



LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

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Educating, Motivating, and Inspiring Women



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Los Angeles County Commission for Women RESILIENCE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION Janet Elliott Mummey, Esq.

Deadline: March 13, 2026

Commissioner Janet Elliot Mummey, Esq., had the foresight and impetus to create the Resilience Scholarship. A tireless champion for women, children, and the elderly, she dedicated her professional career to empowering and improving women's education. Since the inception of the Resilience Scholarship in 1999, the Los Angeles County Commission for Women has maintained its steadfast commitment to this invaluable endeavor. The Commission for Women has awarded more than half a million dollars in educational scholarships to women throughout Los Angeles County.

RESILIENCE

LACCW defines resilience as those students who have demonstrated exceptional perseverance in the face of challenges, whether personal, academic, or social.

This scholarship serves to recognize individuals who have overcome adversity—such as financial hardship, family difficulties, health issues, or other obstacles—while maintaining a commitment to their education and personal growth. This award values and seeks to emphasize qualities like determination, adaptability, and the ability to rise above difficult circumstances to achieve academic success and contribute to their community.

SCHOLARSHIP PURPOSE

The Resilience Scholarship is a source of financial support and motivational resource for women within Los Angeles County wishing to pursue a college degree or post-secondary certification program. The scholarship seeks to support women and girls whose resilience and determination have overcome considerable hardship. As such, our scholarship funds can subsidize incidentals above and beyond allowable expenses covered by federal and state financial aid.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. First-time applicants must reside within Los Angeles County.
2. Students must be enrolled in or plan to attend an accredited university, community college or post-secondary certification program and provide proof of enrollment or attendance, including any of the following: current letter of intent to enroll, current enrollment schedule, recent transcripts, or current letter from counselor/program director verifying enrollment for Fall 2026.

3. High school seniors (12th graders) must graduate with their high school diploma or GED by June 2026 and attend a university, community college, or vocational/trade school in Fall 2026.
4. Student applicants must have a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA.
5. Students must be enrolled in or taking a minimum of 6 units per term.
6. **Prior applicants and recipients may reapply and be considered by verifying continued enrollment in an academic or vocational program.**
7. Continuing students who are enrolled at a college or university outside of Los Angeles County are not required to reside in Los Angeles County **while attending their educational institution** to be considered eligible.
8. Students must be able to accept the Resilience Scholarship for Fall 2026. No deferments.

APPLICATION PACKET

The completed application packet must be submitted by **5:00 PM** on **March 13, 2026**.

A complete application includes:

- Scholarship application (completed via e-app portal)
- Two essay statements (completed via e-app portal, or upload pdf to portal)
- Two letters of recommendation (upload to portal)

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

1. Combine the application and attachments as a single document and submit as a PDF. (<https://www.adobe.com/acrobat/online/convert-pdf.html>). **Links will not be accepted!**
2. Each essay must be at least 500 words, and must be typed and in MLA format (<https://mlaformat.org/>). Essays will be evaluated and scored based on subject matter, grammar, spelling, and sentence structure. Please include information on being a first-generation college student, if applicable. A scoring rubric is defined in the following section below “*Scholarship Evaluation and Selection Process*”.
3. The letters of recommendation must be addressed to the LACCW Resilience Scholarship and come from a teacher, academic counselor, employer, mentor, clergy/religious leader, and/or a representative from a social service agency. The letters are character references and should address work, volunteer activities, or academic achievement, as well as potential perseverance. Unsigned letters without the author’s contact information and a current date (October 2025 - March 2026) will **NOT** be considered. Template letters are not recommended.
4. All essays must be the original work of the applicant. All applications are subject to authentication before final selection is made. **Any use of artificial intelligence or plagiarism will result in the application being disqualified.**
5. Submit application and any inquiries to commission services staff at: laccw@bos.lacounty.gov. If you need assistance with your application, including special accommodations, please call commission services at 213-974-1455 from 8am to 5pm Monday – Friday or email them at laccw@bos.lacounty.gov.

Once your application is submitted, it is considered official. Incomplete (missing an essay or letters of recommendation) or handwritten applications will be disqualified, and additional documents will not be accepted after your initial submission.

SCHOLARSHIP EVALUATION and SELECTION PROCESS

Los Angeles County staff will first review the scholarship applications to determine if an applicant meets the eligibility criteria (see above section entitled “*Applicant Eligibility Criteria*”). Only completed applications received by the deadline, containing all required documents, will be considered by the Education Committee for review and scoring. Applications will be evaluated and scored using the following rubric:

- First Essay Statement: 0 - 40 points
- Second Essay Statement: 0 - 40 points
- Letters of Recommendation: 0 - 20 points (10 points for each letter)

ESSAY SCORING GUIDE

EXCELLENT (30 - 40 PTS): Excellent, comprehensive essay; answering the question thoroughly while using academic language and adhering to all the guidelines listed under the *Application Submission* section.

STRONG (20 - 29 PTS): Strong essay; answering the question well while using academic language and adhering to most of the guidelines listed under the *Application Submission* section.

SATISFACTORY (10 - 19 PTS): Satisfactory essay; answering the question somewhat while using limited academic language and minimally adhering to the guidelines listed under the *Application Submission* section.

POOR (0 - 9 PTS): Poor essay which did not answer the question, did not use academic language at all, and did not adhere to the guidelines listed under the *Application Submission* section.

Academic language is the specialized language used in academic settings for both written and oral communication including the following:

- **Formality:** Academic language is formal and avoids casual or conversational language.
- **Sentence structure:** Academic language includes varied and polished sentence structures.
- **Grammar:** Academic language includes proper grammar, such as the difference between "than" and "then."

Resources:

Grammar Assistance: <https://www.grammarly.com/>

Online Writing Lab: <https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/>

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION SCORING GUIDE

EXCELLENT (8 - 10 PTS): Excellent recommendation; strengths of applicant are highlighted; relationship and length of time knowing applicant are stated; applicant's strengths and substantial examples of their qualities are demonstrated.

STRONG (5 - 7 PTS): Strong recommendation; strengths of applicant are highlighted; relationship and length of time knowing applicant are stated; some of applicant's strengths and examples of their qualities are demonstrated.

SATISFACTORY (2 - 4 PTS): Satisfactory recommendation; some reservations. A few strengths of the applicant are highlighted, and a few examples of their qualities are demonstrated.

POOR (0 - 1 PT): Poor recommendation. No examples are provided; superficial.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

It is possible to receive multiple financial aid sources, including grants, loans, or other scholarships. Some sources of financial aid may place restrictions or limitations on the use of funds. However, the Resilience Scholarship can cover incidental costs that extend above and beyond fees and tuition.

Example of Incidental Costs

- School supplies and equipment
- eBooks, textbook rentals
- Computers, tablets, smart devices, calculators, printers, and educational software
- Eye, Dental or Health Insurance
- Childcare

INFORMATION FOR SELECTED RECIPIENTS

Selected recipients **must** participate in an orientation and attend the Resilience Scholarship Ceremony. Prior to issuing the scholarship check, you must be able to provide and show the following documents:

- Valid ID; CA Driver's license, CA ID, US Passport, Photo ID, or School ID
- Social Security card or ITIN card
- First-time recipients must submit proof of enrollment (class schedule) and first-term grades
- Subsequent recipients must submit most recent term grades and proof of enrollment for next term

**Combine all required documents into a single document and submit as a PDF.
(<https://www.adobe.com/acrobat/online/convert-pdf.html>).**

⌘ APPLICATION MUST BE TYPED ⌘

SECTION 1: DISTRICT INFORMATION

Before you complete the application, you must identify the district in which you reside. If you are currently away at college, please use the address of your permanent residence to determine your district. Your permanent residence must be located within the boundaries of Los Angeles County for your application to be considered.

☐ First

☐ Second

☐ Third

☐ Fourth

☐ Fifth

To verify your district, please locate your permanent address using the Los Angeles County District Map provided here:

https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/map_t06-cities-zip.pdf

**If you cannot determine or verify which district you reside in, please contact
commission staff at 213-974-1455.**

Applications with incorrect districts listed may be disqualified.

SECTION 2: APPLICANT'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Last Name:_____ First Name:_____ MI:_____

Preferred Name:_____ Pronouns:_____

Address:_____ City:_____

State:_____ Zip Code:_____

Mobile:_____ Home/Alt Phone:_____

Email Address:_____

For applicants who have previously received the Resilience Scholarship, please check here: ☐

List the year(s) that you received scholarship(s) from the Commission: _____

Name and address of a contact person not living at your address (not living with you):

Last Name:_____ First Name:_____ MI:_____

Address:_____ City:_____

State:_____ Zip Code:_____

Mobile:_____ Home/Alt Phone:_____

Email Address:_____ Relationship:_____

SECTION 3: APPLICANT'S PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth: _____ Do you reside at home with your parent/guardian? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Marital Status: ☐ Single ☐ Married Do you have any dependents? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, indicate number of dependents: _____ Are you a single parent? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please indicate your average annual income: _____

Select One: ☐ Single Household Income ☐ Family Household Income (parents, spouse/partner)

Demographic Information (Voluntary)

Please check the categories that best describe your race/ethnicity (Check all that apply).

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native

☐ Pacific Islander

☐ Asian

☐ White (Non-Hispanic)

☐ Black or African American

☐ Other (Please indicate) _____

☐ Latina/Hispanic

☐ Do not wish to answer

☐ Native Hawaiian

SECTION 4: EDUCATION

1. **Currently**, I am a student at a: (select one)

☐ High School

☐ Independent/Private College

☐ University

☐ Trade/Vocational School

☐ Community College

Name of Institution: _____

2. Cumulative GPA: _____ (Please attach official transcript)

3. Expected graduation date from your **current** school: _____

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR APPLICANTS ONLY **(9th- 11th graders are not eligible to apply)**

4. After graduation I will enroll at a(n):

☐ High School

☐ Independent/Private College

☐ University

☐ Trade/Vocational School

☐ Community College

5. Provide the name(s) of the institution(s) that you aim to attend after graduation:

6. Indicate major/program: _____ Start Date: _____

7. Enrolled: ☐ Part-Time (1 - 5 units) or ☐ Full-Time (6+ units)

CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENT APPLICANTS ONLY

8. Indicate your degree level:

☐ Undergraduate (BA/BS)

☐ Graduate (MA/MS or Doctoral)

☐ Vocational/Trade Program

9. Indicate major/program: _____

10. Enrolled: ☐ Part-Time (1 - 5 units) or ☐ Full-Time (6+ units)

SECTION 5: ESSAY QUESTIONS

Section 5A consists of a personal/biographical question, and **Section 5B** consists of two supplemental essay questions, of which you **must select one**. Each essay must include a **minimum of 500 words** and be written in MLA format (<https://mlaformat.org/>). Read the questions carefully and respond accordingly. Your **two** essays will be evaluated and scored based on the subject matter. Be specific and provide examples based on content. Essays will be evaluated and scored based on grammar, spelling, stylistic, and sentence structure.

5A. Personal/Biographical Statement on Resilience

Please provide a **500-word minimum** essay response.

- Provide a description of your life story as it relates to resilience. The LACCW defines resilience as those students who have demonstrated exceptional perseverance in the face of challenges, whether personal, academic, or social. Please tell us about yourself and your family background. Describe your hardship and share how you overcame this situation. Cite specific examples of the challenge(s) and obstacles you encountered. If you have previously received the Resilience Scholarship, consider including how it has made a difference in your life as part of your story.

5B. Supplemental Essay

Please select **one of these two** prompts and write a **500-word minimum** essay response.

- Given the many challenges we are facing in our communities, where do you see an opportunity for you to make the biggest difference in your community in the future?
- Please describe how you understand social justice and how it has impacted your journey.

SECTION 6: LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation. Request letters from those you know reasonably well to give you positive character references. Recommendations should come from a teacher, academic counselor, employer, mentor, clergy/religious leader, or social service agency representative. If you serve as a volunteer, you can use a recommendation from your supervisor. Template letters of recommendation are not recommended. The letters must be addressed to the LACCW Resilience Scholarship and contain a current date (October 2025 - March 2026).

The recommendations should include evidence of the following traits: good work ethic, academic accomplishments, student involvement, perseverance, leadership, teamwork, and/or community service activities. Letters of recommendation must contain:

- Name and relationship of reference
- Business address and contact information (phone and email address)
- Current date and the author's signature