



Ventura County Community Foundation  
2024/25 Scholarship Program

**Determining Financial Need**

Many VCCF scholarships require applicants to demonstrate financial need. Our program uses the *California Student Aid Commission Cal Grant Income and Savings Guidelines* to determine financial need.

To correctly answer the three scholarship application questions regarding financial need, applicants need to review the guidelines below, and determine if they are dependent or independent. **Dependent applicants must know their parent(s)/guardians' income from their latest income tax return, and their assets to complete the application.**

Independent applicants will use the information from their latest tax return and their current assets to complete the application.

**GUIDELINE DEFINITIONS:**

**Dependent Applicants** Are under 24 years old and will use their parent(s)/guardians' income from their parent(s)/guardians' latest tax return in the scholarship application.

**Independent Applicants:** Independent applicants must meet *ONE* of the following:

- A. Are 24 years or older.
- B. Are under age 24 but have dependents (children/dependents of their own), or serving in/have served in the military, married, or living away from parents and self-supporting, or have not been claimed on parent's IRS tax return for two consecutive years or are emancipated youth.

**Family Size:**

***For dependent applicants:*** Family size is based on the number of dependents listed in the latest tax filing of the parent(s)/guardians of the dependent applicant.

***For independent applicants:*** Family size is the number of dependents (including children, excluding spouse) of the independent applicant.

**Savings/Assets:** Include the total value of savings, trust funds, checking accounts and other cash holdings.

**INCOME GUIDELINES:**

***Dependent applicants and independent applicants with dependents other than a spouse***

Family Size	Income Ceiling
Six or more	\$151,600
Five	\$140,600
Four	\$131,200
Three	\$120,700
Two	\$117,900

**INDEPENDENT APPLICANTS:**

Family Size:	Income Ceiling
Single student, no dependents	\$48,100
Married, no other dependents	\$55,000
Married student, with dependents (SEE CHART ABOVE)	SEE ABOVE CHART

**SAVINGS/ASSET CEILINGS:**

Dependent students	\$101,500
Independent students	\$48,300

