



Kathy Espinoza-Howard Scholarship for Santa Clara County Housing Authority Residents

The Santa Clara County Housing Authority (SCCHA) offers the Kathy Espinoza-Howard Scholarship program to provide post-secondary educational financial assistance for Housing Choice Voucher participants or tenants of rental properties owned or affiliated with the Housing Authority. Top-scoring applicants will receive at least \$1,000, with a chance to receive up to \$5,000!

Eligibility Guidelines:

- Must be a resident in the Housing Choice Voucher program or a rental property owned or affiliated with the Santa Clara County Housing Authority.
- New, current, or returning student enrolled part-time or full-time starting in Fall 2026
- Enrolled at a community college, technical/vocational school, state college, private university, or any other accredited institution of higher education.
- No age or GPA restrictions

Please note that the total award amount will be split into two equal installments, one in Fall 2026 and one in Spring 2027. Proof of registration and all eligibility requirements must be met at the time of each disbursement.

Application Checklist:

We can only review applications that include all required items. Please verify that each of the following items are filled out and included:

- Fully completed application
- Personal Essay
- One (1) Letter of Recommendation or Support

Application Deadline:

April 30th, 2026 - applications received after the due date will not be accepted.

Submit Completed Application:

By Mail or In-Person	Apply Online (Preferred Method)
Santa Clara County Housing Authority ATTN: Scholarship 505 W. Julian Street San Jose, CA 95110	scchousingauthority.org/scholarship 

Important Notice to Scholarship Applicants!

Top-scoring scholarship applicants will have the opportunity to apply for a total award of up to \$5,000, which will be granted to one recipient. Details will be provided directly to those who qualify.

If you have questions, please call 408-993-3026 or email scholarship@scchousingauthority.org.

Kathy Espinoza-Howard Scholarship Application 2026-2027

Required Attachments

Personal Essay

On a separate page, the personal essay should answer the following questions:

- Describe a meaningful experience that has shaped your academic, professional, or personal life goals. How did you approach this experience, and in what ways did it inspire your growth and future goals?

All essays will be evaluated on clarity of expression, content, composition and originality. Please limit essay to one page maximum. PDF format preferred.

Letter of Recommendation or Support

Along with the application, one (1) letter of recommendation or support is required. The letter should be written by someone who is familiar with your pursuit of a higher education degree, certification, or job training program; can speak to your character; and supports your educational and career goals.

Examples of appropriate references include a professor, employer or supervisor, teacher, academic counselor, religious leader, coach, mentor or advisor, or another trusted individual. The recommendation should address the following questions:

- What is your relationship to the applicant?
- Why would you recommend this applicant for a scholarship award?
- Is there any other information you think would be important for our consideration?

Please limit letter to one page maximum. Letter should be dated within the last 12 months. PDF format preferred.

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Personal Information

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____

Street Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Primary Phone _____ Home Work Cell

Email Address _____

Which of these applies to you? (select only one)

I am a member of a SCCHA Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher household (Tenant Code _____)

I am a resident of a SCCHA owned or affiliated property (Property Name _____)

Are you a previous Kathy Espinoza Howard Scholarship Recipient? Yes No

If yes, in what year(s) were you awarded? _____

Education

I am currently attending or planning on attending one of the following:

Community College Technical/Vocational School College or University

Graduate School

Name of Educational Institution _____

City and State of Educational Institution _____

Planned or current major/minor or certification program:

I hereby consent to the use of my name, image, video, and/or photographs by the Santa Clara County Housing Authority (SCCHA) for marketing and promotional purposes. I understand that SCCHA may share my story or information in various media, including but not limited to newsletters, programs, social media, and brochures. I acknowledge that I will not receive any compensation for this use and agree to hold SCCHA harmless from any claims related to the release of this information. If you do not wish to grant permission or if you are under 18 years of age, please email scholarship@scchousingauthority.org.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____