



Columbus Citizens Foundation, Inc.

2020 High School Scholarship Program

Introduction

The Columbus Citizens Foundation is a non-profit organization in New York City committed to fostering an appreciation of Italian-American ancestry and achievement. The Foundation, through a broad range of philanthropic and cultural activities, provides opportunities for advancement to deserving Italian-American students through various scholarship and grant programs. Since its founding in 1929, the Foundation has organized New York City's Columbus Day Parade.

It is the Foundation's hope that future generations of Italian Americans will honor those who came before them by upholding the values of love of country, family and a tireless work ethic. It is in this spirit that the Columbus Citizens Foundation offers four-year high school scholarships to entering freshmen. Scholarships, while generous, are partial assistance and will not cover payment for all school costs.

Scholarship Criteria

To be eligible to apply, students must:

- **Be entering freshman year of high school (apply while student is in 8th grade)**
- Be planning to attend a private high school in the United States
- Be a United States Citizen/Resident of same status
- Be at least 25% Italian
- Maintain at least an 85% or 3.0 overall academic average
- Live in a household where the total gross income does not exceed \$20,000 per capita (\$20,000 per person in the household)

For example, a family of four whose before-tax household income is \$80,000 (4 x \$20,000) or less is eligible to apply. Household income is based upon the before-tax income of the applicant's parent(s)/guardian(s), which includes gross W2 salary, child support, social security, net income from self-employment and all investment

CCF High School Scholarships

CCF has scholarships available to the following schools (and more!):

Christ the King High School

Cristo Rey High School (NY and BK)

Fordham Preparatory School

Mary Louis Academy

Msgr. Farrell High School

Poly Prep Country Day School

St. Anthony's High School

St. Saviour High School

St. Vincent Ferrer

Ursuline School

Xaverian High School

Xavier High School

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Mandatory Interview in New York City

Each semi-finalist is required to appear in person for an interview at CCF in New York City. Any costs associated with travel, meals and accommodations for the semi-finalists and anyone accompanying them to the interview will not be reimbursed by the Foundation. **An invitation to be interviewed does not indicate that you will receive a scholarship.**

Deadline

Applications and all supporting documents must be submitted to FACTS by **Friday, February 7, 2020**. First, submit the application to FACTS online and second, submit the support documents directly to FACTS by fax or scan/upload to your FACTS application:

Fax: (866) 315-9264 **Scan/Upload:** Documents may be uploaded *as PDF files* on the FACTS website.

Required Support Documents

The following four (4) documents are required in addition to your online application.

****Include your name and applicant ID# at the top of each page so that your documents are matched with your application.***

1. Letters of Recommendation: You must submit **three (3)** letters of recommendation that specifically address why you should be selected as a scholarship recipient. Do not submit recommendations used for high school admission. One recommendation should be school-related and written by a teacher, principal, guidance counselor, etc. The other two recommendations should be written by an individual from a community organization, church, employer, coach, or youth group, etc. Do not submit more than three letters of recommendation.

2. Essay (approx. 300– 500 words): Write an essay that includes a) what you think of the CCF mission and what it means to you to be of Italian descent. b) the name of a noteworthy Italian American, his or her accomplishments, and why this individual has your respect and/or admiration and c) an explanation that helps us understand what a scholarship from CCF means to you and your future.

3. Academic Performance Verification Form and Attachments: Your school guidance counselor or principal must complete an Academic Performance Verification Form (see next page). It is your responsibility to make sure that you submit the completed form and the required attachments (report cards, statewide exam results, and *if applicable, TACHS exam results and a recommendation letter*).

4. Financials: FACTS will request documents to verify your household income.

Call Rule

Please wait 1-2 weeks before calling FACTS to see if they received the required documents.

CCF will contact you by mail regarding the status of your application once all applications have been reviewed.

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ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE VERIFICATION FORM

Instructions: This form must be completed by the applicant's school principal or guidance counselor. Complete all fields even if the information appears in accompanying documents. Return this form to the applicant with attachments for submission to FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment.

Student's Name (please print)

Elementary School

School Address

Seventh Grade Average

Statewide Exam Composite Score

TACHS Exam Composite Score (if applicable)

Required Attachments:

- _____ Final 7th grade report card
- _____ Current 8th grade report card
- _____ Statewide exam results
- _____ TACHS exam results (if applicable)
- _____ Letter of recommendation (optional: if requested by student)

I certify that the information provided is accurate, and I have provided this information to the student named above for inclusion in the student's scholarship application package.

Your Name

Phone Number

Fax Number

E-mail Address

Your Title (Principal / Guidance Counselor)

Signature

Date