



## The R and J Matchett Scholarship 2026-2027 Guidelines

### Scholarship Information

The R and J Matchett Scholarship was established at the Community Foundation in 2007 to assist students in pursuit of a postsecondary education who plan to successfully complete a course of study in a current or emerging occupational, technical, or skilled labor field at a technical college, trade school, or community college.

### Eligibility Criteria

Graduating high school senior or recent GED recipient (within the previous 2 years) from Beaufort, Jasper, or Hampton County who is a U.S. citizen and legal resident of Beaufort, Jasper, or Hampton County, demonstrating financial need, who has been accepted to a technical college, trade school, or community college located within a 150-mile radius of Hilton Head Island, who is pursuing a post-secondary education in a current or emerging occupational, technical, or skilled labor field - excluding all religious and/or culinary arts training programs. Must demonstrate current and past academic achievements, along with the sincere willingness to work hard to accomplish future educational and personal goals. Preference may be given to applicants accepted to a course of study located in Beaufort, Jasper, or Hampton Counties. Applicants with the desire to attend a specialized training program outside of the geographic requirements stated above may be considered at the discretion of the Scholarship Advisory Committee.

### Application Requirements

1. A completed [online scholarship application](#). This scholarship considers financial need in addition to other criteria, be certain to fill out the online application questions pertaining to financial need.
2. A personal statement explaining why you have chosen to pursue the educational and career field you have selected, how your experiences and achievements have led you to this decision and how this scholarship will assist you in achieving your educational, personal and future career goals. Include examples of how you have demonstrated a willingness to work hard to accomplish your current and past achievements. Personal statement is entered into the online application.
3. An official copy of the applicant's most recent transcript(s) showing grades for at least two years, **uploaded into the online application via 3<sup>rd</sup> party email from a school counselor or teacher.**
4. Information from the applicant's and the applicant's parent(s) or guardian(s) federal tax returns for the last two years, uploaded into the online application.
5. **Submission Summary** from the FAFSA - showing Student Aid Index or a written statement explaining why Federal Aid was not applied for, uploaded into the online application.
6. Two recommendation letters completed by adult non-family members, uploaded into application via 3<sup>rd</sup>. party email from each reference.
7. A completed financial need form for applicants. This form can be downloaded from the online application.
8. Proof of enrollment at a technical college, trade school or community college meeting above criteria. Selected finalists may be asked to attend a personal interview with the R and J Matchett Scholarship Advisory Committee.

Scholarship Type	Undergraduate/Post-Secondary	How to Apply	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
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.