



Consortium of Florida Education Foundations



2024-2025 Lighting the Way to a Bright Future - Program Guidelines

The Bright Futures Scholarship Program has been primarily funded by the Florida Lottery since the creation of the program by the Florida Legislature in 1997. More than 800,000 students have received \$5 billion in support for college and technical/vocational school. The Florida Lottery wants to help students overcome barriers to earn Bright Futures scholarships and to encourage students of low socio-economic backgrounds to be prepared for post-secondary education.

- Through a partnership with the Consortium, the Florida Lottery will fund one Lighting the Way college access project in each of Florida Lottery's nine districts at \$5,000 each. If more than one eligible application is submitted in a district by the October 3, 2024, deadline, submitted applications in those districts will be judged and ranked through a competitive review process that will include representatives from Consortium partners such as the Florida College Access Network and school counselors.
- Projects may take place during school or after school anytime through May 15, 2025.
- Project participants should be 5th to rising 12th graders of low socio-economic background.
- Projects **should not simply augment Take Stock in Children or other existing programs** unless it is addressing an identified unmet need or expanding reach to or services for underserved youth.
- Projects that focus on outreach to students eligible for Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship Program through CTE academies are encouraged and may receive up to 5 bonus points in the review process.
- Florida Lottery desires to inform and encourage younger students about the Bright Futures Program opportunity and how to gain access to the scholarship. Projects that provide education about Bright Futures program for 5th to 9th grade students are encouraged and may receive up to 5 bonus points in the review process.
- Submitted applications should include the following:
 - How foundation is currently serving students of low socio-economic backgrounds in terms of college access.
 - What identified, unmet need the project will address.
 - Proposed project goals and activities. Should include:
 - Estimate of number of students to be served
 - How students of low socio-economic backgrounds will be selected
 - How families are involved in process





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- Types of project outputs that will be tracked (e.g., number of students who complete FAFSA, number of students taking SAT/ACT/PERT test prep and/or taking SAT/ACT/PERT, etc., number of students applying for college, etc.)
- How the partnership with Florida Lottery will be promoted locally (e.g., social media posts, press releases, newsletter articles, etc.) This is a required deliverable this year.
- If matching funds are expected to be utilized to augment Florida Lottery funds.
- Budget: Participating foundations may retain up to 10% (\$500) for project implementation with all other funds used for direct costs which may include test-prep courses, testing fees, workshops, college-readiness software, FAFSA completion efforts, college application fees and program supplies. Documented staff or outside contractor time spent directly on the project and not covered by other funding sources may also be eligible. Funding may be augmented by funds from other sources and may be for a new program or to expand an existing initiative.
- Awardees will be asked to distribute the Bright Futures testimonial form to students who are currently receiving or have recently received a Bright Futures scholarship.
- Awardees will be **REQUIRED** to submit a final report to the Consortium that describes project activities with outputs and lessons learned.

All applications must be submitted by the local education foundation to the Consortium by the deadline and are subject to the Consortium’s Shared Revenue Guidelines in terms of reporting and recognition of the Florida Lottery as the original source of the funding at the appropriate level.

2024-25 Program Cycle Timeline

2024-25 Program Cycle Timeline	
September 9, 2024	Opportunity announced to members via email and weekly e-newsletter and applications open on Consortium grants management platform
October 3, 2024	Applications due by 5:00 p.m. All applications must be submitted by a representative of the education foundation in the county where project is taking place.
October 4, 2024 through October 11, 2024	External review process If more than one eligible application is submitted in a district, an external review process will be conducted. The review panel will include representatives from the Florida College Access Network.
October 14-15, 2024	Selected recipients will be notified of their via email.
October 2024	Checks mailed to award recipients
May 15, 2025	Final project reports due to the Consortium by 5:00 pm EST



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Grant Review Scoring Matrix

		Maximum Points	Reviewer Points
1.	Foundation’s Current Programs: The applicant describes how the foundation is currently serving students of low socio-economic backgrounds in accessing college.	10	
2.	District Need: The applicant clearly describes an identified, unmet need in the district for supporting students of low socio-economic backgrounds in accessing college.	15	
3.	Project Goals and Activities: The applicant clearly outlines the overall goal of the project and activities to be completed.	20	
4.	Students Impacted: The applicant clearly describes how students of low socio-economic backgrounds will be targeted to participate in the project. The project should serve students beyond TSIC population.	10	
5.	Family Involvement: The applicant clearly describes how families will be involved in process of getting student participants to college.	10	
6.	Local Promotion: The applicant has a plan to promote their program through social media, newsletters and press releases.	5	
7.	Outputs Tracked: The applicant clearly states what outputs will be tracked during the project.	10	
8.	Budget: The applicant describes clear budget of expected project expenditures. Expenditures are appropriate for project scope of work.	10	
9.	Reviewers Discretionary Points: (This category is at the discretion of the reviewer on how the overall project meets the intention and long-term aim of this program)	10	
10	BONUS POINTS: Project focus includes targeting students eligible for Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship Program through CTE academies.	5	
11	BONUS POINTS: Project provides education about Bright Futures program for 5th to 9th grade students.	5	
	TOTAL SCORE	110	



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*****Please note: All applications must be submitted through the Consortium's grants management platform. Any application submitted directly from teachers or schools will not be accepted*****