My Family Scholarship Map: A Genogram Worksheet

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Your family tree is a scholarship map. A parent's job, a grandparent's military service, a union card, a church, a sorority, or your own learning difference can each open the door to money most students never apply for. Fill in this worksheet with your family, then use the checklist and real examples to find the scholarships that fit you.

Step 1: Map your family tree

Write one row per person. Leave a cell blank if you don't know yet; Step 4 gives you questions to fill the gaps. Include stepparents, guardians, and anyone who helps raise you.

Person	Name	Job / employer	Union member?	Military service (branch, era, honors)	Groups (church, sorority/fraternity, civic, alumni)	Heritage / where the family is from
Me						
Parent / guardian 1						
Parent / guardian 2						
Stepparent						
Grandparent (mom's side)						
Grandparent (mom's side)						
Grandparent (dad's side)						
Grandparent (dad's side)						
Great-grandparent						
Aunt / uncle						
Sibling						

About me (private, for my eyes and my family's):

- Health conditions or learning differences I have a diagnosis for (for example ADHD, dyslexia, diabetes, asthma):
- Am I the first in my family to go to college?
- Hard things my family has been through that shaped me:

You decide what to share in any application. Scholarships for a health condition or learning difference usually ask for documentation, so ask your parent where your records are.

Step 2: Scholarship connection checklist

Look at your table and check every box that's true for anyone in it. Each checked box is a scholarship search to run.

Work

- [ ] A parent, stepparent, or guardian works for a big company (restaurant chain, retailer, bank, hospital, airline, utility)
- [ ] A parent works for a franchise (the franchise owner may take part in the company's program)
- [ ] A grandparent retired from a company that might still cover grandchildren
- [ ] I have a job myself (many employer programs cover the employee too)

Unions

- [ ] A parent or grandparent belongs to a union, or is retired from one (teachers, nurses, electricians, mine workers, autoworkers, government workers)

Military

- [ ] A parent, grandparent, or great-grandparent served in the military
- [ ] Someone received a Purple Heart or other honor
- [ ] Someone belongs to a veterans group (VFW, American Legion, Fleet Reserve Association, AMVETS)

My health and learning

- [ ] I have a diagnosed condition such as ADHD, a learning disability, diabetes, or a hearing or vision difference
- [ ] I have an IEP or 504 plan at school

Memberships and faith

- [ ] A family member is in a sorority, fraternity, or civic group (NAACP, Rotary, Links, Jack and Jill, Elks)
- [ ] Our family belongs to a church or faith community
- [ ] A parent is an alumnus of a college I'm applying to

Heritage and story

- [ ] My family has roots in a specific country, culture, or tribe
- [ ] I'll be the first in my family to go to college
- [ ] My family has been through something hard (loss of a parent, illness, a move)

Where we live

- [ ] We live in a rice-growing state: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Texas, or California

- [ ] My city, county, or school district has scholarships of its own (community foundations hold many of these)

Step 3: Real examples

These are real scholarships, each tied to a different family connection. Click each name to see the official page, and always confirm the current rules and dates there before you apply.

Family connection	Scholarship	Who qualifies	Award	When to apply
Parent works at a company	BURGER KING Scholars (Employee-Based Track)	Children of Burger King or participating franchise employees on payroll at least 3 months; 2.0 GPA or higher	Usually $1,000 or $5,000	Open now: Oct 15 to Dec 15, 2026
Parent is in a union	Union Plus Scholarship	Current or retired members of participating unions, their spouses, and dependent children; at least 1 year of membership	$500 to $4,000	Open now; due Jan 31, 2027
Grandparent is a combat-wounded veteran	Military Order of the Purple Heart Scholarship	Purple Heart recipients and their spouses, children, and grandchildren	Varies	Closed now; check back for the next cycle

Family connection	Scholarship	Who qualifies	Award	When to apply
Grandparent served in the Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard	Fleet Reserve Association Education Foundation Scholarships	Students tied to those branches through a parent, grandparent, or great-grandparent	Up to $5,000	Usually Sept 1 to Apr 15
I have ADHD	NCLD ADHD College Success Scholarship	Students with a documented ADHD diagnosis	Varies	Last cycle closed Apr 26, 2026; watch for the new one
I have ADHD and a learning disability	Anne Ford Scholarship (NCLD)	Graduating seniors with a documented learning disability going to a 4-year college full time; ADHD alone does not qualify	$10,000 ($2,500 a year for 4 years)	Last cycle ran Oct 1, 2025 to Apr 17, 2026
Family lives in a rice-growing state in the South	National Rice Month Scholarship Video Contest (USA Rice)	Graduating seniors in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Texas, or California who make a video of 3 minutes or less about U.S.-grown rice	3 awards, up to $5,000	Runs each September; the 2026 contest closed Oct 31, 2026, so juniors can plan for next fall

Family connection	Scholarship	Who qualifies	Award	When to apply
Family belongs to the NAACP	NAACP Scholarships	Many awards require NAACP membership, a 3.0 GPA, and financial need; some prefer students whose family history traces to certain counties	Up to $10,000 on some awards	Opens each spring (the 2026 cycle ran April to May)
Family lives in North Texas, or a parent works at a partner company	Communities Foundation of Texas Scholarships	One application covers many funds, including ones for children of Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages, Greystar, and Texas DPS employees, Collin County seniors, and Dallas ISD seniors	Many up to $5,000; some up to $20,000	Application reopens January 2027

Look for the pattern. Every one of these asks the same question: who is your family connected to? A parent's HR office, a union hall, or a grandparent's DD-214 (military discharge paper) can be worth thousands of dollars.

Step 4: Questions to ask your family

Interview at least two relatives this week. Write the answers in your Step 1 table.

1. Where do you work now, and where did you work before? Does your company offer scholarships for employees' children or grandchildren? (Ask HR or check the benefits website.)
2. Are you in a union, or were you ever? Which one, and for how long?

3. Did you or anyone in our family serve in the military? Which branch, and when? Did anyone receive a Purple Heart or other honor?
4. Do you belong to a veterans group, sorority, fraternity, civic club, or alumni association?
5. What church or faith community are we part of? Does it give scholarships?
6. Where is our family from? Are there heritage or cultural groups we belong to?
7. Do you know where my medical or school records are, like an ADHD diagnosis, IEP, or 504 plan?

Step 5: My scholarship leads

Add a row each time a family connection points you to a scholarship.

Family connection	Scholarship name	Link	Award	Deadline	Documents I need	Applied?

Examples

- BURGER KING Scholars: for children of employees
- Union Plus Scholarship: for union families
- Military Order of the Purple Heart Scholarship: for grandchildren of Purple Heart recipients
- Fleet Reserve Association Education Foundation: for families of Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard veterans
- NCLD ADHD College Success Scholarship: for students with ADHD
- Anne Ford Scholarship: for students with a learning disability
- National Rice Month Scholarship Video Contest: for students in rice-growing states
- NAACP Scholarships: for NAACP members
- Communities Foundation of Texas Scholarships: for North Texas students and children of partner employers