
Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Application

2027 Cohort

*Deadline: 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 10, 2026*

All materials must be IN OUR OFFICE by 5:00 p.m. that day. Incomplete or late applications will ***not*** be considered; no exceptions are made. Responsibility for ensuring the application is complete and received on time rests solely with the applicant.



an affiliate of The Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette

www.cfwhitecounty.org

Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship

The primary purposes of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program are 1) to help raise the level of educational attainment in Indiana; 2) to increase awareness of the beneficial roles Indiana community foundations can play in their communities; and 3) to encourage and support the efforts of current and past Lilly Endowment Community Scholars to engage with each other and with Indiana business, governmental, educational, nonprofit and civic leaders to improve the quality of life in Indiana generally and in local communities throughout the state.

Scholarships pay for **otherwise unreimbursed full academic tuition and required fees plus a special allocation of up to \$900 per year for books and equipment for four years at any accredited Indiana college or university selected by the recipient; college or university must be one that awards baccalaureate degrees.** The scholarships are sponsored by Lilly Endowment Inc. and administered by community foundations throughout Indiana. The Community Foundation of White County is administering **one** scholarship in White County for the 2027 awards.

The Community Foundation of White County

Your Community Foundation of White County has been serving the White County area since 1998. Our mission is “to strengthen and transform our community by fostering charitable giving, philanthropic aspirations, and leadership” through creation of permanent endowments than can provide grants to meet ever-changing needs of our community. Helping donors fulfill their charitable wishes, we’ve distributed over \$6 million to benefit charitable causes in our community. Administration of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program is one more way we help strengthen our community.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- ☐ Intend to pursue four years of undergraduate study on a full-time basis leading to a baccalaureate degree at an accredited public or private nonprofit college or university in Indiana; students’ chosen college or university must offer baccalaureate degrees
- ☐ Be on track to graduate from an accredited Indiana high school by the end of June 2027
- ☐ Be a resident of or attending high school in White County
- ☐ Have a 2.75 or better grade point average on a 4.0 scale (or 7.2 on a 12-point scale)
- ☐ Apply in one county only

The Community Foundation of White County Governing Council members, officers, and selection committee members will not be allowed to participate in any aspect of the nomination process if they have relatives applying for the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship.

Criteria for Selection

Initial selection considerations include financial need; community and school activities; evidence of leadership and good citizenship; grade point average and difficulty of high school courses taken; and an essay. White County’s selection process is blind (i.e., no names are revealed to the selection committee until finalist interviews). Final recommendation is made after interviews with finalists.

Progress Criteria

Upon selection as a LECS award recipient, student will be expected to conduct him/herself in a manner that honors his/her status as a White County representative of the LECS Program. To remain eligible for scholarship payments, the recipient must be law-abiding and maintain high standards of conduct consistent with the student code of conduct at the college or university attended and submit grade reports and reports of expenditures for books and equipment to the Community Foundation of White County. Students also will be required to submit a yearly report keeping the Community Foundation of White County informed of their progress during college and for at least ten years after graduation from college.

Deadline: application must be IN our office by 5:00 pm, Thursday, September 10, 2026.

No exceptions!

Application Instructions

- ☑ All materials, including references, must be received *in our office* by **5:00 pm on Thursday, September 10, 2026** or the application will not be considered.
Please note that the Community Foundation of White County will be undergoing building renovation during this application cycle and may be operating from a temporary location. Applicants planning to deliver materials in person should contact our office in advance to confirm the appropriate drop-off location. Applications submitted by mail must be received by the stated deadline. The Community Foundation is not responsible for delays caused by postal service delivery, and applications received after the deadline due to mail delays will be considered incomplete and ineligible for consideration.
- ☑ Fill out the application completely and accurately; incomplete or unsigned applications will not be considered.
- ☑ Use the application form and the space provided only.
- ☑ Include all requested materials -- and only the requested material; additional attachments will NOT be forwarded to the selection committee! (For example, a separate sheet listing your activities will not be forwarded. The application requires you to prioritize, so select carefully! Your essay could provide insight by introducing additional activities, if meaningful.)
- ☑ Do not tape, staple, or glue any part of or anything to your application. Please secure your application with a single paper clip only – thanks!
- ☑ Completed application should be submitted in a large envelope. Do not fold application.

Application Submission

Use this checklist. Your complete application should include:

- ☐ application form
- ☐ completed financial form
- ☐ official high school transcripts
- ☐ fall and spring class schedules (i.e. your entire senior year class schedule)
- ☐ your essay (one page only, minimum 11-pt. font; additional pages will not be forwarded)
- ☐ three letters of recommendation (no more than one page each; may be sent separately or with application)

Notification of awards will be made by December 15, 2026.

Submit to:

**The Community Foundation of White County
Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship
P.O. Box 1154
Monticello, IN 47960-1154**

or deliver in person:

Email rachael@cfwhitecounty.org to coordinate your application drop off.

Questions?

Questions may be directed to your guidance counselor or to the Community Foundation of White County (574.583.6911 or marcy@cfwhitecounty.org).

Applicant Information

Name (last, first, middle):

Permanent mailing address (street and/ or PO Box / city / zip):

E-mail
address:

Telephone: ()

Date of birth: _____ County of residence: _____

Family Information

Provide applicable information.

Full name of
father/guardian: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Full name of
mother/guardian: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

DEADLINE: 5:00 pm, September 10, 2026.

Personal Certification

Please read each statement carefully and mark each checkbox to acknowledge your understanding of and agreement with the conditions outlined below. Your signature and date certify that you have reviewed, understand, and agree to comply with these requirements.

- ☐ If I receive this scholarship, it is my intent to pursue **undergraduate study** on a full-time basis leading to a baccalaureate degree at an Indiana college.
- ☐ I understand that the total maximum amount of my scholarship is calculated prior to the start of each school year
- ☐ To assist with the processing of my scholarship payments each semester or quarter and to avoid late fees, I will forward to the Community Foundation of White County immediately upon receipt all invoices for tuition and any eligible fees that may be covered by my scholarship, as required.
- ☐ I understand that the special allocation provided to me is to be used to pay required books and required equipment for my courses of instruction. I will personally keep receipts and other documentation to verify that the special allocation was used only for this intended purpose and will provide those receipts and documents to Independent Colleges of Indiana upon request. If the amount remaining exceeds \$100, I will return to Independent College of Indiana the balance of the special allocation at the end of each school year.
- ☐ I agree to notify Independent Colleges of Indiana of any scholarship awards I may receive for tuition or required fees from a source other than the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship.
- ☐ I will keep the Community Foundation of White County apprised annually by June 1st of my enrollment and academic status during college, by completing and returning any surveys or forms as may be provided by the community foundation.
- ☐ Upon graduation, I will keep the Community Foundation of White County apprised annually by June 1st of my education and/or employment status for at least ten years after graduation, by completing and returning an alumni survey or other forms as may be provided by ICI or the community foundation.
- ☐ If selected, I will notify the Community Foundation of White County no later than April 15 on where I will attend college and provide a letter of admission from that college.
- ☐ I hereby affirm that the information provided on this form is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge, that I have completed the application and written the essay myself, and that I understand falsification of information will result in termination of my scholarship.
- ☐ I also affirm that I have not applied for a Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship through any other source.
- ☐ I give permission for the release of my transcripts to the scholarship selection committee.
- ☐ I understand that all information submitted by me or on my behalf is confidential.

Signature of applicant

Date

DEADLINE: 5:00 pm, September 10, 2026

School Activities (*clubs, student government, National Honor Society, athletics, music, drama, etc.*) Using the space below, list the most important school-related activities in which you have participated during the past four years. List activities in order of importance to you, with the most important first.

Activity	# of Years	Leadership positions, awards, recognition, etc.

Community Service/Activities (*Volunteer work, scouts, religious, sports, 4-H, music, drama, etc.*) Using only the space below, list the most important activities you have participated in the last four years. Please list in order of importance to you (most important first).

Activity	# of Years	Leadership positions, awards, recognition, etc.

Additional School/Community Recognitions (*DAR Good Citizen Award, Hoosier Girls State, Hoosier Boys State, etc.*)

Using only the space below, list the most important honors, awards, and recognitions you have received during the past four years. List them in order of importance to you, with the most important first.

Activity	# of Years	Leadership positions, awards, recognition, etc.

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Work Experience

Using only the space below, please list paid work experience in chronological order, beginning with your most recent position.

Employer	Nature of work	Dates of Employment	Hours/wk

Academic Information

Fill out completely.

High School: _____ Graduation Date: _____

Cumulative Grade Point Average: _____ (on a scale of _____)

Counselor: _____

Phone (include extension #): _____

College Applications

Please list all colleges and universities to which you intend to apply. Please indicate your top preference(s) with an asterisk (*).

Intended Major and Career

What major do you plan to pursue in college, and what career or profession do you hope to enter?

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4 Last 4 digits of applicant's phone number - _____

Essay

Using no more than one page, describe your educational, career, and personal goals and explain how the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship will help you achieve them.

Your essay should provide insight into who you are as a person and what matters most to you. You may wish to discuss unique circumstances, challenges, opportunities, family or financial situations, special achievements, or other experiences that have shaped your goals and aspirations. Rather than repeating a list of activities or accomplishments, use this essay to help the selection committee better understand your character, values, motivations, and potential.

Include any additional information you believe would assist the selection committee in evaluating your application.

Essay Requirements

- The essay must be written entirely by the applicant. Essays not authored by the applicant will result in disqualification.
- Use standard white 8½" × 11" paper.
- Place the last four digits of your phone number in the lower right corner of the essay page.
- Do not include your name or the name of any family member anywhere on the essay page.

Essay Certification

I certify that this essay reflects my own experiences, ideas, and goals and was written in my own voice. While I may have used tools to assist with proofreading or grammar, the content, stories, and responses are my own original work.

Signature:

DEADLINE: 5:00 pm, September 10, 2026

Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship

Financial Form

Applicant's Name (last, first) _____

Date of birth _____

Marital status as of today:

___ single ___ divorced ___ widowed ___ married/remarried ___ separated

Do you have dependent children? ___ no ___ yes

Are you an orphan or a ward of the court, or were you a court ward until age 18? ___ no ___ yes

Please read and follow all directions carefully!

- ☒ Fill out all information. An incomplete form may result in disqualification.
- ☒ If a question does not apply, please indicate with N/A. Do not leave any space blank.
- ☒ Use information from your 2025 tax returns.

Answers to frequently asked questions:

☒ Whose financial information should I provide?

Provide financial information for the parent(s), guardian(s), or other adult(s) with whom you primarily reside. If a parent has remarried and you live in that household, include the income of both the parent and step-parent. If your family situation is unique or does not fit the spaces provided, please attach an additional page explaining your circumstances.

☒ Which tax year should be reported?

Financial information should be based on 2025 federal income tax returns.

☒ What documentation will be required if I am selected as a finalist?

Finalists will be required to provide complete copies of all applicable 2025 federal income tax returns, including supporting schedules and W-2 forms. Submitted documents will be reviewed confidentially and securely destroyed following the completion of the verification process.

☒ Is the financial information required?

Yes. Submission of a completed financial information form is required for consideration. All financial information will remain strictly confidential and will be used solely for scholarship selection purposes.

Feel free to contact the Community Foundation if you have any questions.
574.583.6911 or marcy@cfwhitecounty.org

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6 Last 4 digits of applicant's phone number - _____

2025 Financial Information

Parents' current marital status:

___ Married/Remarried ___ Single ___ Separated/Divorced ___ Widowed ___ Unmarried/Living Together

Number in household (include yourself, siblings, parents): _____ Parents' state of legal residence: _____

Number of college students from number above who will be enrolled at least half-time _____

In 2024, did anyone in your household receive benefits from any of the federal programs?

___ SSI ___ Food Stamps ___ Free or Reduced Lunch ___ TANF ___ WIC

Tax Filing Information Complete all fields. Do not leave blanks. Enter "o" if a question does not apply.

	Student	Parent/Guardian/Household
Did you file a 2025 federal income tax return?	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Did you file IRS Schedule 1 with your return?	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
2025 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)	\$ _____	\$ _____
2025 U.S. Income Tax Paid (IRS Form 1040, Line 24)	\$ _____	\$ _____

Income Information Complete this section whether or not tax returns were filed.

Income Source	Student	Parent/Guardian/Household
Income earned from work (2025)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Additional financial information*	\$ _____	\$ _____
Untaxed income**	\$ _____	\$ _____

Parent/Guardian Employment Information

Parent/Guardian #1 Employer: _____

Parent/Guardian #2 Employer: _____

Asset Information

Asset Type	Student	Parent/Guardian/Household
Cash, savings, and checking accounts	\$ _____	\$ _____
Net worth of investments***	\$ _____	\$ _____
Net worth of businesses and/or investment farms****	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Additional financial information includes: child support paid, education credits, taxable earnings from need-based employment programs, student grant and scholarship aid reported in adjusted gross income, taxable combat pay, and special combat pay.

**Untaxed income includes: child support received, payments to tax-deferred pension and savings plans, IRA deductions and payments to self-employed or other qualified plans, tax-exempt interest income, untaxed portions of pensions or IRA distributions, housing and living allowances, veterans' non-education benefits, workers' compensation, disability benefits, and other untaxed income.

***Net worth of investments = current value minus debt.

****Net worth of businesses and investment farms = current value minus debt.

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7 Last 4 digits of applicant's phone number - _____

Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship

Applicant Name: _____

Last 4 digits of phone number: _____

Recommendation Instructions

To the Applicant

Your application must include **exactly three letters of recommendation**. Recommendations may be written by a teacher, counselor, coach, employer, minister, family friend, or another adult who knows you well. Recommendations from family members or peers will not be accepted.

Please provide these instructions to each recommender.

All recommendations must be received by the Community Foundation of White County by the application deadline. It is your responsibility to request recommendations early and allow recommenders sufficient time to prepare their letters. All recommendations are confidential and will not be shared with applicants.

To the Recommender

Thank you for supporting this scholarship applicant. Please read and follow the instructions below.

Recommendation Guidelines

1. **Do not use the applicant's name** in your letter. Please refer to the applicant only as "he," "she," or "they." The scholarship selection process is conducted anonymously.
2. Please describe the applicant's character, leadership, initiative, work ethic, and other qualities that make them a strong candidate for the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship. Help the selection committee understand who this person is, rather than simply providing a list of activities or accomplishments. Include any unique circumstances or attributes that distinguish the applicant.
3. Limit your recommendation to **one page**. Additional pages will not be considered.
4. Use standard letter-size paper. Please do not attach supplemental materials.
5. Recommendations may be submitted electronically.
6. Your recommendation must include:
 - Your full name (printed)
 - Your signature
 - Your relationship to the applicant
 - Your phone number
 - The date
7. To ensure anonymity, place the **last four digits of the applicant's phone number** in the lower right corner of the letter. Do not include the applicant's name anywhere in the recommendation.

If you have any questions, please contact the Community Foundation

(574) 583-6911 or marcy@cfwhitecounty.org

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Deliver to:

Coordinate with Rachael
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