



CONTINENTAL DIVIDE ELECTRIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Scholarship Program – Instructions and Application

I. Program Purpose

The Continental Divide Electric Education Foundation Scholarship Program supports educational advancement for eligible CDEC members and their qualifying dependents by providing financial assistance toward bachelor's degree programs at accredited institutions of higher education in New Mexico.

The Foundation is committed to administering scholarships in a manner that is fair, transparent, consistent, and inclusive of both traditional and non-traditional students.

II. Scholarship Overview and Academic/Enrollment Requirements

Recipients must:

- Attend an accredited New Mexico institution
- Be enrolled in a bachelor's degree program
- Complete at least 12 credit hours per semester
- Maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA each semester

Maximum annual award for the 2026-27 school year is \$4,000, disbursed as \$2,000 per semester. Maximum lifetime award is \$16,000 (Eight [8] semesters).

Scholarships are paid directly to the institution.

If a recipient is unable to maintain the required hours or GPA, the scholarship is revoked. Former recipients may reapply only once.

III. Eligibility

Scholarships are available to:

- Active CDEC members in good standing; or
- Qualifying dependents of active CDEC members in good standing

A CDEC member in good standing is a person listed on a CDEC electric account who currently receives electric service and is current on all account payments.

IV. Applicant Categories

Applicants must qualify under one (1) of the following categories:

Category 1: CDEC Member (Account Holder)

The applicant is the named account holder on a CDEC electric account (Red Bolt Broadband accounts holders are not CDEC members.)

Category 2: Dependent of a CDEC Member (Traditional Student)

The applicant is typically a high school senior or recent graduate who resides with and is financially supported by a CDEC member.

Category 3: Non-Traditional Student Dependent of a CDEC Member

Includes applicants who are:

- Age 24 or older
- Returning to school after a gap of two or more years
- GED recipients
- Adults residing with a CDEC member due to divorce, financial hardship, or workforce transition

V. Definition of Qualifying Dependent

A qualifying dependent is an individual who:

- Maintains a qualifying family or household relationship with a CDEC member; and
- Receives substantial financial support from that member, whether or not the applicant is claimed as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

Eligible relationships include son, daughter, stepchild, foster child, brother, sister, half-sister, half-brother, stepbrother, stepsister, adopted child or the child of one of these.

VI. Verification Requirements

Applicants must submit and complete required documentation. Submission of false or misleading information may result in disqualification or revocation of scholarship funds.

A. Proof of Membership (Required for All Applicants)

- If you are a CDEC Member (Category 1), include your CDEC electric account number in the space provided in Section B of the application.
- If you are a qualifying dependent (Category 2 or 3), complete Section C of the application. The CDEC Member is required to sign and date Section I.

B. Proof of Dependency (Required for Category 2 and Category 3 Applicants)

Dependency may be established by having the CDEC Member complete the attached **Dependency Affidavit of Qualifying Relationship** together with one or more of the following:

- **Proof of shared residence.** Documentation of shared residence may include leases, utility records, government or school documents, financial or insurance records, or other materials demonstrating that the applicant and CDEC member reside at the same address.
- **Proof of financial hardship or workforce transition.** Documentation of financial hardship or workforce transition may include employment records, public assistance documentation, court records, medical or social service verification, or other materials demonstrating reduced income, loss of employment, or a transition from the workforce into education.
- **Divorce decree or separation agreement.** Divorce decrees and separation agreements may be used as supporting documentation to explain household structure or financial responsibility but do not, by themselves, establish dependency for scholarship eligibility.
- **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) dependency determination** (if applicable). FAFSA dependency status may be used as supporting documentation to explain an applicant's financial status, but does not, by itself, establish dependency for scholarship eligibility.
- Most recent **federal tax return** (first page of Form 1040 only, Social Security Numbers redacted); or **IRS Tax Transcript** (Social Security Numbers redacted). Because tax records reflect past financial relationships, additional documentation to confirm current dependency or financial support is required.

Additional documentation may be required when necessary to reasonably confirm financial reliance and household relationship.

Documentation proving dependency must be updated annually to continue receiving the scholarship.

VII. Recommendation Requirements

All new applicants and former recipients must submit two (2) letters of recommendation:

1. Academic or Professional Reference
2. Community or Character Reference (non-relative)

VIII. Selection Criteria

Applications are evaluated on scholastic achievement, character, community involvement, leadership potential, and educational and career goals. No applicant shall be preferred or discriminated against based on race, ethnicity, age, sex, religion, or income.

XI. Adoption Statement

This document supersedes all prior scholarship policies and application materials and shall govern the scholarship program for the applicable award year.

For more information or scholarship application details, contact Raquel Galindo at (505) 876-2022 or email scholarship@cdec.coop



CONTINENTAL DIVIDE ELECTRIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

2026–27 Scholarship Application

Deadline to return: March 31, 2026 • Applications must be typed. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
All fields with an asterisk (*) are required.

A. Applicant Category (Check one category) *

CDEC Member (Account Holder) Dependent of a CDEC Member Non-Traditional Dependent

Non-traditional includes: age 24+, GED recipients, returning after a gap of 2+ years, or entering higher education after workforce participation.

B. Applicant Information

Full Legal Name *

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) *

Mailing Address *

City, State, ZIP *

Physical Address *

City, State, ZIP *

Email Address *

Phone Number *

Last 4 digits of Social Security Number *

CDEC Account Number (if the Account Holder)

C. CDEC Membership & Relationship (if Applicant is a Dependent)

If you are applying as a dependent, provide the CDEC member/account holder information below.

CDEC Account Number

Member Name on Account

Relationship to Account Holder (if not self)

Member Phone Number

D. College Plans

New Mexico Institution – First Choice *

New Mexico Institution – Second Choice (optional)

Have you applied for acceptance to any college?

If so, where have you applied?

What are your estimated college expenses for the upcoming school year?

Continental Divide Electric Education Foundation – 2026-27 Scholarship Application

Deadline to return: March 31, 2026 • Applications must be typed. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Page 2

E. Education History *

List the high school(s) and college(s) you have attended.

F. Achievements, Community Involvement & Work Experience

List academic honors, extracurricular activities, clubs/sports, leadership roles and community involvement.

List any work experience (type of work, length of employment and employer/s).

G. Essay (200 words maximum) *

Describe how this scholarship will benefit you in achieving your professional goals.

Continental Divide Electric Education Foundation – 2026-27 Scholarship Application

Deadline to return: March 31, 2026 • Applications must be typed. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Page 3

H. Required Attachments Checklist

1. Transcript (high school or college, as applicable)
2. Letter of Recommendation #1: Academic or Professional (non-relative)
3. Letter of Recommendation #2: Community or Character (non-relative)
4. Dependency Affidavit of Qualifying Relationship (if applicable)
5. Proof of Dependency (if applicable)

Note: Provide photocopies only when submitting supporting documentation. Do not submit original records.

I. Certification & Authorization

- I agree to the review of this application and required attachments by anyone representing the scholarship.
- I declare that the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand that submission of false or misleading information may result in disqualification or revocation of scholarship funds.

Applicant Signature *

Date (MM/DD/YYYY) *

Parent/Guardian Signature (if applicable)

Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

Submit Application to:

Continental Divide Electric Education Foundation
Attn. Raquel Galindo
P.O. Box 1087
Grants, NM 87020

Hand deliver to: 1821 Clif Lear Ave. in Grants (CDEC Headquarters); 2500 NM Highway 602 in Gallup (District Office)

For more information or scholarship application details, contact Raquel Galindo at (505) 876-2022 or email scholarship@cdec.coop

Additional scholarship opportunities: This application will also be considered by the Foundation for the Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarships. Each year, Tri-State awards two (2) \$500 scholarships. Basin awards one (1) \$1,000 scholarship.

Continental Divide Electric Education Foundation – 2026-27 Scholarship Application

Dependency Affidavit of Qualifying Relationship

I. CDEC MEMBER INFORMATION

Full Legal Name of CDEC Member *

Service Address *

II. G7 C@ FG=D'APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Full Legal Name *

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) *

III. QUALIFYING RELATIONSHIP & FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Relationship to CDEC Member * (check all that apply)

Son	Daughter	Stepchild
Foster Child	Adopted Child	Brother
Sister	Half-Sibling	Step-Sibling
Other Relative / Household Member		

If 'Other', explain:

Shared Residence Address *

Financial Support Provided * (check all that apply)

Housing and utilities	Food and household expenses
Medical or insurance expenses	Transportation
Educational expenses (tuition, fees, books)	Other support

Continental Divide Electric Education Foundation – 2026-27 Scholarship Application*

Deadline to return: March 31, 2026 • Affidavit must be typed.

Page 2

Describe the nature and extent of financial support provided *

IV. AFFIRMATION & SIGNATURE

I certify under penalty of perjury that the information provided in this affidavit is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that providing false or misleading information may result in disqualification or revocation of scholarship funds.

CDEC Member Signature *

Date (MM/DD/YYYY) *