

# LILLY ENDOWMENT COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP 2023 PROGRAM GUIDE

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# COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF MORGAN COUNTY

## 2023 PROGRAM INFORMATION

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The **2023 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program (LECSP)** awards full-tuition scholarships to students from each county in Indiana.

Apply at: <https://smr.to/p82104>

Or visit our website: [CFMOnline.org](https://www.cfmconline.org)

**Deadline: 4pm on Friday, August 26, 2023**

### Eligibility:

- Students must attend a Morgan County high school at the time of application or reside in Morgan County.
- Applicants must be high school seniors graduating by June 30, 2023.
- 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:

- **July 5 (Tues):** Online Application Portal Opens
- **July 5 (Tues):** How to apply videos will be posted on our CFMC website and provided to all the guidance counselors to send to all seniors.
- **August 26 (Fri):** Applications Due by 4pm
- **Sept 23 (Fri):** Invitation to interview and present will be sent out via email.
- **Oct 11 & 12 (Tues & Wed):** Interviews
- Scholarship winners will be notified by Winter Break

Application Criteria:

- 10% Academic Performance: Factors such as unweighted GPA, class rank, AP scores, rigor of courses, and academic honors will be used.
- 15% Essays: A strong essay will clearly explain the change you hope to lead in the world, include specific examples and will use proper spelling/grammar/punctuation.
- 25% Financial Need: Students must complete an additional essay describing how receiving this scholarship would financially impact not only their lives but the lives of their families.
- 50% Interview: Selected students will be asked to prepare a 15-20-minute presentation for the interview committee. The student will use this time to present about a subject that they are passionate. This can be anything from world issues to a personal hobby. The committee just would like to learn more about the student. The committee will have access to review extracurricular or work activities, leadership roles, reference, and a link to stated personal and career goals prior to the interview. This will allow the interview committee to ask more specific questions during the actual interview and presentation that could help in their decision and scoring.

## 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 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. 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.

- 10% Academic Performance: Factors such as unweighted GPA, class rank, SAT/ACT/AP scores, rigor of courses, and academic honors will be used.
- 15% Essays: A strong essay will clearly explain the change you hope to lead in the world, include specific examples and will use proper spelling/grammar/punctuation.
- 25% Financial Need: Students must complete an additional essay describing how receiving this scholarship would financially impact not only their lives but the lives of their families.
- 50% Interview: Select students will be invited to interview as Finalists and give a 15-20 minute presentation on a topic they are passionate.

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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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You have a maximum of 250 words per essay. 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!
- 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 7 for more help.

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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 August 26 deadline.** Remember to thank them for helping with your application!

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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:** These criteria require 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 fall with a deadline in January 2023.

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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**.

## HELPFUL WEBSITES

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

File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid online

➔ [WWW.INDIANACOLLEGE COSTS.ORG](http://WWW.INDIANACOLLEGE COSTS.ORG)

College Costs Estimator tool for any college in Indiana

➔ [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.COLLEGEPOSSIBLE.ORG](http://WWW.COLLEGEPOSSIBLE.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.STUDENTAID.ED.GOV](http://WWW.STUDENTAID.ED.GOV)

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