



The Scholarship Finder allows students to search for local scholarship information in one comprehensive site! We have compiled a list of scholarship opportunities that are offered by local schools, businesses, service clubs, and individuals.

This workbook is designed to highlight the expectations of Humboldt Area Foundation and Wild Rivers Community Foundation scholarships, which will be listed on the Finder in January. Scholarships listed on the Finder that are offered through other organizations will have their own unique application requirements.

Scholarship opportunities are listed on the Finder throughout the year, as they become available. Visit now to see the current scholarship listings and check back on January 15 to find Humboldt Area Foundation and Wild Rivers Community Foundation scholarships!

Visit the Scholarship Finder at:

[www.ScholarshipFinder.org](http://www.ScholarshipFinder.org)

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## **Preparing to Apply for Humboldt Area Foundation & Wild Rivers Community Foundation Scholarships**

Humboldt Area Foundation (HAF) & Wild Rivers Community Foundation (WRCF) offer over 190 unique scholarship funds geared towards students of all levels pursuing a post-secondary education. The 2026 application will become available on **January 15** and gives students access to more than 190 scholarship funds through one application process. This checklist will guide you through tasks that can be prepared ahead of time:

- ☐ Community Service, Employment, Extracurricular Activities, Sports
  - Create a list of these activities ahead of time – \*see the next page for more information
- ☐ Personal Statement
  - We've included some example prompts on the next page so that you can start brainstorming
- ☐ Transcript
  - You'll need an unofficial copy of your transcript (as a PDF)
  - Request in mid-January so that your transcript includes your Fall 2025 grades and your Spring 2026 class schedule
- ☐ FAFSA/CADAA
  - ***The FAFSA/CADAA is not a requirement for the HAF+WRCF Scholarship Program, however, we encourage all students to apply for FAFSA/CADAA.***
  - (Optional) Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) ahead of time
- ☐ Other Financial Need Information
  - An example financial aid worksheet is included on the last page of the workbook

**Application Opens: January 15, 2026**

Available on the Scholarship Finder at: [www.scholarshipfinder.org](http://www.scholarshipfinder.org)

**Application Deadline: March 2nd, 2026**

Scholarships support students during the 2026-2027 academic year.

Questions? Email [scholarships@hafoundation.org](mailto:scholarships@hafoundation.org)



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## HAF+WRCF Universal Application Questions & Prompts

### **Community Service, Employment, Extracurricular Activities, Awards & Honors**

The application includes a section for you to share any community service, employment, extracurricular activities, or sports from the last four years. *This section is optional; students are not required to have participated in these activities to be eligible for HAF+WRCF scholarships.*

**Community Service:** Please list any community service or volunteerism that you have participated in, in the past few years that has been impactful on you as a person.

- **Example:** Volunteered at the local Elementary School, 2 hours after school every Monday and Wednesday for three months; this experience helped me gain direct experience working with children in schools.

**Employment:** If you have been employed, please list your last jobs (maximum of 3-5), including how long you held the job and how many hours you worked per week. You may also include a brief description of the job if needed.

- **Example:** Barista at Dutch Bros (November 2020-current) - 20 hours/week; Babysitting (February 2021-current) - 4 hours twice a month; Camp Counselor at Camp Tawonga - 4 weeks, summer 2020

**Extracurricular Activities:** What have you participated in within the last four years that has made an impact on you?

- **Example:** Participated in biology field projects junior year of college; this project helped me gain experience working in the field of my desired career.
- *Here, you can include a general overview of sports participation, as we have added a Sports Participation table where you're asked to enter more details about sports participation later on in the application.*

### **Personal Statement**

*Below is an example of three short questions comprising the personal statement section of the application. You will be asked to answer three questions thoughtfully and succinctly:*

1. Every student has a unique identity, passion, interest, talent, lived experience, etc. that is meaningful to them. What are some of these attributes for you? How do you integrate these into your daily life? Please provide examples.
2. How have your life experiences guided your path to the next step(s) in your education?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome, and how has it impacted you?

**Writing Tips:** Scholarship committee members have let us know that students are often **too modest** in their personal statements; it's okay to be proud of your accomplishments and aspirations! Ask for help with writing and proofreading! We recommend asking two people to proofread your answers. Writing resources include:

- Academic counselors, teachers, or school administrators
- Career tech staff members/ School writing centers
- TRIO programs



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## Financial Need Worksheet

**HAF+WRCF does not require FAFSA/CADAA completion.** If you choose to apply for FAFSA, remember to save your Student Aid Index documents for easy access on other scholarship applications.

### Statement of Financial Need

The application will ask you to provide a brief statement of financial need. This is your opportunity to tell the committee about any challenges that you and/or your family may have that will affect your ability to afford your education. This might include health-related expenses, loss of employment or inability to work, childcare costs, or any other aspects of your financial situation that may not be reflected in your Student Aid Index.

We want to acknowledge that disclosing financial information can often be challenging. You may have experienced traumatic financial hardships, not have full access to financial history or records, or simply find the topic embarrassing to go into at-length. We want to assure you that any information you provide is kept confidential within our review process, and that adding any additional financial information when prompted often leads to more success when your application is reviewed.

Keep in mind, you'll be asked what kind of support you may be receiving from your family while in college. Think about who may help with:

- Tuition
- Rent/Housing
- Groceries/Bills
- Textbooks/Supplies for class
- Auto Payments/Insurance

### Annual Gross Income of Your Family

Please estimate the total income for your family (before taxes) in 2024:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

How many members in your household depend on the above AGI?	
Who will be responsible for financing your college tuition?	

Other questions you may be asked on the HAF+WRCF Universal Application include:

- Please discuss your housing situation
- Has your household qualified for either Medi-Cal or EBT (Food Stamps) in the past two years?
- Does your family own/operate a farm or small business?

The Universal Application will be available at [scholarshipfinder.org](https://scholarshipfinder.org), on January 15<sup>th</sup>!