

Oregon
Community
Foundation



GUIDE TO
Scholarship Funds

What Is a Scholarship Fund?

Through an OCF scholarship fund, you can open doors to educational opportunities and ensure a better quality of life for Oregonians.

A scholarship fund allows you to make a charitable contribution, qualify for an immediate tax benefit, and then provide scholarships in perpetuity to Oregon students pursuing education after high school.

OCF handles all of the administrative and investment responsibilities. Your fund will receive personalized service from our expert staff, who will ensure that you have a fulfilling experience as a scholarship fund donor.

“Setting up a scholarship fund is a wonderful idea for anybody looking to give back.”

OCF SCHOLARSHIP
DONOR



Three Steps to Impact

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS



You establish and name the fund with a fund agreement and gift, assisted by OCF staff. You make a gift of cash or other assets to OCF and qualify for an immediate tax deduction for your charitable contribution.



OCF appoints a selection committee for your fund, upon which you may serve. The committee reviews applications and recommends recipients for OCF board approval.



You may add to your scholarship fund at any time, including through your estate.

Benefits of an OCF Scholarship Fund

PERSONAL SERVICE

Your OCF staff team — along with the Oregon Office of Student Access and Completion, for most scholarship funds — will support your committee in its annual selection process.

PARTICIPATION

As a donor, you can participate on your fund's selection committee. After the committee makes its recommendations, you can help notify students about their scholarship awards.

INVESTMENT EXPERTISE

Your contributions to OCF are stewarded by our investment committee and our professional managers to ensure the growth and longevity of your fund.



ENSURED LEGACY

A permanent OCF fund creates a lasting legacy, helping generations of Oregon students achieve their goals for higher education.

“Because of your generous contribution toward my education, you are helping me achieve a dream I have had for over 30 years.”

OCF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Scholarship Best Practices

The chances for student success and well-being increase when scholarship funds meet proven benchmarks for best practices. When you create a scholarship fund, OCF encourages you to:

-  **Target students with the highest financial need: low-income, older, nontraditional, transfer and current students who are sophomores, juniors or seniors.**
-  **Support students in their choice of school and area of study, including career and technical education.**
-  **Create renewable scholarships to provide a stable source of support.**
-  **Allow scholarships to be used for all the costs of attendance, including books, class fees, and room and board.**
-  **Allow students four to six years to complete their degree to provide flexibility and reduce stress on students and their families.**
-  **Develop a family philanthropy program.**

OCF has a long-standing partnership with the state Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC). Services include:

- Statewide outreach to eligible students.
- Distribution, collection and processing of applications.
- Analysis of applicants' academic performance and financial need.
- Development of a finalist pool based on fund criteria.
- Notification of award status to recipients and nonrecipients.
- Verification of each scholarship recipient's satisfactory academic progress and continued eligibility.

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS THE MINIMUM AMOUNT REQUIRED TO SET UP MY FUND?

You can set up your fund with a contribution of at least \$50,000, either during your lifetime or as part of your estate, or you can build a fund over time with an initial donation of \$5,000. You can also contribute a gift of any size to the Oregon Scholarship Fund, which makes awards statewide.

HOW OFTEN ARE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED FROM MY FUND?

Once a year, between April and July for the coming academic year.

IS THERE A MINIMUM AWARD AMOUNT?

Awards of \$1,000 or more are strongly preferred.

CAN I AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS OUTSIDE OREGON?

Scholarship recipients must be Oregonians, but they may attend colleges outside Oregon if the donor chooses to support students attending out-of-state schools.

HOW DO STUDENTS FIND OUT ABOUT AND APPLY TO AN OCF SCHOLARSHIP FUND?

Most students apply through OSAC at oregonstudentaid.gov, but some OCF scholarships are handled at the school or college level.

DOES OCF GIVE AWARDS DIRECTLY TO STUDENTS?

No. Awards are sent directly to the recipient's educational institution.

HOW ARE SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPOINTED?

You can play a role in helping OCF select committee members.

WHAT IS OCF'S FEE FOR ADMINISTERING MY FUND?

OCF assesses an annual administrative fee of less than 1%. Scholarship funds are assessed an additional 10% of the dollar amount of awarded scholarships.

HOW MUCH IS AVAILABLE TO AWARD IN SCHOLARSHIPS EVERY YEAR?

To maintain the purchasing power of each fund, the OCF board annually determines a percentage payout rate for grantmaking. The current rate is between 4% and 5%, based on a 13-quarter trailing average of fund market values.



LEGACY. LEADERSHIP. IMPACT.

In every corner of the state, Oregon Community Foundation connects private giving to public good. Since 1973, OCF has helped donors both preserve what they love about our state and respond to our communities' changing needs.

The mission of Oregon Community Foundation is to improve lives for all Oregonians through the power of philanthropy.

OCF puts donated money to work for Oregonians — \$100 million in grants and scholarships annually. Since 1973, OCF grantmaking, research, advocacy and community-advised solutions have helped individuals, families, businesses and organizations create charitable funds to support the community causes they care about most.

CREATE YOUR LEGACY TODAY

CALL

YOUR LOCAL OCF OFFICE

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