

THE HCA 2026 DREAM BIG SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

LET'S MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE!

IN THIS DOCUMENT, YOU WILL FIND:

Scholarship Description	2
Important Dates	3
Application	4
Applicant Agreement	6

Please read all parts carefully, even if you've applied to the HCA Scholarship in the past, as we've made some changes to our rules and requirements that you will need to know about.

SCHOLARSHIP DESCRIPTION

About

The HCA Dream Big Scholarship provides funding to support senior residents in the HCA apartment community portfolio who want to **enjoy classes, lessons, workshops or memberships in a hobby or interest area**.^{*} Awards are designed to support the cost of instruction, not supplies.

The studio, business, or individual providing the above, as well as the specific Learning Opportunity must be named on our 2026 Approved Vendors list. Depending on the resources local to your community and the learning format(s) you are open to, you may have many options to choose from in subjects like **art, dance, dog training, exercise, music, singing, theater, and more!**

**If you are pursuing a degree or vocational certification, please do not proceed with this application. Visit www.hcascholarship.org to apply for the 2026 HCA Academic Scholarship.*

Eligibility

You may only apply for the scholarship if BOTH of the below describes you:

1. **A resident* on the lease through June 6, 2026**

You are on the lease of a unit at an apartment community that is partnered with the nonprofit Housing Corporation of America (HCA). **NEITHER caregivers to residents NOR management staff are eligible to apply.*

2. **55+ years old**

You are 55 years of age or older. If you are 54 or younger, you may be eligible to apply for our Academic Scholarship! Visit www.hcascholarship.org to learn more.

Approved Vendors

A full list of this year's Approved Vendors with corresponding Learning Opportunities is available with your manager or at www.hcascholarship.org. Any application must reference one of these:

- **In-person approved vendors** are in the local area—within about a 15 minutes' drive of your community. They are great for residents who are uncomfortable with technology, though many will still require you to create a (free) account with their business using an email and password in order to schedule classes and receive important class updates.
- **Online approved vendors** are more plentiful and often provide more bang for the buck. They are great for residents who do not want to commute, who are comfortable with technology, and who have Internet and a smartphone, tablet, laptop, or desktop computer at home.

Learning Opportunities

Examples of Learning Opportunities are included below. **Supplies costs may or may not be included in the overall cost of instruction. Contact the Approved Vendor to verify and plan accordingly.*

- 2 months of weekly 30-minute private piano lessons at *La Habra Music Center*
- 10 pilates classes at *Pilates Co*
- One 12-week Complete Dog Training Package at *Petco*

IMPORTANT DATES

 **WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026**

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applications must be submitted on or by this day, no exceptions. You can submit online through our scholarship website www.hcascholarship.org OR in paper form to the manager of your apartment community.

 **WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2026**

DECISIONS WILL BE MAILED

We will be mailing decisions to all applicants. All Award Winners will need to follow the instructions in their Scholarship Award letters to claim their award. Payments will not be issued automatically. **Payment can take approximately 5-15 business days** to reach the Approved Vendor after Award Winners have claimed their award, so please plan accordingly!

 **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026**

LAST DAY TO CLAIM SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS!

Details about how to claim a Scholarship Award will be included in the July 1 Scholarship Award letter referenced above. On October 1, any unclaimed awards will be forfeited.



**Have questions?
We're here for you!**



nicole@hcahousing.org



**747-249-9512
(Monday - Friday, 9am-4pm)**

We have 1 scholarship administrator and 100 apartment communities receiving this scholarship application.

Please plan ahead and allow 2 business days for a response to any inquiry. Thank you!

THE APPLICATION

1. Eligibility

Our annual scholarship program is unique! It is only available to residents on the lease of a unit at an apartment community that is partnered with the nonprofit, HCA.

a) Are you on the lease of a unit at an apartment community that is partnered with HCA?

Caregivers to residents and management staff are not eligible to apply for the scholarship.

Yes

No

b) Which of the following statements is true for you?

I am an adult aged 18-54 years

We're sorry, you must be 55+ to apply for the 2026 HCA Dream Big Scholarship. If you are 54 or under, you may be eligible to apply for the 2026 HCA Academic Scholarship, which you can find at www.hcascholarship.org.

I am an adult aged 55+ years

2. Contact Info

All scholarship communications will go to the address, phone, and email listed below. If your contact information changes after you submit your application, it is your responsibility to update us.

a) Full Legal Name

b) Preferred Name

(if applicable)

c) Phone Number

d) Email Address

e) Apt Community

f) Home Address

City, State, Zip Code

g) Mailing Address

(if different)

City, State, Zip Code

THE APPLICATION (CONT'D)

3. Award Plans

Award funding may ONLY be applied towards the Learning Opportunity of your choice listed under one of our 2026 Approved Vendors. Ask your manager for a list or visit www.hcascholarship.org.

a) What is the format of your desired Learning Opportunity?

In-Person

Online

b) At which of our 2026 Approved Vendors would you like to apply for scholarship funding?

c) What is the specific name of your desired Learning Opportunity with the above-listed vendor?

4. Writing

a) Put on your thinking cap and share your answer to the following in writing:

Who are you? Why are you passionate about the Learning Opportunity listed above? How do you believe that it will benefit you? Be specific and include any experiences from your personal life, the workplace, and/or school that will help us understand.

Please ensure that your response is:

- **Written by YOU.** Not by another person. Not by AI.
- **250 - 300 words** in length.
- **Neatly handwritten or typed** on (a) separate sheet(s) of paper.
- **Not copied** from any previous written responses for past scholarship applications.
- **Stapled to your completed application** before submission to your manager.

PHEW! You made it to the end of our application! Now turn the page for one final task...

APPLICANT AGREEMENT

1. The Dream Big Scholarship is designed to support the cost of Learning Opportunities—classes, lessons, workshops, or memberships from Approved Vendors—and not that of transportation or supplies. Some Learning Opportunities may include the cost of supplies in the overall cost of instruction, while others may not. It is your responsibility to confirm details with the Approved Vendor and prepare accordingly.
2. Applications must be submitted on/by Wednesday, May 6, 2026.
3. The Scholarship Committee will verify the eligibility of any Scholarship Applicant with the Management Company of the community of residence indicated on the Scholarship Applicant's application.
4. The Scholarship Committee will not consider applications that are incomplete or do not follow directions, contain false or misleading information, or contain writing that has been submitted in previous HCA Scholarship Application cycles. The Approved Vendor and Learning Opportunity listed in the Scholarship Applicant's submission is considered final and may not be changed after May 6, 2026.
5. Award decisions will be mailed to all Scholarship Applicants on Tuesday, July 1, 2026. If your contact information changes after you submit your application, it is your responsibility to update us.
6. If you are a Scholarship Award Winner, we will not automatically pay the Approved Vendor listed on your application. To claim their Scholarship Awards, Award Winners must follow the directions provided in the award letters that we will mail out on July 1, 2026.
7. Scholarship Award payments will be made directly to the Approved Vendor for the Learning Opportunity listed on the application in a single, upfront payment, and never to the Scholarship Award Winner.
8. Scholarship Award payment may take 5-15 business days to be issued from the date it is claimed. Please plan accordingly as you consider a realistic use timeline for your desired Learning Opportunity.
9. If you are a Scholarship Award Winner, you will have until Wednesday, September 30, 2026 to claim your Scholarship Award. After that, awards may not be claimed.
10. If you are a Scholarship Award Winner, HCA will not negotiate or dispute pricing or any policies the Approved Vendor has in place, including but not limited to policies relating to absences, make-up lessons, and package or membership expiration dates. It is the responsibility of the Scholarship Award Winner to review and research the Approved Vendor and chosen Learning Opportunity in advance of their application submission to ensure a full understanding of policies and a great fit.
11. If you are a Scholarship Award Winner, all award disbursements are final. HCA will not intervene on a recipient's behalf to initiate or accept refunds or reallocate disbursed funds. Exceptions may be made if the recipient provides evidence that the business or institution specified in their application has closed.
12. If you are a Scholarship Award Winner for two or more program years, and you do not claim your award across two or more program years, we reserve the right to decline to award you in future.

By signing below, I certify that I have read, understood, and agree to the terms above. Furthermore, I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information I provided in this application is true and accurate, and that if I discover that it is untrue or inaccurate, it is my duty to inform the Scholarship Committee with details of the incorrect or inaccurate information.

Please print your full name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____