

Things you may not know about applying for scholarships

Your local or state government may offer scholarships

How to save time searching for scholarships online

**Insights and info from College Money Matters – a non-profit organization dedicated to helping high school students and their families make informed decisions about applying, choosing and paying for college.**



## Things you may not know about applying for scholarships

Imagine getting free money to help pay for college. That's what a scholarship or grant can do, and they're not just for exceptional students or top athletes. Here are some helpful hints on where to find a scholarship or grant that could help any college-bound student lower the cost of higher education.



### Look into organizations your family works for or belongs to.

Sometimes companies and organizations offer benefits that include supporting higher education for their members' children. So it's smart to ask a parent or guardian if their employers sponsor scholarships, or if they belong to any unions or professional organizations that might.

### Apply to some less selective schools

There's no question that the more desirable the college, the more students will be competing for that school's scholarships. But there are many good colleges that might not have the big name, but still offer substantial scholarships to attract students with certain abilities, interests and backgrounds. Think about it: are your chances better if you're a bigger fish in a smaller pond or a little fish in a big pond?



### Don't wait until after you apply to colleges to apply for a scholarship

Just like colleges and universities have application deadlines, so do scholarship and grant offers. Some may even require students to apply before the end of 2022. Look for them now so you don't miss out on the opportunity!

## Your local or state government may offer scholarships

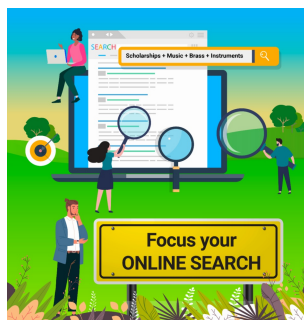
The more a government invests in its citizens' success, the more everyone in the state benefits. That's why state and local governments often offer scholarship money to their college-bound citizens. Here are three ways to search for free college money from your government:

1. Go to [nasfaa.org](http://nasfaa.org) - The website of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
2. Look up the names of your congressperson, senators and state legislators. Then go to their website and enter the word "Scholarships" in the Search window.

3. Contact the elected officials in your local government (city, county, township, etc). Most towns have a website that tells you their names and how to reach them.



## How to save time searching for scholarships online



### Visit [GuideStar.org](http://GuideStar.org)

Guidestar provides a list of nonprofit organizations, many of which offer scholarships. To try it, just go to [guidestar.org](http://guidestar.org), and enter "college scholarships" in the search bar. If you have a special skill or talent, interesting career goal or belong to a particular minority group or heritage, add those descriptions to your search. Example: **College scholarships + nursing + Asian American**

### Avoid scholarship scams

Scams can waste your time and money, so don't let them fool you. For example, some websites may claim to offer a "no essay" scholarship. But those sites are usually just out to collect your personal information to do things like sell it to colleges and marketers, put your home

when you're looking for scholarships or grants, it can be kind of frustrating. The following tips can help make your search clear, easy and fast.

### Use the plus and minus sign in your search

Give your search a precise focus by using the plus sign (+) between the words you put in your online searches. That way, the search engine will only bring back results that contain all of the words with a + sign in front of them, not just one or some of them.

Example: **Scholarships + Music + Brass + Instruments**. Also, if your results keep coming back with certain words or phrases you don't want, you can exclude those words by entering them in your searches, but with a minus sign (-) in front of them.

and email address on mailing lists, or sell you products or services on which they'll make a profit. If the web address is from a research business or marketing firm, stay away. And never pay to have any person or site to "find scholarships" for you. They won't do anything you can't do on your own.

[Click here to find more helpful information on scholarships and grants.](#)

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No interest but yours



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College Money Matters | 6 Evergreen Lane, Larchmont, NY 10538

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