

# THE HCA 2024 DREAM BIG SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

## BEFORE YOU APPLY...

We are so excited that you are interested in this scholarship! Please take a few minutes to read the rules and answers to frequently asked questions below. We want you to have all the information you need to submit the best possible application this year! The application itself starts on page 5.

### What is the Dream Big Scholarship?

The Dream Big Scholarship is designed to award funding to senior residents in the HCA portfolio to support the cost of instruction for in-person or online classes, lessons, a workshop, membership\* or program in a hobby, an area of personal growth or professional development, and of course, in any academic pursuit.

### Who is eligible to apply?

Make sure these two things are true for you before you consider applying for this year's scholarship:

- 1. Resident on the lease:** You must be on the lease of an apartment community where HCA is a nonprofit partner. Caregivers to a resident are not eligible.
- 2. 55+ years old:** You must be 55 years of age or older to apply for this scholarship. If you are a resident but you are 54 years or younger, check out our Academic Scholarship at our website [www.hcascholarship.org](http://www.hcascholarship.org).

### How much are scholarship awards?

Dream Big Scholarship awards are between \$100 and \$1,000 per scholarship recipient.

### How are scholarship awards paid out?

Payment is made directly to the company or institution providing the educational services for which the applicant is seeking funding. At no time may awards be paid out to the recipient.

### What subjects does a Dream Big Scholarship award cover?

So very many! Here are some examples of past award uses by general interest area:

- **Animals:** service dog training and horseback riding.
- **Career Change:** courses to support a career as a pharmacy tech, nurse, paralegal, and therapist.
- **Fine & Performing Arts:** drawing, painting, pottery, jewelry-making, mosaics, quilting, ballroom dance, hip hop dance, singing, piano, violin, and flute.
- **Health & Wellness:** meditation, yoga, pilates, swim, and nutrition.

- **Personal Development:** languages, financial management, and technology (ie: Microsoft Office, social media, etc)

## Where may I use a Dream Big Scholarship?

At any verifiable brick-and-mortar or online company or institution that appeals to you, provided they will work within our scholarship timeline and payment requirements.

## What are your scholarship payment requirements?

Any company or institution receiving scholarship award funds on behalf of a recipient must work within these three requirements:

1. **Single upfront payment by September 30, 2024:** We must be able to make a single upfront payment of a scholarship recipient's classes, lessons, workshop, membership\*, or program to the company by credit card or PayPal over the phone or by website, or by paper check. We cannot make in-person payments.
2. **No auto-renewals or cards kept on file:** We do not permit any credit card used for payment to be kept on file for future charges and/or membership renewals at the company or institution.
3. **Proof of payment provided:** We must receive emailed proof of payment for any scholarship recipient's classes, lessons, workshop, membership\*, or program paid for by credit card or PayPal.

## What are some examples of qualifying online learning opportunities?

For a diverse list of online platforms with learning opportunities across an array of subjects, we encourage you to review our ***Dream Big Online Resource Guide*** at [www.hcascholarship.org](http://www.hcascholarship.org).

## What info do I need to provide about my desired learning opportunity?

In order to be considered, your application may include one or two specific visions of how and where you would apply any scholarship award funding to support learning in one area of interest. They may not be altered after submission. Please see "2. Dream Big Plans" in the response to "What does an application require?" on page 3 for further detail.

## Increase your chance of funding!

In Section 2, "Dream Big Plans," we strongly recommend that you include a second desired learning opportunity of lesser value so that if we are unable to fund your first choice, we may have the option to award funding for your second.

## What award uses are *outside* the scope of the Dream Big Scholarship?

In order to maintain the integrity of the scholarship, there are some limits as to how awards may be used:

- **PLEASE BE AWARE: We no longer fund in-person gym memberships.\*** While we no longer fund in-person gym memberships as we have in the past, we will continue to fund specific classes offered by gyms, provided that they may be paid for independently of any membership fees. You may also ask the company or institution about the possibility of putting your scholarship award on a gift card so that you may pay as you receive services.

- **We do not fund the cost of supplies.** If you are concerned about the cost of supplies, we encourage you to find a learning opportunity that requires none or few, or where supplies are included in the overall cost of instruction.
- **We do not fund any transportation costs.** If you are concerned about transit, we suggest your consideration of online learning opportunities. Keep in mind that those applicants with online aspirations may indicate interest in receiving a tablet to assist in their access to these. See section 2, “Dream Big Plans,” in the application.

## How are awards determined?

We look for applicants who have followed the application directions, who have submitted a complete application, and whose application reflects a sincere effort and interest. REMEMBER: We are more interested in your ideas and reasons for seeking further education than we are with your ability to write well.

Because we cannot guarantee that applying will result in funding we strongly recommend that you include a second award use option of lesser value so that if we are unable to fund your first choice, we may have the option to award funding for your second.

## What does an application require?

The Dream Big Application has four parts:

1. **Contact Info:** Your name, phone number, email, apartment community, and apartment number.
2. **Dream Big Plans:** We strongly recommend that you include a second option of lesser value so that if we are unable to fund your first choice, we may have the option to award funding for your second.
  - The subject you wish to take classes in.
  - The title of the class, lesson, workshop, membership\*, or program.
  - The total cost of the class, lesson, workshop, membership\*, or program.
  - The complete name and contact information for the company or institution providing the class, lesson, workshop, membership\* or program.
3. **Personal Statement:** 15+ sentences (~250 words) introducing us to who you are, the learning opportunity for which you hope to receive support this year, and why that specific opportunity is important to you.
4. **Creative Writing:** 30+ sentences (~500 words) in response to one of the two prompts provided.

## How may I submit my application?

You may submit your Dream Big Scholarship application one of two ways:

- **Online:** Prepare all of your responses in advance and go to [www.hcascholarship.org/apply](http://www.hcascholarship.org/apply) and enter or copy-paste into the form. The form does not allow you to save your work.
- **Paper copy:** Fill out the physical copy of this application, handwrite or type your Personal Statement and Creative Writing on separate sheets of paper, staple everything, and drop it with the manager of your property.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

These are the three most important dates for scholarship applicants:

- **MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024: APPLICATION DEADLINE** All applications must be submitted online through our scholarship website [www.hcascholarship.org](http://www.hcascholarship.org) or in paper form to the manager of your property on or by this day, without exception.
- **MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024: DECISIONS WILL BE MAILED** Announcement letters will be mailed to all applicants. Please note that issuing payment of a recipient's scholarship award will take approximately 5-15 business days depending on the nature of payment. Plan accordingly as you time the start of any proposed scholarship award use.
- **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024: LAST DAY TO CLAIM AWARD MONEY!** No funding will be issued after this date, without exception.

## Have questions or need help? Reach out!

If you have a question that is not answered here or on our website [www.hcascholarship.org](http://www.hcascholarship.org), please contact Nena Malhotra by email at [nenam@hcahousing.org](mailto:nenam@hcahousing.org) or by phone at 626-708-4461, Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm.

If you would like assistance with the application, you may also request an appointment. In this case, we strongly urge you to do so in advance, as we have a limited number of appointment blocks and a high volume of requests.

# WHAT'S YOUR APPLICATION METHOD?

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This year we will accept both online and paper applications that are complete and submitted on or before this year's deadline of Monday, May 6, 2024. Consider the following as you decide which application method to use:



## Applying Online

*What you'll need:* 1) An Internet-connected device with which you can type and ideally save your Personal Statement and Creative Writing responses, 2) the ability to open an Internet browser, and 3) the ability to type or copy-paste text into text boxes and use dropdown menus.

*How to do it:* Read through this application to familiarize yourself with the information you will need to have prepared at the time of online submission. When all your responses are ready, go to [www.hcascholarship.org/apply](http://www.hcascholarship.org/apply).



## Applying by Paper

*What you'll need:* 1) This paper application, 2) a pen or pencil, 3) a hard surface to write on, and 4) additional sheets of paper.

*How to do it:* Fill out this physical application step by step. Attach all pages and additional sheets of paper before submitting to the manager.

## 1) CONTACT INFO

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It is extremely important that this information is current and correct as we will use it to contact you with any questions or updates on your scholarship application.

I am a resident on the lease at an HCA community

I am not a caregiver to a resident

Your full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Apartment community name: \_\_\_\_\_

Apartment #: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2) DREAM BIG PLANS

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This is the section where you tell us how you would use a Dream Big Scholarship award to support your learning in 2024! The Dream Big Scholarship award may support the cost of instruction for in-person or online classes, lessons, a workshop, membership or program in a hobby, an area of personal growth or professional development, and of course, in any academic pursuit.

For those of you who are interested in online learning opportunities, we highly recommend a read of our ***Dream Big Online Resource Guide*** for ideas. Download it from [www.hcascholarship.org](http://www.hcascholarship.org) or ask the manager of your property for a copy.

**What is the subject area that you hope to support with an award?**  
*(Kindly limit yourself to one)*

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**What learning opportunities would you like to pursue to support that subject?**  
*(We strongly encourage you to include two options)*

**#1 Choice for Scholarship Award Use** **\$100-\$1,000 in value**

Online

In-Person

Title of the class, lesson,  
workshop, membership  
or program:

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Specific cost of instruction  
(The more detail the better):

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Name of the company or  
institution providing the above:

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Their website and/or phone &  
email address:

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**#2 Choice for Scholarship Award Use** **\$100 - \$499 in value**

Online

In-Person

Title of the class, lesson,  
workshop, membership  
or program:

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Specific cost of instruction  
(The more detail the better):

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Name of the company or  
institution providing the above:

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Their website and/or phone &  
email address:

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**IF your #1 or #2 choice above is ONLINE, please fill out this section:**

We have a limited number of Amazon Fire tablets\* available for scholarship recipients who intend to take online classes.

Would you be interested in being considered for an Amazon Fire Tablet?  
(Internet NOT included)

Do you have Internet at home?

Do you own a working smartphone?

Do you own a working laptop, tablet, or computer?

*\*Note: A tablet is a touchscreen device that is larger than a smartphone and smaller than a laptop with many of the same functionalities.*



## One last thing! Please take a moment to acknowledge the following before moving on to Section 3:

- Payment Requirements:** I have confirmed that the place where I hope to pursue a learning opportunity will work within our scholarship timeline and payment requirements:
  - Accepts one single upfront payment by September 30, 2024
  - Will not set up auto-renewal or keep our card on file
  - Provides emailed proof of payment
  
- Award Use Limitations:** I am applying in the knowledge that my scholarship award is intended to support the cost of instruction and cannot be applied towards the following:
  - No in-person gym memberships
  - No supplies
  - No transportation costs
  
- Learning Opportunity Selection:** I understand that I must commit to using any award as described in this application. My “Dream Big Plans” include the following:
  - A specific class, lesson, workshop, membership, or program
  - A specific cost of instruction for it
  - The full name and contact info for the company or institution providing it

# 3) PERSONAL STATEMENT

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Get ready to neatly handwrite your Personal Statement in pen or pencil on (a) separate sheet(s) of paper! Ask your manager for paper if needed. A Personal Statement is an introduction to who you are and why the subject area and corresponding class, lesson, workshop, membership or program outlined in the “Dream Big Plans” section are so important to you. The Personal Statement should be...

- 15+ sentences in length (~250 words)
- Written by YOU
- Specific to this year (please do not copy from a previous year)

REMEMBER: We are more interested in your ideas and reasons for seeking further education than we are with your ability to write well.



## 4) CREATIVE WRITING

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Get ready to neatly handwrite your Creative Writing response in pen or pencil on (a) separate sheet(s) of paper! Ask your manager for paper if needed. Read the two prompts below and **choose one** to which you would like to respond:

- The Universal Jukebox:** If you could play one song that every person on the planet would hear at the same, exact moment what would that song be and why?
- Perspective:** Gregory Bateson once said, “Wisdom comes from multiple perspectives.” What are the ways in which you try to understand and appreciate the differing points of view of others in your community? How has this made a difference in your life?

The Creative Writing should be...

- 30+ sentences in length (~500 words)
- Written by YOU
- In response to one of the two prompts

REMEMBER: We are more interested in your ideas and reasoning than we are with your ability to write well.

## HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

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You are almost done with your paper application! Combine these application pages with your neatly handwritten Personal Statement and Creative Writing. Submit to the manager of your property on or before Monday, May 6, 2024.

All submissions will be thoroughly reviewed by the scholarship committee. Letters announcing award status will be mailed to all applicants on Monday, July 1, 2024. If your contact info changes between now and then, please update us.

Thank you for applying!