students each week has been one of my greatest joys, and watching them learn and grow has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my life. Their honesty and positivity helped me realize that I can pursue a meaningful career that also combines my varying interests. I hope to become an elementary school teacher: I want to learn from students every day, even as I share lessons, employ creative teaching methods, and help students stay active.

I have also enjoyed spending time with some of the children at my church, where I lead the puppet team. I organize outings, performances, and competitions for about fifteen children between the ages of 10 and 15. I conduct practice for two hours every Saturday, in which the students learn more about puppetry and practice songs and skits for upcoming performances. I choose the material and make decisions about who gets which part. Dedication and commitment are two of the traits that I have been learned through this experience, which I have participated in for almost seven years.

Not only was I involved with volunteer activities; I also worked in a pizza restaurant approximately 15 hours a week. After two years, I was promoted to a supervising position where I am still working today. I supervise the other employees, handle customer complaints, and help close the building at night. This job has taught me what it means to work hard, and I have practiced motivating others to do the same.

My work and volunteer experiences have taught me a lot about myself and have helped me develop and strengthen important character traits. School has also pushed me to be a great student and to learn something from each situation. In addition to maintaining a 3.93 GPA while staying active in extracurricular activities, I have earned an Academic Letter for three years and was honored as a National Merit Scholar. I am confident that my determination and hard work will help me complete the elementary education degree at IU-Bloomington. I also intend to apply for the Honors College at IU and am considering a minor in Spanish to further complement my academic pursuits. I will continue to push myself to learn all that I can, and to make the most of my education.

If I am awarded the Lilly Scholarship, it will not only enable me to attend college but it will also help keep me debt free. Without student loans to pay off, I would be able to go directly into my intended career field without a significant financial burden. While my family is supportive of my dream of going to college, it is very expensive and they will not be able to help me financially. I will continue to work and pursue academic excellence so that I might be eligible for more scholarships or paid internship opportunities. One way or another, I am determined to combine my interests and strengths into helping educate young students. Thank you in advance for considering my application.

## EXAMPLE ACTION WORDS

Accelerated	Decreased	Helped	Participated	Settled
Accomplished	Defined	Hired	Performed	Shaped
Achieved	Delegated	Identified	Pinpointed	Showed
Acquired	Delivered	Implemented	Pioneered	Simplified
Activated	Demonstrated	Improved	Planned	Sold
Adapted	Designed	Improvised	Prepared	Solved
Addressed	Determined	Influenced	Presented	Sorted
Administrated	Developed	Initiated	Processed	Sponsored
Advised	Devised	Inspected	Procured	Staffed
Allocated	Directed	Installed	Produced	Standardized
Analyzed	Discharged	Inspired	Projected	Stimulated
Anticipated	Discovered	Instigated	Programmed	Started
Applied	Documented	Instituted	Promoted	Streamlined
Appointed	Distributed	Integrated	Proposed	Strengthened
Appraised	Doubled	Instructed	Provided	Stretched
Approved	Earned	Interpreted	Proved	Structured
Arranged	Edited	Interviewed	Published	Studied
Assessed	Effected	Introduced	Purchased	Suggested
Assisted	Eliminated	Invented	Realized	Summarized
Assigned	Employed	Invested	Recommended	Supervised
Attained	Enforced	Investigated	Reconciled	Supported
Augmented	Engineered	Launched	Recruited	Surpassed
Averted	Established	Lectured	Redesigned	Surveyed
Avoided	Estimated	Led	Reduced	Sustained
Broadened	Evaluated	Lightened	Re established	Tailored
Built	Examined	Liquidated	Regulated	Taught
Calculated	Exceeded	Located	Reinforced	Terminated
Centralized	Executed	Made	Rejected	Tested
Clarified	Exercised	Maintained	Relate	Tightened
Collaborated	Expanded	Managed	Re negotiated	Traded
Combined	Expedited	Marketed	Reorganized	Trained
Completed	Extended	Mediated	Reported	Transacted
Composed	Extracted	Minimized	Represented	Transferred
Conceived	Facilitated	Mobilized	Researched	Transformed
Concluded	Financed	Modernized	Reshaped	Translated
Condensed	Forecast	Modified	Resolved	Trimmed
Conducted	Formed	Monitored	Restored	Tripled
Consolidated	Formulated	Motivated	Revamped	Uncovered
Constructed	Found	Negotiated	Reviewed	Undertook
Contributed	Founded	Obtained	Revised	Unified
Controlled	Framed	Operated	Revitalized	Used
Converted	Fulfilled	Ordered	Revived	Utilized
Corrected	Generated	Organized	Saved	Verified
Created	Guided	Originated	Scheduled	Vitalized
Cultivated	Handled	Overcame	Secured	Widened
Decentralized	Headed	Oversaw	Selected	Won