



2026 International Child Advancement (ICA) Academic Empowerment Scholarship

The International Child Advancement (ICA) Academic Empowerment Scholarship is designed to support students in Erie County who identify as members of minority and/or historically underrepresented groups as they pursue higher education.

At ICA, we believe that education is a powerful pathway to opportunity, leadership, and long-term stability. This award honors students who show determination, leadership, and a commitment to their communities, and aims to provide both financial support and meaningful recognition as they take the next step in their academic journey.

Scholarship Benefits

- **Award Amount:** \$250 per recipient (five recipients).
- **Usage:** Funds can be applied toward tuition, fees, books, or other educational expenses at an accredited college, university, or vocational institution.

In addition to financial support, recipients will receive:

- A certificate of achievement.
- Recognition during an ICA celebration and awards ceremony.
- A feature on ICA's website and social media platforms.

Key Dates

- **Application Deadline (Spring Cycle):** June 1, 2026
- **Application Deadline (Fall Cycle):** September 30, 2026

Eligibility Requirements

1. Student Status:

Applicants must meet one of the following:

- Graduating high school seniors currently attending a high school in Erie County, NY.
- College freshmen who graduated from a high school in Erie County, NY, regardless of where they are currently enrolled, as long as they are attending an accredited college or university.

2. Academic Performance:

- Maintain a minimum GPA of 85% (B average).



3. Minority Background:

Applicants must identify as a member of a minority and/or historically underrepresented group. This may include, but is not limited to, African American, Hispanic or Latino, Native American, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, or multiracial backgrounds.

4. Financial Need:

- a. Demonstrate financial need in the application essay or through optional supporting documents.

5. Community Engagement:

- a. Show involvement in community service through volunteer work, clubs, or other initiatives.

Application Requirements

1. Complete the Application Form:

- Submit the form: [ICA Scholarship](#).

2. Official Transcript:

- Provide your high school or college transcript (unofficial is acceptable)

3. Personal Essay (150-300 Words):

Tell us about:

- Your academic and career goals.
- Challenges you have overcome.
- How you give back or hope to give back to your community.
- Why this scholarship matters to you.

4. Teacher or Counselor Nomination (Optional)

Students may be nominated by a teacher, counselor, mentor, or community leader. Nominated students will receive a priority review. Nominations can be submitted through the ICA website or by email at info@childadvancement.org

Selection Process:

A committee will review applications based on academic achievement, financial need, community involvement, and the quality of submitted materials.

Contact Information:

For questions or assistance, email info@childadvancement.org before the deadline.