

LILLY ENDOWMENT COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP 2020 PROGRAM GUIDE

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COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION OF
MORGAN COUNTY

2020 PROGRAM INFORMATION

The **2020 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program** (LECSP) awards full-tuition scholarships to students from each county in Indiana.

Apply at: <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/59210-Community-Foundation-Of--Morgan-County>

Or visit our website: CFMCOOnline.org

Deadline: 4pm on Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019

Eligibility:

- Students must be Morgan County residents at the time of application.
- Applicants must be high school seniors graduating by June 30, 2020.
- 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:

- Monday, July 22: Online Application Portal Opens
- Monday, July 22: How to apply videos will be posted on our CFMC website and provided to all guidance counselors.
- Thursday, Sept. 5: Applications Due by 4pm
- Wednesday, Oct. 2: Finalist Interviews (Finalists for the interviews will be notified via email once the evaluators have reviewed all applications)
- Scholarship winners will be notified by Winter Break

Application Criteria:

- 10% Academic Performance: Factors such as unweighted GPA, class rank, SAT/ACT/AP scores, rigor of courses, and academic honors will be used.
- 25% Essays: A strong essay will clearly explain the impact Morgan County has had on him or her, 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.
- 40% Interview: Select students will be invited to interview as Finalists. The committee will have access to review extracurricular or work activities, leadership roles, reference and stated personal and career goals prior to the interview.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW CAN I APPLY?

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?

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?

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.
- 25% Essays: A strong essay will clearly explain the impact Morgan County has had on him or her, 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.
- 40% Interview: Select students will be invited to interview as Finalists.

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

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.

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

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).

HOW SHOULD I WRITE THE ESSAY?

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 8 for more help.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO COMPLETE MY REFERENCE FORM?

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!

WHAT IS THE REVERSE REFERENCE?

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.

WILL MY INFORMATION BE KEPT PRIVATE?

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.

ARE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS GUARANTEED FOUR YEARS OF SUPPORT?

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).

WHAT OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE?

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 2020.

I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS. WHO SHOULD I TALK TO?

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

➔ WWW.COLLEGECOSTS.COM

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

➔ WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV

File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid online

➔ WWW.FINAID.ORG

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

➔ WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG

Provides information on various aspects of college preparation

➔ WWW.LEARNMOREINDIANA.ORG

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

➔ WWW.ICINDIANA.ORG

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

➔ WWW.COLLEGEISPOSSIBLE.ORG

Great resource guide for parents and students

➔ WWW.FASTWEB.COM

One of the largest free scholarship searches

➔ WWW.COLLEGENET.COM

Large database of free scholarship searches

➔ WWW.WIREDSCHOLAR.COM

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

➔ WWW.COLLEGEVIEW.COM

Offers an extensive financial aid search

➔ WWW.STUDENT.GOV

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

EXAMPLE ACTION WORDS

Adapted from "Writing a Cover Letter for a Scholarship." Maureen Thum, English Department Lecturer, U of M – Flint.

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	Improvvised	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	Effectuated	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