

Lowcountry Legacy Scholarship 2027-28 Guidelines

Scholarship Information

The Lowcountry Legacy Fund, a Watterson Brands initiative through Burnt Church Distillery, is proud to offer two \$2,500 scholarships to graduating African American seniors from Hilton Head Island or Bluffton Public High Schools for the first year of post-secondary educational pursuits. The Lowcountry Legacy Fund, invests in programs that celebrate culture and heritage, build infrastructure, expand education and pursue economic equity in the Black community. *The two scholarships are presented in partnership with HHI MLK scholarship selection committee.*

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, applicants must be an African American high school senior from Hilton Head or Bluffton public high schools. The applicant must have been accepted and have plans to attend an accredited college, university, technical, or trade school.

1. Applicant must be an African American high school senior who recently graduated from a public high school in Hilton Head or Bluffton.
2. Applicants must demonstrate outstanding academic accomplishments.
3. Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on the South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale or the equivalent on an alternate scale.
4. Applicant must demonstrate financial need.

Application Requirements

1. A completed [online scholarship application](#).
2. Typed essay about “community” and typed into the online application as required: Please answer the following in 500 words or less.
 - a. What does community mean to you?
 - b. How have you been shaped by your community?
 - c. In what ways have you given back to your community through your high school years?
 - d. What would this scholarship mean to you and by extension, the people in your life?
3. An official copy of the applicant’s most recent transcript(s) showing grades for at least two years, uploaded into application via 3rd party email from the student’s counselor or teacher.
4. A resume or CV highlighting high school involvement, hobbies, extra-curricular activities, special awards.
5. Two letters of recommendation completed by adult non-family members, sent via third party email from the references.
6. The Submission Summary Report from the FAFSA - showing the Student Aid Index (SAI) or a written statement explaining why Federal Aid was not applied for, uploaded into the online application.
7. Information from the applicant and the applicant’s parent(s) or guardian(s) federal tax returns for the last year, uploaded into the online application.
8. Selected finalists may be asked to attend an in-person or virtual interview with the Lowcountry Legacy Fund Scholarship Committee.

Scholarship Type	Undergraduate/Post-Secondary	Deadline	March 8, 2027
Award	\$2,500 - one time, non-renewable	How to Apply	Visit our scholarship page on our website for application

Selection of Recipients

The Scholarship Advisory Committee shall select recipients (subject to approval by the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry Board of Directors). Scholarship funds will be awarded to cover educational costs for: tuition/fees, room and board, and books. Specific costs to be covered will be at the discretion of the Scholarship Advisory Committee. Scholarships are awarded without regard to race, sex, religion, age, or national origin.

Announcement of Scholarship Awards

The Community Foundation of the Lowcountry will send an official award letter and related information to each recipient. A public announcement of scholarship recipients may be arranged by the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry. Recipients may be further recognized through Awards Day programs at their schools.

Distribution of Scholarship Funds

The Community Foundation will advise all scholarship recipients of the distribution method of scholarship awards and review the students' responsibilities to the Scholarship Program they have been selected for. These responsibilities may include sending transcripts at the end of the year for renewable scholarships, and providing notification of all address changes or changes in student status or enrollment. In accordance with the Community Foundation's policy, scholarship funds will be paid in the form of a check made payable to the college/school of the scholarship recipient. Checks will be mailed to the college/school. Notification of payment will be sent to the scholarship recipient.