



Provident Scholarship Fund 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

Health Professionals Scholarship

The Health Professionals Scholarship provides scholarships to medical students and students in graduate-level clinical and behavioral health academic programs. The Health Professionals Scholarship will support awardees who are from, and dedicated to serving, underrepresented communities in Cook County. Students are eligible for an award of up to \$20,000.

Qualifying Academic Programs

Medical students and students in graduate-level clinical academic programs, including but not limited to:

- MD, DO
- DDS, DDM
- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Behavioral Health (Master's level Social Work, Master's level Psychology, and PsyD/PhD level Psychology)

Allied Health Scholarship

The Allied Health Scholarship provides awards to individuals pursuing allied health careers such as: nursing, behavioral health, and students in select qualified certification programs. The Allied Health Scholarship will support awardees who are from, and dedicated to serving, underrepresented communities in Cook County. Students are eligible for an award of up to \$10,000.

Qualifying Academic Programs

Various health care academic programs at an accredited academic institution resulting in an industry-recognized certification or license. The program's tuition must be equal to or greater than award, including but not limited to:

- Nursing (LPN, CNA & RN)
- Surgical Technology
- Respiratory Therapy

- Radiology Technician
- Paramedic/EMT
- Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC)
- Recovery Support Specialist (CRSS)

When does the scholarship application open?

Application Period Opens: March 12, 2026

Application Period Closes: April 19, 2026

What are the eligibility requirements for the Scholarship?

- Must be a permanent resident of Cook County (home address must be in Cook County, cannot use school housing address as proof of residency)
- U.S. citizen/permanent resident
- Must be a current student or enrolled in a qualifying academic program at an accredited academic institution
- Demonstrated financial need through FAFSA
- GPA of 2.7 or greater OR in good academic standing where GPA is not applicable
- Consent to allow CCH to use name, school, area of study, hometown, photo, etc. for publicity
- Attendance at the Awards Ceremony encouraged

***If an applicant is selected and is unable to meet the timeline and conditions, the award may be forfeited, and a runner- up scholar may be selected.**

What are the required attachments for application?

Scholarships are competitive and scored based on required documents. Please be sure to upload all required documents. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Required attachments include:

- I-9 Document(s) for proof of citizenship or permanent residency
- State ID/DL to show proof of Cook County Residency
- CV/Resume
- Current academic transcript showing your cumulative GPA and current program
- Registration or acceptance letter into one of qualifying academic programs at an accredited academic institution.
- Current FAFSA Submission Summary with Student Aid Index (SAI).
- Two letters of recommendation for new applicants (one from a school administrator, dean, department chair or faculty member and another from community).

- One letter of recommendation for returning applicants.
- Personal Statement

What address should I use on my application?

Please use your home address. Do not use school address. Applicants are required to be permanent residents of Cook County.

How is financial need determined?

The FAFSA Submission Summary will be used to determine financial need. The main factor considered is your Student Aid Index (SAI). Any SAI over zero is ineligible. FAFSA must be completed to apply.

How are Provident Scholars selected?

Provident Scholars are selected based on eligibility requirements, financial need, and quality of documents submitted: resume, letter of recommendations and personal statement. All prompts are required to be covered in your personal statement.

What expenses are eligible to be covered by the scholarships?

Scholarships are intended to reduce financial barriers associated with higher education.

Scholarship funds can be used to pay tuition and for any educational expenses deemed necessary by your school. This may include tuition, housing, supplies and equipment, transportation and childcare. Please refer to the reimbursement document to find the complete list of eligible expenses. Scholars are required to provide receipts and supporting documents detailing scholarship use.

How are funds disbursed?

Funds are paid directly to the educational institution and/or specified creditor(s), including the individual associated with the educational expenses. Provident Scholars will be required to provide receipts and supporting documents for expenses.

Do Provident Scholars need to pay the scholarship back?

The scholarship is a financial award for a student to further their education and is not required to be repaid.

How and when will I be notified if I received a scholarship?

Applicants who are selected for an award will receive an email notification of the award decision. Applicants must promptly follow instructions to accept the scholarship by deadline provided. Notification of awards will be sent out starting June 9th, 2025. Selected Scholars will be invited to an awards ceremony on the evening of June 26th.

What are the document requirements for disbursement of scholarship funds?

- Receipts for any expenses covered by the scholarship
- Completed Tax ID W-9 Form

What support is provided to Provident Scholars post award?

All Provident Scholars awarded will participate in the Provident Scholarship Mentors. Provident Scholars will be matched with an experienced staff member at Cook County Health for collaborative learning experiences and personal and professional development.

Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

Email info@cchealthfoundation.org. This email should only be used to inquire about questions not covered in this FAQ. Any applications sent to this email will not be accepted or reviewed.

Application Instructions

Visit https://webportalapp.com/sp/psf_application_26 to apply. The link is also available on the Cook County Health Provident Scholarship Fund landing page:

<https://cookcountyhealth.org/provident-scholarship-fund/> and via the QR code below:

Apply Now!

