

The **New Horizons Scholarship** provides financial support to individuals receiving rental assistance through the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz and New Horizons Affordable Housing & Development, helping open pathways to higher education and career advancement by reducing financial barriers and supporting long-term success.

Eligibility

To apply for the New Horizons Scholarship, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be a member of a household currently receiving assistance through the Housing Authority
- Be 18 years or older, or a current high school senior
- Be enrolled in, or planning to attend, a qualifying college, university, or training program
- Submit a complete application, including all required materials, by the application deadline

Qualifying educational institutions and programs include, but are not limited to:

- Four-year universities or state colleges
- Two-year community or city colleges
- Graduate schools
- Post-graduate programs
- Technical/vocational schools & programs
- Certificate programs

Application Process

To apply for the New Horizons Scholarship, submit the following materials:

- Completed application
 - Access the application using the link at the top of this page.
- Personal essay
 - Typed essays are strongly recommended.
 - Essays may be up to two pages.
 - Refer to the Application Materials Checklist for essay prompts.
- Letter of recommendation from one:
 - Teacher, professor, academic advisor, or school counselor
 - Employer, direct supervisor, or co-worker
 - Community volunteer or athletic coach
 - Personal acquaintance or friend
- Letters are reviewed based on content and source.
- Encourage your recommender to highlight your strengths, achievements, and goals.
- Proof of enrollment
 - Provide proof of enrollment in a qualifying school or program for the 2026–2027 academic year.
 - If this documentation is not available at the time of application, it must be submitted within 30 days of receiving your scholarship award.

All materials must be submitted together. Applicants may also submit evidence of volunteer service or community engagement completed within the past 12 months to receive bonus points in the selection process.

How to Submit Your Application

Applications must be received by the deadline via one of the following methods:

- Send to daliac@hacosantacruz.org with the subject line “New Horizons Scholarship Application.”
- Mail or Drop-Off:
Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz
ATTN: New Horizons Scholarship
2160 41st Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010

All required documents must be included for the application to be considered. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Application Deadline

The deadline to apply for the 2026 New Horizons Scholarship is **May 31, 2026**. For questions, please contact Dalia at daliac@hacosantacruz.org.

Application Due Date: May 31, 2026

Application Materials Checklist

Completed Application

- Submit a fully completed **2026 New Horizons Scholarship** application.

Personal Essay

- Submit a personal essay of no more than two pages. Typed essays (10–12 point font) are strongly recommended. If handwritten, essays must be written in blue or black ink and be fully legible. Handwritten essays that are difficult to read may result in disqualification.

Essay Prompt: Describe your educational and long-term goals and how you plan to achieve them. Explain how reaching these goals will create new opportunities for you, and how the New Horizons Scholarship will support your journey toward success.

Letter of Recommendation

- Submit **one** letter of recommendation from **one** of the following:
 - An academic professional (teacher, professor, academic advisor, counselor, etc.)
 - An employer or direct supervisor
 - A co-worker, community volunteer supervisor, or athletic coach
 - A personal acquaintance or friend

Note: The type and content of your letter will impact your application score. Encourage your recommender to highlight your strengths, achievements, and potential for success.

Proof of Registration/Enrollment

- If available, submit proof of registration or enrollment for **Fall 2026** with your application. If proof is not available at the time of submission and you are selected for a scholarship, documentation must be submitted within **30 days** of receiving your award notification.

Proof of Volunteer Service or Community Engagement (Optional)

- Volunteer activities must have taken place within the **past 12 months** to be considered. Please do not submit volunteer activities completed more than 12 months ago.

This page is for reference only.
Please do not submit it with your application.

Statement of Policies

This page is for your records.

Application Requirements

- All applications must be fully completed, including required signatures and all supplemental materials.
- Supplemental materials must be attached to the application or clearly identified as being submitted separately by a third party, such as a letter of recommendation.
- Incomplete applications or applications missing required documents may be disqualified.
- Applications must be submitted to the Housing Authority and postmarked no later than the stated deadline.

Review and Selection

- Applicants will be notified in writing of their selection status by July 31.
- The Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz selects scholarship recipients without regard to race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, marital status, gender, age, sexual orientation, or disability.

Scholarship Funds

- Scholarships are awarded only to applicants who meet all eligibility requirements and submit a complete application with all required documents.
- Scholarship funds are paid directly to the recipient and may be used for education-related expenses, recognizing the broad range of costs that affect access to higher education.
- Scholarships are intended to help reduce financial gaps but are not designed to fully cover the cost of attending a post-secondary institution or program.
- Scholarships are awarded for one academic year and do not renew automatically.
- Applicants and recipients may reapply in future years, provided eligibility requirements are met and funding is available.
- If you have previously received a New Horizons Scholarship and your W-9 information has changed since your last award, you must request an updated form by contacting daliac@hacosantacruz.org or (831) 454-5982.

Forfeiture of Scholarship

- Failure to provide proof of enrollment within 30 days of receiving a scholarship award notification will result in forfeiture of the scholarship.
- Recipients must forfeit their scholarship and repay awarded funds if they withdraw from school before completing their first or current academic term.

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New Horizons Scholarship Official Application

Personal Information

First Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Middle Name: _____

Gender:

Male Female Other

Last Name: _____

Race (check all that apply):

African-American (Black)

Asian/Pacific Islander

Hispanic/Latino(a)

Native American/Alaskan

White

Other

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____@_____

Tenant ID: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

How did you hear about the New Horizons Scholarship:

Housing Authority website

Email

Social Media

Flyer

Family/Friend

Other: _____

General Information

Applicant was awarded a New Horizons Scholarship in:

2023 2024 2025 Never

Select all that apply to the applicant:

Veteran

Parent

Single Parent

First in family to attend college

Receiving housing assistance from the Housing Authority.

Resident of a property that is owned/managed by the Housing Authority.

Name of Property: _____

Educational Information

Are you currently enrolled or planning to enroll in one of the following educational programs for the 2026-2027 academic year?

Four-Year University or State College

Two-Year Community or City College

Graduate School

Post-Graduate Program

Technical/Vocational School or Program

Certificate Program

School/Program applicant plans to attend in Fall 2026: _____

Applicant is applying as (check one): Full-Time Student Part-Time Student

Number of units applicant is enrolling: Fall 2026: _____ Spring 2027: _____

Expected/Declared Major: _____ Expected Career Goal: _____

Completed Application & Required Documents Due by: May 31, 2026

Official Application for the
2026 New Horizons Scholarship Program



2026-2027 Application Applicant Certification

I certify that the information provided in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I authorize the Housing Authority to verify any statements included in this application as necessary to determine my eligibility for the New Horizons Scholarship.

I have read and understand the New Horizons Scholarship Program policies and agree to provide all required materials if selected as a scholarship recipient. I understand that failure to comply with program requirements may result in forfeiture of my scholarship award and repayment of any funds received.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____