



ABOUT CCNSP

The Collier County Neighborhood Stories Project (CCNSP) is a Southwest Florida grassroots collective which strives to work alongside our community to uplift collective voices through education around issues that affect immigrants, families and their supporters and offer support when needed, while pushing back against injustices on our marginalized communities.

OVERVIEW

The Launchpad Fund knows that financial assistance for undocumented community members seeking educational opportunities is extremely limited. Because of this, we believe that by helping our community with financial support, dreams that were once unattainable become possible. We believe in our namesake: *providing a Launchpad for individuals to reach their dreams.*

REQUIREMENTS

One \$500 scholarship is available for a community member who meets **all** of the following requirements:

1. Reside in Collier or Lee counties
2. Do not have legal status in the country (i.e. Permanent residency or U.S. citizenship) or have received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or Temporary Protective Status (TPS); ***
3. Demonstrate financial need*
4. Are currently a high school senior, obtained a high school diploma or GED equivalent;
5. Are attending or seeking to attend:**
 - a community college;
 - a four-year university; or
 - a trade/vocational/technical school
6. Have obtained a 2.5 GPA
7. Have one letter of recommendation*
8. Commit to working with the Collier County Neighborhood Stories Project*
9. Submit a personal statement/submission*

Applications should be sent to:

Collier County Neighborhood Stories Project
P.O. Box 62071
Fort Myers FL 33906

postmarked by **May 22nd, 2015**. **We are NOT accepting electronic applications.** *Semi-finalists will be contacted for a final interview and the finalist will be notified by late June 2015.*

Questions regarding the application can be emailed to launchpad@collierstoriesmatter.org

*These topics are discussed in detail in the next page **If in high school, send us a copy of an unofficial transcript. If you have graduated, send us a copy of your high school diploma or your GED certificate. Please do not send us originals. Only copies. ***Send us a copy (not an original) of your DACA/TPS approval notice.



ABOUT FINANCIAL NEED

The Launchpad Fund awards scholarships to those who have demonstrated financial need. We recognize that individuals applying may be from all walks of life and have different lived experiences and circumstances. For example, for a student, we recognize that an individual's academic record may not fully reflect their ability to succeed. For this reason, we place greater emphasis on an individual's demonstrated determination to succeed rather than on grades and test scores.

ABOUT RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

Many scholarship programs give substantial weight to recommendation letters. This is evident by the number of letters that are required in the application. However, we view recommendation letters in a different light: as a support to you, not a burden. We feel that through your personal submission/statement, we will get a better chance to know who you are and understand why this scholarship is something you need. We are only requiring **ONE** letter of recommendation and a **maximum** of 3 letters. Because we also want to be inclusive to non-traditional students, we want to widen the categories of individuals who you can use as recommenders. We do ask that you keep recommenders as individuals who do not have a direct relationship with you (immediate and extended family members). The following is a list of possible candidates for your letter of recommendation (this is not an exhaustive list): (1) mentor; (2) employer; (3) teacher; (4) pastor. If an individual is not included in this list, we leave it up to you to gauge whether or not that person fits the criteria. **Letters should be originals (no copies) and should be on signed by the author and if possible, on a letterhead.**

We ask that recommenders use the following as a guide for their letters:

1. How has the individual you are recommending inspired you?
2. Was there a moment in their life that they faced adversity? What did they do and how?
3. Why do you think this individual deserves this scholarship?

ABOUT COMMITMENT TO THE ORGANIZATION

This scholarship is a product of a collective of individuals from Southwest Florida who believes in striving to connect marginalized communities with the ability to achieve whatever they desire. We are passionate about this work and want to continue building for our community. While we recognize that many applicants who apply may not be familiar with our organization nor with the type of work that we do, we do want individuals to understand that it is important for us that each applicant make a commitment to learning more about this organization and work with us in some type of way. While it would be ideal to have an applicant that can make a high-level commitment to our organization, we acknowledge that this may not be the case. However, this commitment does not have to be the same for everyone. Below is a working list of ways that we expect our applicants to commit to our organization.

- Be part of our meetings and events
- Be part of our email listserv
- Like us on Facebook and share our information with others.



This organization takes into account every team member's opinion. In fact, this scholarship fund idea was born out of many conversations in meetings with team members offering input. Having you make a commitment to this organization does not mean having you as a placeholder; it means you being an active part of our family. Your ideas, input and opinions matter!

PERSONAL SUBMISSION/STATEMENT

We want to know more about you! We understand that, sometimes, writing about you is a lot harder than people think. This is why we have opened up the scope of how you can tell us about yourself.

You are able to submit any of the following mediums: (1) written statement; (2) a video submission; (3) an audio submission; or (4) a visual art piece.

Your submissions must reflect the **ONE** of the prompts below.

PROMPTS

- (1) How would you describe your experience as an undocumented individual? What is your greatest motivation for attending college or trade school next year? What are your personal or academic goals when you enroll?
- (2) What does "community" mean to you and what experiences have led you to this meaning? How do you plan to give back to your community?
- (3) Think about this quote: "When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."- Audre Lorde. Tell us about when this quote was applicable to a moment in your life.

Requirements

- For those submitting a written statement, your submission should be **1000 words max**, double-spaced, typewritten, Times New Roman, 12 inch font
- Your audio and video pieces must be no more than 2 minutes long. Please submit electronic multimedia submissions (video and audio files or links) to launchpad@collierstoriesmatter.org
- Your art piece must include an 300 word accompanying description, double-spaced, typewritten, Times New Roman, 12 inch font
- You may include anything else you would like us to consider
- All multimedia submissions must be emailed by **11:59 PM EST by May 22nd, 2015**



APPLICATION FORM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Full Name: _____

Mailing Address (can include a P.O. Box):

Phone Number: _____ Email (if applicable): _____

Age: _____

Have you applied for DACA? Yes: No:

If yes, has your DACA status been approved? Yes: No:

Do you have children? Yes: No: if so, how many? _____

Do you live by yourself? Yes: No:

Do you identify as LGBTQ? Yes: No:

Do you identify as differently abled? Yes: No:

How did you hear about this opportunity? (school, online, etc) _____

EDUCATION

High School: _____ Graduation Date: _____

High School/College GPA (whichever one is currently applicable to you): _____

Name of educational institution you will be (or plan to be) attending the next academic semester:

Major(s): _____ Year (e.g.: freshman): _____

All application materials must be received or postmarked by May 22nd, 2015. Students will be notified by late June 2015.