

The 2019-2020 Mexican American Dream Scholarship



Selection Process and Criteria

The Council of Mexican Federations in North America (COFEM), its affiliated Federations, and sponsoring partners have come together to provide scholarships to outstanding students pursuing a higher education. Any student who is undocumented, of immigrant descent, AB-540, DACA recipient, or affiliated to a COFEM Federation or Club is encouraged to apply.

Applicants must be enrolled in an undergraduate program at a 4-year accredited University or a 2-year program at a Community College*. Through a fundraising and matching collaborative, this scholarship program seeks to award scholarships in the amounts of \$500 to students attending a Community College and \$1,000 to undergraduate students attending a 4-year College/University.

Eligibility Criteria for College Students

- ❖ Be considered an undocumented student, AB-540 student, DACA recipient, or member or related to a member of a COFEM affiliated Federation or Club.
- ❖ Must be considered a full-time student or enrolled in at least 12 units at a 4-year institution or 2-year community college. * Proof of admission and registration must be submitted in order to receive scholarship.
- ❖ Have a minimum GPA of 2.8
- ❖ Demonstrate a need for financial assistance.
- ❖ Complete 2019-2020 application for FAFSA, DREAM ACT, or BOG waiver and submit proof. (Print last page of application stipulating the expected Family Contribution (EFC) (not a condition for funding, but highly encourage).
- ❖ Demonstrate involvement in the community and/or work experience.
- ❖ **Must attend school in the following counties only: Los Angeles and Orange County.**
- ❖ **Attend mandatory 2019 Annual Scholarship Reception in November 2019 (exact date to be determined).**
- ❖ Students attending college outside LA County are *expected to make travel arrangements to ensure their attendance at the reception*. If necessary, COFEM can provide student with a letter to notify professor to excuse them from class or any other work or educational compromise that may prevent student's attendance to reception. (Exceptions will be made on a case by case basis at the discretion of the committee or coordinator. If an exception is granted, the student's parents may be allowed to represent the student at the ceremony).
- ❖ **All students who become a scholarship recipient are encouraged to volunteer a total of 20 hours (Community College recipients) or 40 hours (4-year College/University) with COFEM.** This is part of yearlong opportunities for professional development which include getting involved with the different programs at the organization such as administration, communications, or community organizing. For student's convenience there are many networking and professional opportunities during weekends such as COFEM's Annual events, immigration rallies, DACA clinics, and Citizenship fairs.
- ❖ Families of Board of Directors and/or COFEM staff are **not allowed** to apply.
- ❖ Any student that has demonstrated commitment to advancing their leadership and professional skills and has complied with the development opportunities at COFEM can apply to this scholarship for a maximum of 4 consecutive years.
- ❖ **AB-540/DACA students are strongly encouraged to apply.**
- ❖ **COFEM has the right to request proof of income for selected recipients.**

Application Contents

1. Please include your legal name on every page/ document.
2. Application packet checklist:
 - Mexican American Dream Scholarship Application form
 - A copy of the most recent unofficial transcript to verify GPA
 - Proof of completed 2019-2020 application for FAFSA, DREAM ACT, or BOG waiver. Print last page of financial aid application stipulating the Expected Family Contribution (EFC).
 - 2-page Personal Statement
 - Resume
 - Professional photograph JPEG (passport Size)
 - Short 3-5 sentences biography
 - Current class schedule (full time student taking at least 12 units)
 - One letter of recommendation on letterhead
 - One additional letter of recommendation if you are a member of COFEM's affiliated Federations or Organizations (Must be on their letterhead)

Selection Process and Timeline

1. The application deadline will be Sunday, **August 30th at 11:59 pm.**
Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
2. Scholarship recipients will be notified by email and phone beginning September 2019 through October 2019. Upon notice of award students are expected to confirm their attendance to the 2019 **Annual Scholarship Reception in November 2019 (usually the Thursday before Thanksgiving).** **Students who do not attend mandatory reception will be automatically disqualified. Please plan accordingly and save the date.**

Please use the link to complete the application and submit all material

Scholarship Due Date: **Sunday, August 30th at 11:59 PM.**

For questions regarding eligibility criteria email [Leticia Zarazua](mailto:Leticia.Zarazua@cofem.org) at lzarazua@cofem.org or call 213-417-8390