Connecticut Community Foundation

Scholarship Registration & Application Guide

For 2025, Connecticut Community Foundation has retired its eGrants scholarship system and implemented a new online platform **(SmarterSelect)** for grant application and reporting. We hope this new technology will improve your experience -- making it easier for you to find scholarship opportunities and submit applications.

As such, all new and returning scholarship applicants must register a SmarterSelect account this year, before applying for scholarship support. Please register with ample time to prepare & submit your application.

The resources below provide additional details and instructions to help you to get started with the Foundation's new scholarship portal, both in terms of account registration and scholarship application:

I. Account Login / Registration Guide

To apply for a scholarship, you may simply click on one of the links listed on the Scholarships page of the Foundation's website, based on the type of application you're looking to file. Please read this page carefully to make sure you are selecting the option that best suits your situation (i.e. General or Special scholarship application, Returning or First-Time applicant).

Upon clicking a link, you will see more specific information about the scholarship opportunity that you've selected, and will be presented with two options to begin:
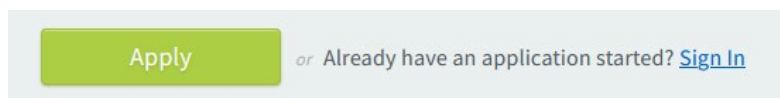
1. If you do not already have a SmarterSelect account, click **Apply** to create one by entering the required information or signing up through Google.

2. Once you have created an account on SmarterSelect, simply enter your login credentials to sign in.

<div align="center">

**NOTE: As we're launching the new SmarterSelect system in 2025,
every applicant will need to create a new account this year.**
(Applications were previously filed through our eGrants system, which is no longer available[1])

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[1] As the eGrants system has closed, past applications are no longer available online. If you wish to get a copy of a past application that you've submitted, you may request it by email at scholarships@conncf.org. Please include your full name, phone number, and college student ID number for verification, as well as the year the application was submitted.

You will see the following prompts to register an account (or to sign back in, after you've created an account):

You may apply for an appropriate specific scholarship opportunity after creating an account / signing in. (Or you may be taken directly particular scholarship opportunity page if you've clicked the through the corresponding link on the Foundation's website.)

II. <u>Scholarship</u> <u>Application Guide</u>

A. Beginning a New Scholarship Application

When you open a new application (or return to one in progress), you will see the heading with the application type and have the option to complete/edit the application.

Sections of the application may include (Scholarship Fund Selection, Student Information, Academic Information, Financial Information, Academic Performance, Extracurricular/Work Activity, Letter of Recommendation(s), Personal Essay(s), and Authorization of Submission.

You will receive a notification email when you initially begin an application and when you have submitted it.

Note: If your application requires a Letter of Recommendation, the application will be listed as Submitted in your account, but in the application the recommendation request will technically still be pending and will show the message below:

Request Received

Pending

> ⚠ Your application will not be considered complete until this Information or Recommendation Request is received from the Contact.
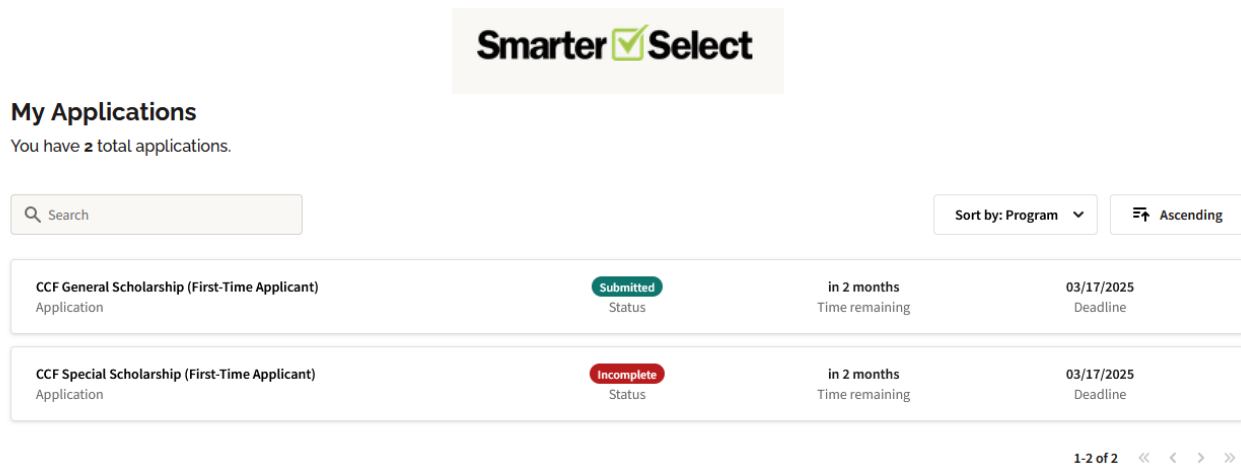
You will receive an automated email notifying you that the request has been sent to the designated recommender, and the message below to let them know that the application is not yet considered complete:

You have completed your part of the application to **Online Recommendation Test Program 2**, but it is not yet considered a completed application. Your application is currently in the Pending status and has the following required online information request(s) outstanding:

When the recommender successfully submits, the applicant will also get a notification email to be informed. If the deadline is approaching and you have still not received your recommendation letter, it is your responsibility to follow up with the given party to ensure that the letter has been submitted and the application is complete.

B. Checking your Status or Continuing a Scholarship Application in Progress

Upon signing in, you will have access to a table displaying your applications along with their respective statuses and deadlines. Here's how it appears, if you already have applications in progress:

Smarter ☑ Select

My Applications
You have **2** total applications.

Search		Sort by: Program ⌄	⬆ Ascending
CCF General Scholarship (First-Time Applicant) Application	**Submitted** Status	in 2 months Time remaining	03/17/2025 Deadline
CCF Special Scholarship (First-Time Applicant) Application	**Incomplete** Status	in 2 months Time remaining	03/17/2025 Deadline

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The table offers sorting functionality, allowing you to arrange the data as needed. Additionally, you can open individual applications to view more detailed information, or to continue/complete an application that has not yet been submitted.

If you have any questions or issues along the way, please contact the Foundation at scholarships@conncf.org. We will respond as soon as possible to provide you with assistance.