

The **New Horizons Scholarship Program** supports academic achievement and economic mobility for individuals currently receiving housing assistance from the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz (Housing Authority). Selected applicants will be awarded a minimum \$1,000 scholarship to help them pursue their educational goals and increase economic opportunities.

Eligibility

To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

- Be a member of a household currently receiving housing assistance from the Housing Authority.
- Be 18 years or older **or** a high school senior.
- Be seeking or enrolled in higher education at a qualifying institution or program.
- Submit a complete application and all required materials by the due date.

Qualifying Educational Institutions & Programs

- Four-Year University or State College
- Two-Year Community or City College
- Graduate School
- Technical/Vocational School or Program
- Certificate Program
- Post-Graduate Program

Application Process

Applicants must submit a completed New Horizons Scholarship Program application, along with all required documents listed in the Application Materials Checklist. Required materials include:

- A personal essay
- Proof of registration or enrollment (see the checklist for details)
- A letter of recommendation from a non-family member

All materials must be submitted together. Applicants may also submit evidence of volunteer service or community engagement completed within the past 12 months to receive bonus points in the selection process.

How to Submit Your Application

Applications must be received by the deadline via one of the following methods:

- Send to daliac@hacosantacruz.org with the subject line "New Horizons Scholarship Application."
- Mail or Drop-Off:

Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz
ATTN: New Horizons Scholarship
2160 41st Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010

All required documents must be included for the application to be considered. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Application Deadline

The deadline to apply for the 2025 New Horizons Scholarship is **May 31, 2025**.

For questions, please contact Dalia at daliac@hacosantacruz.org.

Application Due Date: May 31, 2025

Application Materials Checklist

Completed Application

- Submit a fully completed **2025 New Horizons Scholarship** application.

Personal Essay

- A maximum two-page essay (typed in 10-12 font size is strongly recommended). If handwritten, it must be in blue or black ink and legible. Unreadable handwritten essays may result in disqualification.

Essay Prompt: Describe your educational and long-term goals, how you plan to achieve them, and how reaching these goals will create new opportunities for you. Also, explain how a New Horizons Scholarship will help you succeed in your journey.

Letter of Recommendation

- Submit **one** letter of recommendation from **one** of the following:
 - An academic professional (teacher, professor, academic advisor, counselor, etc.)
 - An employer or direct supervisor
 - A co-worker, community volunteer supervisor, or athletic coach
 - A personal acquaintance or friend

Note: The type and content of your letter will impact your application score. Encourage your recommender to highlight your outstanding qualities and how they contribute to your success.

Proof of Registration/Enrollment

- If available, submit **proof of registration/enrollment** for **Fall 2025** with your application. If proof is not available at the time of submission but you are selected for a scholarship, you must submit proof within 30 days of receiving your award notification.

Proof of Volunteer Service or Community Engagement (Optional)

- Volunteer activity must have taken place within the past 12 months to be considered. Please do not submit volunteer activities completed more than 12 months ago.

Statement of Policies

This page is for your records.

Application

- All applications must be fully completed, including required signatures and all necessary supplemental materials.
- Supplemental materials must be attached or indicated as being sent separately by a third party (e.g., letters of recommendation).
- Incomplete applications or those missing required documents may be disqualified.
- Applications must be submitted to the Housing Authority and postmarked no later than the stated deadline.

Review and Selection

- Applicants will be notified of their selection status in writing by July 31.
- The Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz ensures that scholarship recipients are selected without regard to race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, marital status, gender, age, sexual orientation, or disability.

Scholarship Funds

- Scholarships will only be awarded to applicants who meet all eligibility requirements and submit a complete application with all required documents.
- Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the recipient and may be used for education-related expenses, recognizing the broad scope of costs that impact access to higher education.
- Scholarships are intended to help alleviate financial gaps students may face but are not intended to fully cover the cost of attending a post-secondary institution or program.
- Scholarships are awarded for a single academic year and do not renew automatically.
- Applicants and recipients may reapply each year, provided they continue to meet eligibility requirements and funding is available.

Forfeiture of Scholarship

- Failure to provide the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz with proof of enrollment within 30 days of receiving a scholarship award notification will result in forfeiture of the scholarship.
- Recipients will forfeit their scholarship and must repay awarded funds if they withdraw from school before completing their first or current semester.

This page is for reference only.

Please do not submit it with your application.



2025-26 Application

Personal Information

First Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Middle Name: _____

Gender:
[] Male [] Female [] Other

Last Name: _____

Race (check all that apply):
[] African-American (Black)
[] Asian/Pacific Islander
[] Hispanic/Latino(a)
[] Native American/Alaskan
[] White
[] Other

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____@_____

Tenant ID: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____

How did you hear about the New Horizons Scholarship:
[] Housing Authority website
[] Email
[] Social Media
[] Flyer
[] Family/Friend
[] Other: _____

General Information

Applicant was awarded a New Horizons Scholarship in:
[] 2023 [] 2024 [] Never

Select all that apply to the applicant:

- [] Veteran
[] Parent
[] Single Parent
[] First in family to attend college

- [] Receiving housing assistance from the Housing Authority.
[] Resident of a property that is owned/managed by the Housing Authority.
Name of Property: _____

Educational Information

Are you currently enrolled or planning to enroll in one of the following educational programs for the 2025-2026 academic year?

- [] Four-Year University or State College [] Post-Graduate Program
[] Two-Year Community or City College [] Technical/Vocational School or Program
[] Graduate School [] Certificate Program

School/Program applicant plans to attend in Fall 2025: _____

Applicant is applying as (check one): [] Full-Time Student [] Part-Time Student

Number of units applicant is enrolling: Fall 2025: _____ Spring 2026: _____

Expected/Declared Major: _____ Expected Career Goal: _____

Completed Application & Required Documents Due by: May 31, 2025



2025-26 Application

Applicant Certification

I certify that the information provided in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I authorize the verification of any statements included in this application as necessary to determine my eligibility for the New Horizons Scholarship.

I have read and understand the New Horizons Scholarship Program policies and agree to provide all required materials promptly if selected as a scholarship recipient. I understand that failure to comply with the program's policies may result in forfeiture of my scholarship award and require repayment of any distributed funds.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____