



Palmetto Dunes Cares Scholarship 2026-27 Guidelines

Scholarship Information

The Palmetto Dunes Cares Scholarship Fund was established in 2022 through the Palmetto Dunes Cares Fund, a charitable effort funded through the generosity of residents of the Palmetto Dunes Resort Community on Hilton Head Island.

The Palmetto Dunes Cares Scholarship will provide post-secondary scholarship opportunities for qualified high school seniors of a Hilton Head Island, South Carolina public or private high school or homeschool program. The scholarship will focus on providing support for applicants with a high degree of demonstrated financial need, academic achievement, and with plans to pursue a post-secondary education through enrollment and acceptance at a South Carolina public college, university or technical college.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants are those who meet the following application requirements:

1. Applicant must be a graduating high school senior of a Hilton Head Island, South Carolina public or private high school, or have successfully completed a homeschool program of equivalent academic rigor.
2. Applicant must be a US Citizen residing in, or a legal permanent resident of, Beaufort County South Carolina.
3. Applicant must show evidence of demonstrated financial need.
4. Applicant must show evidence of academic achievement with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent on an alternate scale.
5. Applicant must show evidence of acceptance and plans to attend an accredited South Carolina public or private college, university or technical college.
6. Applicant plans to pursue a 2- or 4-year degree program. *Preference may be given to those applicants pursuing a degree program with a focus in Environment or Children and Youth related studies.*
7. Applicant must show evidence of demonstrated involvement in the school and community volunteer and/or extra-curricular activities.

Application Requirements

1. A completed [online scholarship application](#).
2. A typed essay (approximately 500 words) describing the applicant's academic and career goals, uploaded as a separate document into the online scholarship portal.
3. An official copy of the applicant's most recent transcript(s) showing grades for at least two years, sent via third party email from a school counselor or teacher.
4. A copy of the Submission Summary from the FAFSA – showing Student Aid Index, a statement of any extraordinary circumstances, or a written statement explaining while Federal Student Aid was not applied for, uploaded into the online scholarship portal.
5. A completed financial need form section within the online scholarship application.
6. Two letters of recommendation completed by adult non-family members, sent via third party email from the references.
7. Selected finalists must attend a personal interview with the Palmetto Dunes Cares Scholarship Advisory Committee.
8. Current eligible recipients may reapply for undergraduate degree, completion of degree or four total awards, whichever comes first. A reapplication form and updated financial need form will be required for consideration.

Scholarship Type	Undergraduate/Post-Secondary	How to Apply	Click Here
Award	Varied, may have multiple recipients	Deadline	March 2, 2026

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.