

Valencia College Horizon Scholars Program

2020-2021

Valencia College, in partnership with Take Stock in Children, provides college scholarships and mentors to low-income youth in Orange County. Scholarship recipients and their parents/guardians sign a performance contract pledging that the student will remain in school, stay drug-free and out of trouble, and that the parent/guardian agrees to support and encourage the student to achieve his/her full potential. Upon successful completion of the program, students receive a 2-year college scholarship (60 credit hours) purchased by the Valencia College Foundation from the Florida Prepaid College Foundation. If you have any questions about this application, email horizonscholars@valenciacollege.edu or call 407-582-3008.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 21st, 2021

Eligibility Criteria for the Horizon Scholars Program:

1. Student is currently in 8th grade in an Orange County Public School.
2. Student currently has an unweighted GPA of 2.5 or higher.
3. Student and parent/guardian must complete the scholarship application in its entirety and must attach all required documentation.
4. Household meets income eligibility requirements based on the most recent tax return Form 1040. Income requirements can be found on Income Eligibility Guidelines chart on page 2 of this application.
5. Student agrees to maintain a drug and crime-free record.
6. Student and parent/guardian agrees to interview with a selection committee.

Upon admission into the program, students must:

1. Maintain a minimum cumulative unweighted GPA of 2.5 with the expectation of 3.0 or higher.
2. Make a commitment to meet with his/her mentor at least 15 times each school year.
3. Complete all program requirements including, but not limited to attending workshops and completing community service.
4. Continue to exhibit good behavior and attendance
5. Graduate from a Florida Public High School.

Horizon Scholars Program recipients receive:

- A Scholarship: A full-tuition 2-year (60 credit) Florida Prepaid College Scholarship that can be used at any public university, college or vocational/technical school in Florida.
- A Mentor: A volunteer mentor who will meet with the student twice a month at school to assist and encourage student to achieve their full potential.
- A College Success Coordinator: A staff member who meets with the student throughout the year to ensure his/her continued success.
- Workshops: Opportunities for students to develop leadership and professional skills as well as chances to learn about and prepare for the transition into college.
- Civic Engagement Opportunities: Students will learn about issues facing our community and work alongside community organizations to address those issues.

Horizon Scholars Application Checklist

The following list contains everything you should have in order to have a complete application for the Take Stock in Children-Horizon Scholars Scholarship. Once you have read through the document and verified you meet the criteria and have all the necessary paperwork, please click on the application link at the bottom to fill out the application. Also attached in this packet is step-by-step directions on how to complete the application.

- Complete Scholarship Application Form
- Student Statement
- Parent/Guardian Statement
- Complete the Horizon Scholars Program Supplemental Application
- Upload Copy of most recent tax return Form 1040 (student applicant **MUST** be listed as a dependent) or other acceptable documentation as listed below
- Complete the Educational Release Form
- Submit all materials online no later than January 21st, 2020

Please keep this checklist for your records. Confirmation and a copy of your application will be emailed to you upon successful submission. **Your application must be complete in order to be considered eligible for the scholarship.**

Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Weekly	Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$23,606	\$1,968	\$454	5	\$56,758	\$4,730	\$1,092
2	\$31,894	\$2,658	\$614	6	\$65,046	\$5,421	\$1,251
3	\$40,182	\$3,349	\$773	7	\$73,334	\$6,112	\$1,411
4	\$48,470	\$4,040	\$933	8	\$81,622	\$6,802	\$1,570
For each additional family member add:					\$8,288	\$691	\$160

Reminder: total income *before* taxes, social security, health benefits, union dues or other deductions must be reported.

How to obtain a copy of your tax return transcript:

You may request a tax transcript from the IRS by calling 1-800-829-1040 or by filling out IRS Form 4506T (request for Transcript of Tax Return) which can be found online at <https://www.irs.com/articles/how-to-get-a-transcript-of-a-past-tax-return>.

*If you had no income in 2019 or 2020, we can accept the following:

- Food Stamps (SNAP): Letter from State of Florida indicating that family or foster child has been approved to receive benefits, names of household beneficiaries (student must be listed) and the dates of eligibility.
- TANF- Letter from State of Florida indicating that family or foster child has been approved to receive benefits, names of household beneficiaries (student must be listed) and the dates of eligibility.
- Proof that the child is in Foster Care
- Signed document on school district letterhead, from the School District's Homeless Liaison, verifying that the student is homeless and qualifies for free/reduced lunch.