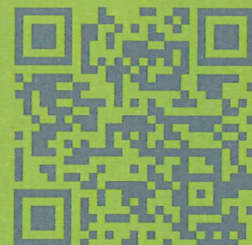


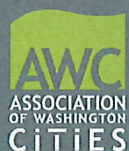
Scholarships for student leaders!

2025

The AWC Center for Quality Communities is awarding up to **three \$3,000 scholarships** to civic-minded Washington student leaders.



- Check with your city to find out when applications are due.
- Your city will review applications and select a student to nominate.
- Scholarship recipients will be announced in Spring 2025.
- Apply now! Scan the QR code for more information.



What is AWC?

Founded in 1933, the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan corporation that represents Washington's cities. AWC's mission is to serve our members through advocacy, education, and services.

For more information visit wacities.org.



AWC Center for Quality Communities

What is CQC?

The AWC Center for Quality Communities (CQC) is a 501(c)(3) partner to AWC that promotes municipal leadership development and civic engagement in student leaders.

For more information, visit us at wacities.org/cqc-home.



NEWS RELEASE

**Media contact
Sean Davido**

The City of Toppenish seeks applicants for AWC Center for Quality Communities scholarship

The City of Toppenish is now accepting applications for the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Center for Quality Communities (CQC) scholarship. The scholarship is available through a statewide competitive process for high school seniors who are active in leadership in their city government, community, or school and plan to pursue post-secondary education in fall 2025.

CQC is awarding up to three \$3,000 scholarships in 2025. Scholarship recipients also receive a travel stipend to attend AWC's Annual Conference in Kennewick, Washington, in June 2025.

To be eligible, a student must be:

- A Washington resident;
- Graduating from high school, completing homeschooling, or receiving a GED in spring/summer 2025;
- Planning to continue their education at an accredited college or trade school in the 2025-2026 academic year on at least a half-time basis; and
- Active in leadership in their city government, community, or school.

Information and application materials can be found on the city website: [www.toppenish](http://www.toppenish.gov).gov or the CQC website (<https://wacities.org/cqc-home/scholarships>). Completed applications are due to the city no later than **December 13th, 2024**.

Submit completed application and materials to:

Email:
Subject: Scholarship Application
Attention: Elvia Cisneros
Elvia.Cisneros@cityoftoppenish.us

Mail to: City of Toppenish
Attention: Elvia Cisneros
21 West 1st Avenue
Toppenish, WA 98948

Contact Elvia Cisneros, Elvia.Cisneros@cityoftoppenish.us, 509-865-6319 Ext 1021 with any questions.

The AWC Center for Quality Communities is a 501(c)(3) partner with the nonprofit Association of Washington Cities. The Center's goal is to help residents understand the important role cities and towns play in Washington. The Center promotes municipal leadership development and civic engagement and works to support students who demonstrate community leadership and commitment to their city. We believe in growing leaders and healthy, resilient quality communities.



2025 scholarship application

The AWC Center for Quality Communities (CQC) offers scholarships to graduating high school students. Student applications must be submitted to their respective city. City nominations must be submitted through the AWC Center for Quality Communities website at cfqc.org no later than **January 27, 2025**.

Note: Application can be saved and completed as a fillable PDF.

1	First name: _____ Last name: _____ Pronouns: _____	
2	Mailing address Street/P.O. Box: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	
3	Best phone number to reach you: _____ Email: _____	
4	Current high school: _____ If home-schooled, please check box: <input type="checkbox"/> If GED, please indicate date received or expected: _____	Number of years attended _____ _____
5	Have you been accepted into an accredited post-secondary program or college for the 2025-26 school year? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please provide institution name(s): _____ If not, please indicate the name of the institution(s) you are applying to: _____ Proof of student enrollment from the school is required prior to the release of funds .	
6	Career goals (please be specific): _____ _____ _____	
7	Contact information of parent(s) or legal guardian(s) Name(s): _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Primary phone: _____ Email address: _____	

8

Please describe your financial need. Include any financial aid you expect to receive and/or any circumstances that would help the committee understand your financial situation.

9

List your city, community, and civic involvement activities. **(No additional materials will be accepted.)**

10

List your school involvement and any academic honors and awards. **(No additional materials will be accepted.)**

Personal essay

Write a concise essay in response to the following question. Please limit the length to 700 words or less.

Good leaders can guide and help others through both good and challenging times. This requires high standards of responsibility, empathy, and cooperation. Share a leadership experience you've had in serving your community, school, or family that has helped you understand the perspectives, motivations, and desires of people different from you. How has this experience, along with your civics education, helped you become a more effective leader?

12

Statement of accuracy

- ☐ I hereby affirm that all of the information provided above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
- ☐ I agree that the scholarship funds will be sent directly to the educational institution.
- ☐ I agree that if I don't use the funds awarded to me by May 31, 2026, they will be returned to the scholarship fund.
- ☐ I understand that if chosen as a scholarship recipient, I must provide evidence of enrollment/registration at an accredited post-secondary institution of my choice before scholarship funds can be awarded.

Signature of scholarship applicant: _____

Date: _____

Release and consent

The purpose of this form is to request permission to share your scholarship application with requesting Washington state academic institutions for the purpose of determining eligibility for other scholarship opportunities, and if selected as a scholarship recipient, to use your photo/image and name in our scholarship program materials, website, and/or social media as part of the AWC Center for Quality Communities.

If you or your parent or guardian wish to rescind this agreement and remove your information or photo, you may do so at any time by sending an email to the AWC Center for Quality Communities at cqc@awcnet.org. Such rescission will take effect upon receipt by the AWC Communications department.

Nothing herein shall constitute any obligation on the part of the AWC Center for Quality Communities to make any use of any of the materials or rights granted.

Use of photo/image and name**Initials**

If selected as a scholarship recipient, I grant permission for my (or my child's) photo/image and name to be used in connection with the AWC Center for Quality Communities scholarship program materials, website, and/or social media, including any and all uses of video and any portraits, still pictures, or other photographic reproductions and sound recordings in which I (or my child) may be portrayed.

Share information with academic institutions**Initials**

I grant permission for my (or my child's) scholarship application to be shared with requesting Washington state academic institutions for the purpose of determining eligibility for other scholarship opportunities.

I do not grant permission for my (or my child's) scholarship application to be shared with requesting Washington state academic institutions for the purpose of determining eligibility for other scholarship opportunities.

I hereby grant permission and execute this release as of the date and year below.

Signature _____

Signature of parent or guardian
(required for minors under 18 years of age)

Printed name _____

Relationship to minor _____

Date _____

14

Applicant checklist (Send completed application packet to city for consideration):

- ☐ Complete sections 1-14
- ☐ Sign sections 12-13
- ☐ Attach a letter of recommendation

Note:

Must be in good academic standing.

Must be eligible to graduate spring/summer 2025.



[Scholarships \(/cqc-home/scholarships\)](/cqc-home/scholarships)

[Scholarship recipients \(/cqc-home/scholarship-recipients\)](/cqc-home/scholarship-recipients)

[About CQC \(/cqc-home/about-cqc\)](/cqc-home/about-cqc) [Donate \(/cqc-home/donate\)](/cqc-home/donate)

[WA-CELI \(/cqc-home/WA-CELI\)](/cqc-home/WA-CELI) [Media releases \(/cqc-home/media-releases\)](/cqc-home/media-releases)

[CQC home \(/cqc-home\)](/cqc-home) / [Scholarships](/cqc-home/scholarships)

The 2025 AWC Center for Quality Communities scholarship cycle is now open.

The AWC Center for Quality Communities (CQC) scholarship supports high school seniors who are active in leadership in their city government, community, or school and plan to pursue post-secondary education.

Each year, all of Washington's 281 cities and towns can recruit scholarship applicants. Each jurisdiction can nominate **one** graduating high school senior. This is a great way to recognize the youth in your community who have made a positive contribution to your city.

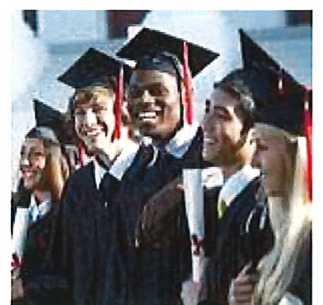
Up to three \$3,000 scholarships are being offered in 2025.

Scholarship recipients also receive a travel stipend to attend AWC's Annual Conference in Kennewick, Washington, in June 2025.

2025 CQC scholarship timeline

October 30, 2024	Scholarship application period opens
November 20, 2024	Q&A session (for cities/towns only): Learn more about the scholarship process
November 2024 – January 2025	City outreach to students & application review <i>(Students: Check with your city for your local application deadline.)</i>
January 27, 2025	Deadline for cities to nominate a student to CQC
February – March 2025	Review of city nominees by CQC Scholarship Selection Committee
Spring 2025	Scholarship recipients announced
June 26, 2025	CQC luncheon at AWC Annual Conference in Kennewick, WA

About the AWC Center for Quality Communities scholarship



The AWC Center for Quality Communities scholarship is supported by individual donors who are passionate about inspiring and recognizing youth leadership in municipal government. The AWC CQC is pleased to have awarded 74 scholarships to date, resulting in over \$139,000 of funding as of 2024. Learn about our previous scholarship recipients (</cqc-home/scholarship-recipient>).

Donate now! (</cqc-home/donate>)

Students: How to apply

Each city or town can nominate **one** graduating high school senior for a Center for Quality Communities scholarship. The nominee recruitment and selection process happens through your city. **Check with your city to find out the local deadline for students to apply.**

City nominations are due to the Center for Quality Communities by **January 27, 2025.**

Eligibility

Students interested in consideration for the Center for Quality Communities scholarship must be:

- Active in community leadership and civic service through city government, community groups, or school;
- Eligible to earn a high school diploma, homeschool diploma, or GED in spring/summer 2025;
- Planning to continue education in the 2025-26 academic year at an accredited college or trade school at least half-time; and
- A Washington state resident.

Interested in applying?

- Contact your city. Information may be posted on your city's website, or you can reach out to your mayor's office for more details. Be sure to find out your local deadline to apply.
- Complete the Center for Quality Communities scholarship application:
 - 2025 CQC scholarship application (/docs/default-source/cqc-docs/cfqapplication.pdf?sfvrsn=eac2254f_9) (**first-time applicants**)

only)

- Include a letter of recommendation from a nonrelative.
- Submit your application to your city/town by your local deadline.
- Your city will select a nominee to forward to the AWC Center for Quality Communities for consideration.
- **Scholarship recipients will be notified in Spring 2025.**
 - Note: If you are selected as a recipient, you will be asked to provide a photo to be used to help promote the scholarship program via program materials, website, and/or social media.

Cities: How to nominate students

The 2025 application period is now open. City nominations are due to the CQC by January 27, 2025.

Any of Washington's 281 cities and towns can recruit scholarship applicants. Each jurisdiction can nominate **one** graduating high school senior.

Learn more at a Q&A session

November 20 | Online

Interested in nominating a local student leader for the CQC scholarship? Join this Q&A session to hear more about the scholarship program, tips from those who have participated in the past, and how you can identify talented and engaged students in your community. (This online meeting is for AWC member cities and towns only.) Register now

(<https://wacities.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlduqpqzsJHNJ4VirPQ4U6myPpgeYp-HT#/registration>).

How do you recruit, select, and nominate?

Cities and towns are important partners in the selection process. Here's how you do your part:

- Each city decides how it wants to select a local nominee. For example, you might:
 - Recruit from active city volunteers, youth representatives, or youth council members.
 - Make it a competitive process, open to the community at large.
 - Open the application to those in the local school district, or limit your recruitment to city residents only.
 - It's your choice, and you are encouraged to select a model that works best for your city.
- Set a local application deadline, keeping in mind that the city nomination is due on January 27, 2025.
- Publicize the scholarship and local deadline. See the “tips for cities” section below for ideas and resources to help you get the word out (flyer (/docs/default-source/cqc-docs/cqcscholarshipflyer.pdf?sfvrsn=77b32a4f_2), sample press release (/docs/default-source/cqc-docs/recruitmentpressrelease.docx?sfvrsn=4ac5254f_14), sample social media posts (/docs/default-source/cqc-docs/samplesocialmediaposts.docx?sfvrsn=4792284f_1), etc.).
- Review the student applications and select one student to nominate for the CQC scholarship.
- Write a letter of support for the nominee.
- Submit your city's nominee to the Center for Quality Communities no later than Monday, January 27, 2025.
 - Use the online CQC scholarship nomination form (https://awc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_74msPffChn7pRv8)
 - Upload the student's application, letter of recommendation, and your letter of support.

Note: Student nominees who are applying to the University of Washington are eligible for consideration for the UW Presidential Scholars Program (<https://www.washington.edu/presidentialscholarship/>). CQC will forward those applicants to UW – neither the city nor the student needs to take any action.

2025 application checklists

Student applicant checklist:

- 2025 CQC scholarship application (/docs/default-source/cqc-docs/cfqapplication.pdf?sfvrsn=eac2254f_9)
- Letter of recommendation from a nonrelative

City/town checklist:

- 2025 CQC scholarship nomination form
(https://awc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_74msPffChn7pRv8)
- Student's letter of recommendation
- City/town letter of support

Tips for cities

Ideas to help with your community's scholarship process

Organize

- Review the Center for Quality Communities scholarship information (eligibility, process, timeline, etc.).
- Identify a city contact who will receive the scholarship applications.
- Set a local application deadline.

Determine local eligibility criteria

Each city can decide its local eligibility requirements. Consider the following:

- Is the scholarship limited to students living within city limits?
- Is the scholarship limited to active volunteers in city programs, or does it extend to school and community leadership activities?
- Do you want to partner with your local schools or service organizations to publicize the scholarship and recruit applicants?

Outreach – How do you want to spread the word?

Community-wide recruitment:

- Post information on your website.
- Include details in city publications.
- Send information to your local media. Sample press release (/docs/default-source/cqc-docs/recruitmentpressrelease.docx?sfvrsn=4ac5254f_14)
- Share on social media. Sample language and image (/docs/default-source/cqc-docs/samplesocialmediaposts.docx?sfvrsn=4792284f_1)
- Print and distribute flyers (/docs/default-source/cqc-docs/cqcscholarshipflyer.pdf?sfvrsn=77b32a4f_2) at city hall, local libraries, and community centers.
- Share flyers with college counselors at local high schools, nonprofits, and community groups.
- Promote through your local youth council.
- Announce the scholarship opportunity at community meetings and service clubs.

Recruiting from city volunteers:

- Post information in city hall.
- Advertise through city staff who work with student volunteers or high school students.
- Send information directly to student volunteers.
- Personally recruit student volunteers.

Working directly with local high schools:

- Send scholarship information and flyers (/docs/default-source/cqc-docs/cqcscholarshipflyer.pdf?sfvrsn=77b32a4f_2) to local high school college counselors.
- Encourage the school newspaper to help publicize the scholarship.

Nominations

Get your team organized.

- Name a selection committee to review the applications and select a scholarship nominee.
- Before reviewing applications, be sure to confirm that each applicant meets the scholarship eligibility criteria.

Select a nominee

Now comes the fun part!

- Review the student applications and select one student to nominate.
- Write a letter of support for your nominee.
- Submit your student nomination to the CQC through this online nomination form (https://awc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_74msPffChn7pRv8) no later than **January 27, 2025**.

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social media posts

Calling City of Toppenish student leaders! We are now accepting applications for the @AWCities Center for Quality Communities (CQC) scholarship.

The City of Toppenish will select one graduating high school student to nominate for a \$3,000 CQC scholarship. Learn more and submit your application to the city by December 13, 2024 11:59pm.

<https://wacities.org/cqc-home/scholarships>

