

## **Chang-Chavkin First Generation Scholars Program Program Description**

The Chang-Chavkin First Generation Scholars Program (“SCHOLARS”) will provide resources and financial support to low-income first generation high school students to pursue and complete a college education. First generation students are children whose parents do not have an Associate or Bachelor’s Degree. SCHOLARS will provide resources to students, parents and the five regional school districts in three ways: 1) working with high school guidance counselors to provide targeted support to students and their families; 2) scholarship funding; and 3) “wrap-around” services while in college to help ensure graduation. The goal of SCHOLARS is to elevate the success of first generation students by helping them successfully get admitted to a quality four-year college, maximize their financial aid potential, and obtain a Bachelor’s Degree.

SCHOLARS will provide:

**1. College Counseling Assistance to High School Guidance Counselors:**

Each of our regional high schools provides support to their students to help them through the process of preparing for college. Most of the five school districts offer this at a high level with dedicated college counselors on staff; other schools have limited counselor resources. SCHOLAR will provide funding to augment these services in each district by hiring a qualified “Student Advocate” to ensure every student is made aware of their college options and that they have access to the resources allowing them to work through the college and financial aid application processes.

The level of involvement by our Student Advocate will vary from district to district based on each district’s need and could include the following:

- Conduct workshops (possibly open to all high school students and their parents beginning in 9<sup>th</sup> grade) focused on preparing for college. Topics for discussion could include what colleges are looking for, the importance of grades, ACT & SAT testing, scholarships and financial aid, how to afford college etc.
- Work with each district’s staff to identify first generation students who may need additional assistance and provide that assistance not just to those who may qualify to apply for the SCHOLAR Scholarship but to every first generation student. Services provided could include:
  - Connect students with the resources they need to succeed in high school including tutors, test preparation courses etc.

- Provide one-on-one assistance to students and their families to help identify prospective colleges and complete college applications
  - Ensure every first generation student knows about SCHOLAR and the support it provides including financial support
  - Assist with uncovering ALL financial aid opportunities including completing the FASFA (and CSS Profile if applicable).
  - Advocate on the student's behalf with colleges directly
2. **Scholarships:** Financial Scholarships will be awarded to help cover the educational expenses of selected first generation students pursuing a Bachelor's Degree.
- Four-year annually-renewable scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors who will be attending a four year college or university as a first-generation student.
  - Scholarship awards will be based on need, academic merit, character, leadership and community service.
  - The Scholarship is a “last dollar” scholarship, secondary to all other grants and scholarships awarded to the student. After considering the student's other scholarships, financial aid (federal, state, and institutional) the Scholarship will pay the remaining costs of the student's education.
  - We will work with the college to maximize their financial commitment before committing to a scholarship amount.
  - The Scholarship is annually renewable, up to a maximum of four academic years (8 semesters or 12 quarters) if all requirements are met.
  - The amount of the Scholarship is unique to each student and may vary year to year based on the family's financial situation as reported by their annual FASFA.
  - The Scholarship can be used to pay for:
    - Tuition and fees
    - Room and board
    - Travel to and from school
    - Tutoring
    - Books, supplies (ex. lap top or calculator) and miscellaneous education expenses as agreed upon by Student Advocate, the Scholarship Committee at Telluride Foundation and the student each year.

**Scholarship Target Audience & Eligibility Requirements:**

- Open to first generation students only (Both parents have no post-secondary bachelors or associate degree).
- Graduating from within either Ouray, Ridgway, San Miguel, or West End school districts.
- Students with a minimum GPA of 3.0
- ACT scores, minimum 17
- Demonstrated financial need; must provide a copy of the Student Aid Report as well as their families expected contribution (EFC) as determined but the Federal Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA). EFC must be (\$10,000) or less
- Has been excepted to a four-year public or private accredited college or university
- Demonstrates ambition and the ability to thrive away from home
- The scholarship committee may consider other character traits including leadership, community service, work ethic etc.
- Students who participate in AVID will be given preferential consideration. AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) provides a pipeline for first generation students (currently only at Telluride Schools.) Its mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. Students entering 8, 9 & 10th grades can participate in AVID. AVID prepares students traditionally underrepresented in higher education for future success.

3. **Support Scholars while in College:** Resources will also be dedicated to continue to support Scholars throughout their higher education experience to encourage the successful completion of their goals. The following support will be provided by the Student Advocate:

- Research and connect Scholars with first generation programs and services available to them at their college.
- Stay in communication with the Scholars and their college advisors to ensure they are getting the services they need to succeed.
- Stay in contact with the Scholar parents to ensure there is positive support from the family.

Scholarship Recipients must agree to the following:

- With assistance from their Student Advocate, develop a personalized success plan “contract” which will outline goals and

actions to encourage the likelihood of success (including a path to graduate in four years). This contract will also be signed by the parents.

- Meet with Student Advocate a minimum of once per semester to report progress and obtain support when needed.
- Obtain and regularly meet with the college's Academic Advisor.
- Register for a full course load.
- Live on campus during freshman year, if available.
- Maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA throughout college
- Participate in at least one student club, sport or service project each year.
- Participate in a work-study job on campus.
- Parents of scholarship recipients agree to participate in one orientation event hosted by Telluride Foundation

### **Application Process**

SCHOLARS application forms and all relevant attachments must be submitted by March 15 of the student's senior year. Finalists may be invited to participate in personal interviews during April & May, at the discretion of the Selection Committee.

### **Estimated Budget Items**

Student Advocate (Supporting students in high schools)

Student Advocate (Providing support to SCHOLAR Scholars in college)

Student Advocate Travel

Scholarship

Scholarship administration at the Foundation

Miscellaneous - Parent/Scholar gatherings, awards

\*Student Advocate expenses may be greater first few years