



San Diego County Latino Association - Scholarship Program Guide

INTRODUCTION

The San Diego County Latino Association (SDCLA) is committed to advancing the educational goals and aspirations of its members for the betterment of County employee service and the greater Latino community. The Scholarship Program provides SDCLA members and their children (student) with financial assistance to support education and training expenses for career development, job promotion, a college degree and life-long learning.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY LATINO ASSOCIATION

As a County of San Diego Employee Resource Group (ERG), we are committed to professional and career development and we continue to help develop culturally competent county employees to better understand the Latino culture and embrace community service and volunteer opportunities. SDCLA was established in 1983 as an organization to promote public service among Latino county employees and to have a positive impact in the Latino community.

SCHOLARSHIP HISTORY

The scholarship program is a mechanism to advance higher education and career development among SDCLA members and their children. Since the scholarship program's inception, SDCLA has awarded thirty-eight (38) scholarships to its members including County student workers and students at San Pascual Academy and Monarch School.

AWARDS

SDCLA members may receive funds to support their education at a local community college, four-year University, graduate studies program (including doctoral programs) and for career development training. The children of SDCLA members are only eligible for a scholarship to attend a community college or a four-year University. Selection for a scholarship is based on academic interests, relevance to current county employment or career in public service, professional development, financial need and for the advancement of the cultural, social and economic well-being of the Latino community.

This is a competitive scholarship program. Some applicants may not receive a scholarship award. The anticipated minimum scholarship amount awarded will be \$250. The total number of scholarships awarded and final individual amount per scholarship will depend on the total funds available to SDCLA and total number of competitive applications received during the application period. A SDCLA member review committee will review and recommend the award of scholarships to the SDCLA Board of Directors.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Applicant must be a SDCLA member in good standing (paid dues for current annual period). Membership application can be found on SDCLA webpage at www.sdcla.net. For the student of a SDCLA member, the student must be registered/enrolled at the time of scholarship application at a community college or four-year university;



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2. Applicant must document their enrollment in training, seminar, workshop, certificate or professional license program or pursuing their college degree and must demonstrate its relevance to County employment or career in County service;
3. Applicant must be able to justify their financial need for the scholarship and, if requested, provide appropriate financial documentation for review by the Scholarship Committee;
4. SDCLA members who are publicly elected officials, County Executives including Department Directors, Assistant Deputy Directors and high level managers are not eligible for a scholarship;
5. Applicant must be available for an interview (if selected as a finalist) and must be available to attend the scholarship award event when scheduled;
6. Applicant may not be a prior SDCLA scholarship recipient within the past three (3) years from the time they received a scholarship;
7. Applicant must demonstrate their involvement and support to SDCLA's program/focus areas: cultural awareness, recruitment/retention/outreach, supporting county initiatives and/or professional development;
8. Applicant must state on the application which subcommittee(s) they are committing to work on during the current and next membership term.

SELECTION PROCESS AND AWARDS

Scholarship Committee:

Applications meeting the eligibility guidelines are reviewed and evaluated by a SDCLA member review committee. All scholarship award selections will be recommended to the SDCLA Board of Directors for final approval. The Scholarship Committee chairperson will prepare a scholarship award recommendation list and present this information to the SDCLA Board of Directors for action.

Interview:

Applicant must be able to attend a face-to-face interview in San Diego, California, if requested by the Scholarship Committee.

When will the scholarship be awarded?

Scholarships will be awarded during a SDCLA sponsored event. All applicants will be notified via e-mail.

How can the award be used?

The scholarship awarded shall be used to pay for workshop or training fees, professional license exam fees, training or professional license costs, and general education-related expenses like tuition and fees, transportation, books and supplies. As part of the application process, the applicant must submit their intended planned use of the scholarship funds. Those who are recommended for award will be asked to meet with members of the scholarship committee and sign the required Scholarship Fund Release form. The Scholarship Fund Release form



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demonstrates the applicant's acceptance and responsibilities for the intended use of the scholarship funds.

AWARD RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS

Scholarship recipients are required to attend at least one (1) SDCLA general meeting and volunteer in at least one (1) SDCLA event during the 12 months following the award of the scholarship. Children (student) of active SDCLA members who are awarded a scholarship should attend and participate in at least one (1) SDCLA sponsored event.

PROGRAM LIMITS

1. SDCLA retains the right to change or terminate this program at any time.
2. SDCLA retains the right not to approve any scholarship for award based on the application submitted to the program.
3. SDCLA is not responsible for applications and materials lost, misplaced, or delayed through the mail or other delivery processes.
4. All materials become the property of SDCLA. All application information is kept confidential and not released without prior authorization granted by applicant.
5. All applications (including two letters of recommendation, transcripts, course or training material) must be received by County mail, e-mail or in person by 5:00 pm on the deadline indicated at the top of the Scholarship Application. Incomplete or late application materials maybe disqualified.

HOW TO APPLY

We encourage you to submit one (1) single packet with all the required application materials. We will not be able to process your application unless you carefully follow these instructions. Only completed application packages will be processed (please do not send additional information that is not required). It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all application materials are submitted by the deadline. Application packages must **ONLY** include:

1. **Completed scholarship application.** Carefully complete the application, listing all pertinent facts and information.
2. **College transcript(s) or training program enrollment certification.** Provide a copy of your college unofficial transcript or training program enrollment certification to verify your enrollment status.
3. **Letter of Recommendation.** Provide two (2) letters of recommendation from a school counselor, advisor, teacher, mentor or County department representative who knows your academic, education and/or County career experience and professional aspirations.

Questions regarding Scholarship Program contact Oscar.Talaro@sdcounty.ca.gov