

## **U.S. Community College Grants to Support Recent Afghan Refugee Enrollment** **Call for Applications**

### **Background**

IIE has a long history of supporting access to higher education opportunities globally, including higher education pathways for displaced and refugee students. In response to the escalating number of young refugees worldwide, IIE created the [IIE Odyssey Scholarship](#) in 2021. This program provides motivated and qualified refugees or displaced students with the opportunity to pursue in-person undergraduate or master's degrees in the United States, Latin America, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, or Sub-Saharan Africa.

Through the IIE Odyssey Scholarship for higher education, we invest in the potential of motivated young adults uprooted by displacement to pursue their own unique paths and create thriving futures for themselves and their communities.

### **Community College Grant Opportunity**

IIE anticipates making multiple awards to U.S. community and technical colleges for a period of up to 36 months, beginning on or around September 1, 2024 to provide scholarships to support recently arrived Afghan student enrollment and completion of an associate's degree.

Funds should be used for partial or full scholarships for nominated students who meet the scholarship nomination criteria below:

- Refugee or Displaced Person originally from Afghanistan. All of the following statuses would be considered eligible for nomination: permanent resident, refugee, asylee or asylum seeker, temporary protected status (TPS), humanitarian parolee, special immigrant visa (SIV) holder.
- Entered the US no earlier than January 1, 2021.
- Meets Admission Criteria of Institution, including but not limited to the following:
  - Academically Prepared: Aspires to achieve a post-secondary degree and possesses the ability to effectively pursue an associate's degree.
  - Transferable Qualifications: Holds credentials that would likely be recognized to fulfill admissions requirements to study at the post-secondary level (e.g., GED, diploma, other secondary education certifications, etc.).
  - Language Skills: Possesses a level of language proficiency to complete a degree program in the language of instruction.
- Nominated students should be ready to begin or continue their associate degree programs in Fall 2024; end dates may vary through no later than August 2027.
- Barriers to Accessing Higher Education: Unable or unlikely to pursue higher education without this scholarship, due to finances and other barriers.
- Potential: Proven character and determination to adapt successfully to new environments; desire to contribute to university community and greater society.
- Soft Skills: Leadership potential, community involvement, other skills.

### **Application Process and Requirements**

Proposals are due by Monday, July 1, 2024 and should be submitted to [odyssey@iie.org](mailto:odyssey@iie.org). The length should be no longer than 5 pages including attachments. Proposals should address the following areas:

1. Overview of your institution, populations served and majors offered:

In addition to a brief overview of your institution, please identify an office and key point(s) of contact responsible for this proposal and scholarship administration, if awarded.

2. Experience in supporting newly arrived and displaced populations;

Include institutional experience with displaced student populations and any specialized support services already in place from which scholarship recipients would benefit.

3. Ability to identify and recruit eligible scholarship recipients;

Include information on the number Afghan students residing in the state and/or communities near the institution, or already attending the institution (as relevant). Please detail any new plans to identify and recruit students, including a focus on engaging families and recruiting women. Successful applicants will be asked to share profiles of nominated students for approval by IIE before an award can be made.

4. Cost per scholarship and number of nominees per institution;

Applicants must propose a per student and total scholarship amount up to the full cost of attendance (COA) and propose a number of nominated students (no minimum and up to 10 per institution). Partial scholarships will be considered. Please include a brief justification of the amount proposed per student, detailing how it will allow scholarship nominees to overcome barriers to accessing your institution. Please include a link to the official COA, or include as an attachment.

A note on timing: Awarded scholarships should span 1-3 years, and support students either for the entirety or the remainder of their studies while pursuing their associate's degree. All nominated students should start receiving support in Fall 2024 and be on track to complete degree requirements by no later than August 2027. Based on this information, propose the number of students you anticipate being able to identify and award a scholarship, knowing that IIE may not be able to support the full number proposed.

5. Optional component: Scholarships for non-Afghan students who have experienced displacement and maintain one of the following statuses: permanent resident, refugee, asylee or asylum seeker, temporary protected status (TPS), humanitarian parolee, special immigrant visa (SIV) holder;

Applicants may also propose to support up to 6 students, in addition to the above maximum of 10 Afghan students, who have experienced displacement and are not from Afghanistan. Please include a per student budget and timeline for these students in this section (see #4 for details on how to present per scholarship and total costs, as well as timing). Please also list out their countries of origin, as well as current status in the United States. Please refer to eligibility criteria on page 1, which remains the same, except for country of origin and date of arrival, which should be within the past 5 years, so on/after September 1, 2019.



### **Award Process**

IIE will make awards directly to institutions to support an agreed upon number of students for 1-3 years of study. The institution will provide IIE with a slate of nominees to be reviewed that includes a summary profile of each nominee. Once reviewed and approved, IIE will also enter into terms of award directly with each awardee as IIE Odyssey Scholars.

### **Inquiries**

Please direct any inquiries to [odyssey@iie.org](mailto:odyssey@iie.org). The last date to submit questions is Thursday, June 20, 2024.