



EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

The Early Care Education Scholarship Fund was established to:

1. Generate funding to support students pursuing higher education with the professional goal of working with children birth to five in early care and education programs in Alameda County
2. Award funding to students who meet specific selection criteria* and need as determined by the First 5 Fund donors and administrators

Applicants for First 5 Alameda County (F5AC) Scholarships must meet the following requirements:

- Applicant must have received full admissions status from the participating college and show proof of admissions.
- The applicant must have a full financial aid analysis from the college to which they have been admitted. If qualified for financial aid, the applicant must include the Financial Aid Award Letter with the scholarship application.
- All awarded funds must be used solely for tuition and fees required for attendance at, and/or fees, books, supplies or equipment for courses of instruction at California State University East Bay, University of California, Berkeley, Mills College, or another educational institution approved by the East Bay Community Foundation Selection Committee.
- Applicants must make a commitment to work in the ECE field in Alameda County for a period of no less than two years after completion of the degree program, or the number of years you receive a scholarship, whichever is greatest.
- First 5AC scholarship funds are only used to fill a gap in funding support; it is not designed to pay the full tuition of the college program.
- Scholarships are awarded for one year of study. Applicants can reapply for funding for their next year at the end of the third semester or quarter. Applicants must have maintained a C grade average in the BA programs and an A grade average for the MA and EdD Leadership Program in Early Childhood (LPEC) at Mills College.
- Awardees are limited to three years of support from the First 5 Alameda County Scholarship Fund.
- Award preference will be given to applicants living and working in Alameda County. If funds are available, consideration will be given to applicants working in Alameda County but living in other counties.

***Selection Criteria**

First 5 Fund scholarships will be awarded on a competitive basis each year. The Scholarship Selection Committee will use the following criteria:

- Successful experience in the field of early care and education as determined from resume and letters of professional reference from current or past supervisor
- Academic record as measured by grade point average and references from college instructor or counselor
- Clarity of student's education and professional purpose and goals as stated in written statement of goals and purpose
- Bi-lingual capability as determined by supervisors and families with which student has worked
- First generation in immediate family to attend college
- Financial need as determined by financial aid received through other sources and family income and size