MLK DREAM FORWARD

SCHOLARSHIP

Highlighting the Dream



MLK Dream Forward Scholarship

Highlighting the Dream

Supporting high-school graduates from high-poverty communities

Florida and across the United States



Community scholarship recognition

Education and community leadership

Financial support for the next step

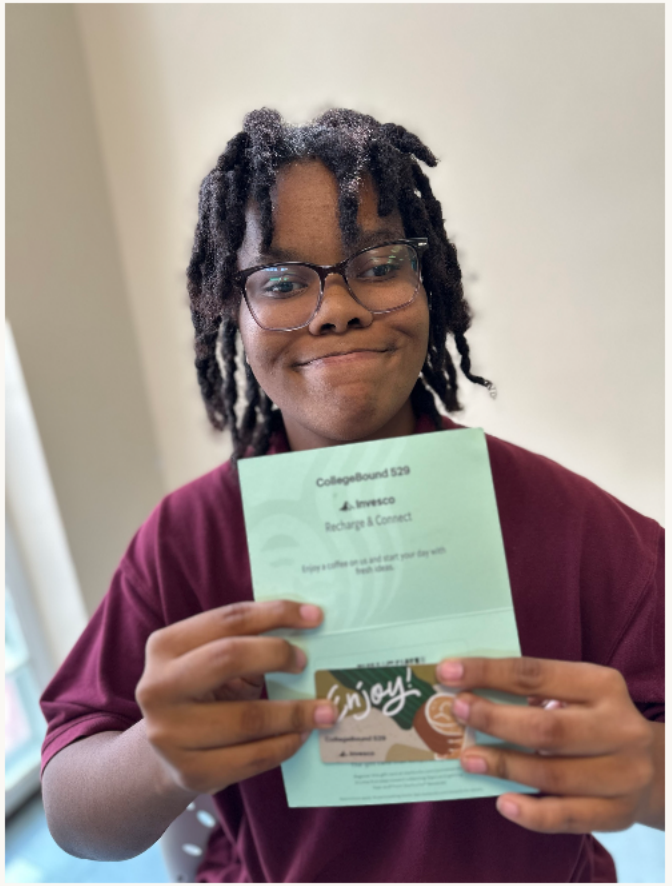
The MLK Dream Forward Scholarship helps high-school graduates from high-poverty ZIP codes pursue education beyond high school.

A commitment to peaceful change

Applicants connect their educational goals with ways to improve their surroundings through Dr. King’s Six Principles of Nonviolence.

Rooted in Miami, reaching across the country

The scholarship carries the Committee’s education and service mission to students in Florida and throughout the United States.



Who the scholarship serves

High-school graduates

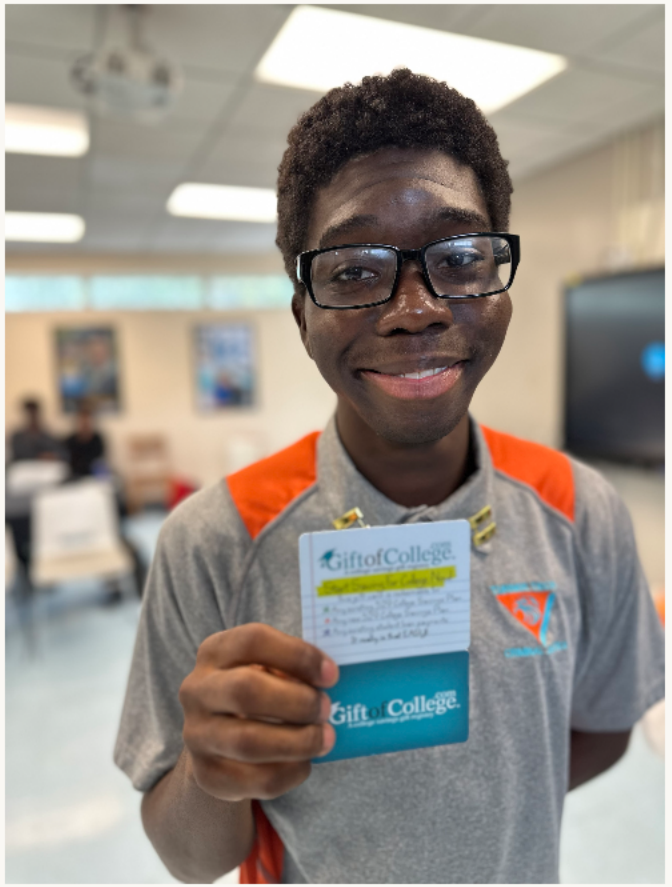
Students who have completed high school and are pursuing further education or career training.

Residents of high-poverty ZIP codes

Students in qualifying communities throughout Florida and across the United States.

Students with a vision for their community

Applicants explain their educational goals, financial need and how they would apply all six principles of nonviolence.



ZIP-code eligibility and verification instructions will accompany the application.

The required essay

How would you use Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Six Principles of Nonviolence to make your environment a better place?

Choose a challenge in your neighborhood, school, campus or wider community. Explain how each of the six principles would guide your response.

Describe the actions you would take, the people you would involve and the positive change you hope to create.

Write in your own voice and connect your ideas to your lived experience.

Six Principles of Nonviolence

1. Courageous action

Stand against injustice through disciplined, active nonviolent action. Courage includes speaking and acting when change is difficult.

2. Understanding and connection

Seek reconciliation and stronger relationships. The aim is a community in which people can live together with dignity.

3. Justice without dehumanization

Challenge harmful actions and unjust systems while recognizing the humanity of the people involved.

Adapted from The King Center’s explanation of Dr. King’s philosophy.

Six Principles of Nonviolence

4. Transforming hardship

Accepting undeserved hardship for a just cause, without retaliation, can help change people and society.

5. Love in action

Respond with goodwill and respect. Reject hatred in thought, speech and behavior as you work for change.

6. Faith in justice

Act with the conviction that justice is possible and that the universe supports it, even when progress is difficult.

Explore the full principles: thekingcenter.org/about-tkc/the-king-philosophy/

What to include in your application

Your background

Contact information, home ZIP code and high-school graduation information.

Your education plans

The education or training you intend to pursue and how it supports your goals.

Your financial need

Explain the financial barriers you face and how scholarship support would help.

Your nonviolence essay

Address all six principles and describe how you would use them to improve your environment.

Submit the required information through the official scholarship application.

How applications will be evaluated

Eligibility and completeness

High-school graduation, qualifying ZIP-code residence and a complete application.

Educational goals and financial need

A clear explanation of your next educational step and the difference support would make.

Understanding of nonviolence

Thoughtful use of all six principles, connected to a challenge that matters to you.

A practical plan for positive change

Specific actions, community involvement and a clear picture of the change you hope to achieve.

Scholarship support

$50,000

Scholarship fundraising goal

Contributions support high-school graduates from high-poverty communities as they continue their education.



Award amounts, recipient numbers and payment requirements will be announced with each application cycle.

Learning beyond the scholarship

Nonviolence and service

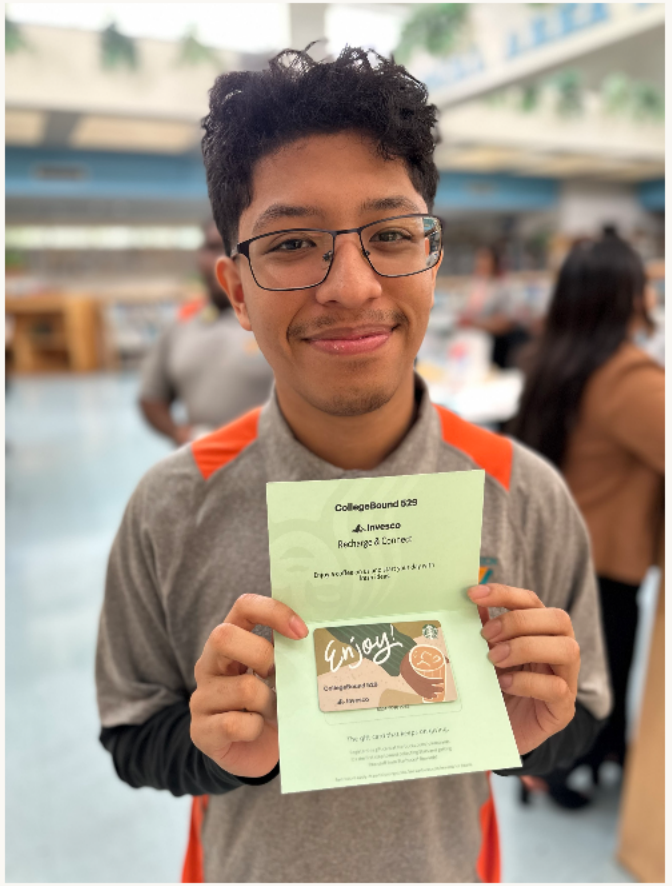
The program connects educational opportunity with peaceful problem-solving and service to others.

Financial capability

Community education helps students build confidence in budgeting and financial decisions.

Mentoring and encouragement

The Committee’s broader education work connects students with guidance as they pursue their next steps.



Workshops that engage students



Learning together



Student questions and dialogue

Take the next step

Students and families

Request scholarship updates and prepare your essay on applying the Six Principles of Nonviolence.

Schools and community organizations

Share the scholarship with high-school graduates in high-poverty ZIP codes across Florida and the country.

Donors and supporters

Contact the Committee to support educational opportunity through the MLK Dream Forward Scholarship.

committee@mlkparadeandfestivities.org

Application dates and the official application link will be announced.