

2027 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship

Community Foundation DeKalb County

Applicant Information

Project Name

Enter your first and last initial, and the last 4 numbers of your phone number. This applicant ID will follow your application throughout the process.

Example

Name: John Smith

Phone Number: 555-5555

Applicant ID: JS5555

Character Limit: 100

Interview Questions

Interview Rubric

Evaluators will score individually on paper during the interview, and Foundation staff will enter the average score into this rubric.

Communication & Presence*

- 6 – Exceptional communication; speaks clearly, confidently, and thoughtfully; responses are well-developed, engaging, and demonstrate strong interpersonal presence
- 5 – Speaks clearly and confidently, provides thoughtful and complete responses, and engages naturally with interviewers
- 4 – Communicates well with minor hesitation
- 3 – Adequate communication, but responses may lack depth or clarity
- 2 – Difficulty expressing ideas or answering questions fully
- 1 – Minimal engagement or unclear responses
- 0 – Unable to effectively communicate responses

Character Limit: 20

Commitment to Service & Community*

- 6 – Demonstrates a deep, authentic commitment to serving others and improving their community; provides compelling, specific examples with clear impact
- 5 – Demonstrates a strong commitment to helping others and improving their community; provides meaningful examples
- 4 – Shows clear interest in community service and involvement
- 3 – Some evidence of community awareness or service
- 2 – Limited understanding of community involvement
- 1 – Minimal interest in community impact
- 0 – No evidence of service mindset

Character Limit: 20

Leadership & Initiative*

- 6 – Consistently demonstrates initiative and leadership; provides specific examples of taking action, creating impact, or influencing outcomes
- 5 – Demonstrates initiative, leadership, and responsibility through examples and experiences
- 4 – Shows leadership potential and initiative
- 3 – Some leadership experiences or developing initiative
- 2 – Limited evidence of leadership
- 1 – Minimal initiative demonstrated
- 0 – No evidence of leadership or initiative

Character Limit: 20

Character & Integrity*

- 6 – Demonstrates exceptional authenticity, humility, maturity, and strong ethical values; responses reflect deep self-awareness and integrity
- 5 – Demonstrates humility, authenticity, maturity, and strong personal values
- 4 – Shows good character and responsibility
- 3 – Acceptable demonstration of character
- 2 – Limited demonstration of maturity or values
- 1 – Weak evidence of character traits
- 0 – Concerning responses or attitude

Character Limit: 20

Future Vision & Use of Opportunity*

- 6 – Clearly articulates a compelling vision for the future; thoughtfully connects education to meaningful goals and a commitment to serving others or strengthening a community
- 5 – Clearly articulates meaningful goals and how education will help them serve others or contribute to a community
- 4 – Demonstrates thoughtful goals and future plans
- 3 – General future plans but limited depth
- 2 – Unclear goals
- 1 – Minimal reflection on the future
- 0 – Unable to articulate plans

Character Limit: 20

Depth of Response & Self-Reflection

- 6 – Responses are highly genuine and reflective; consistently uses specific, personal examples and demonstrates clear insight into experiences, decisions, and motivations
- 5 – Responses are genuine and reflective; provides meaningful examples and clear personal insight
- 4 – Generally authentic with some reflection; examples may lack depth or specificity
- 3 – Responses are appropriate but somewhat general or surface-level
- 2 – Limited reflection; responses feel vague, rehearsed, or lack personal connection

1 – Minimal authenticity or personal insight

0 – Responses do not reflect personal experience or appear insincere

Character Limit: 20

Scholar Fit

Scholar Fit (Based on Interview)*

Based on the interview, how strongly does this student reflect the qualities we seek in a Lilly Endowment Community Scholar for DeKalb County? (Whole points only please)

Evaluators will score individually on paper during the interview, and Foundation staff will enter the average score into this rubric.

The ideal Lilly Endowment Community Scholar from DeKalb County is a compassionate, service-driven, and motivated young leader who values education, invests in their community, and demonstrates the character and vision to make a lasting difference. The scholar demonstrates strong potential for future leadership and service, and may benefit significantly from the financial support and opportunities provided through the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship, which can play an important role in making higher education more accessible.

4 points

- Exceptional alignment with the DeKalb County Lilly Endowment Community Scholar profile; clearly embodies the values of a Lilly Endowment Community Scholar; would be an outstanding representative of DeKalb County

3 points

- Strong alignment with scholar profile; demonstrates many of the desired qualities

2 points

- Some alignment with scholar profile; demonstrates certain qualities, but with limited depth or consistency

1 point

- Limited alignment with scholar profile, minimal evidence of key qualities

0 point

- Does not demonstrate the qualities associated with the DeKalb County Lilly Endowment Community Scholar profile

Character Limit: 20

Financial Need

This section is scored at the end of the process, prior to nominee submission to Independent Colleges of Indiana. All candidates, regardless of financial need, have the opportunity to apply and qualify for an interview.

Financial Need*

SAI# (Student Aid Index Number)

10 - -\$1500 to \$0 SAI

9 - \$1 to \$1,499 SAI

8 - \$1,500 to \$2,999 SAI

7 - \$3,000 to \$4,499 SAI

6 - \$4,500 to \$5,999 SAI

5 - \$6,000 to \$7,499 SAI

4 - \$7,500 to \$8,999 SAI

3 - \$9,000 to \$10,499 SAI

2 - \$10,500 to \$11,999 SAI

1 - \$12,000 to \$13,499 SAI

0 - \$13,500 and above SAI

Scoring Options: 0 - 10