



FOUNDATION *for* CALIFORNIA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

**CCC FINISH LINE SCHOLARS PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT**

**Between**

**THE FOUNDATION FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

**And**

**COLLEGE OF THE SEQUOIAS FOUNDATION**

*Agreement No. 00013839*

This is an Agreement between the Foundation for California Community Colleges ("FOUNDATIONCCC") and College of the Sequoias Foundation, on behalf of College of the Sequoias (COLLEGE).

WHEREAS, the FOUNDATIONCCC is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation and the official nonprofit supporting the CCC Chancellor's Office and the California Community Colleges Board of Governors, and its mission is to benefit, support and enhance the California Community College system;

WHEREAS, the FOUNDATIONCCC has received a significant donation to support the CCC Finish Line Scholars Program from the Jay Pritzker Foundation (the Donor) and intends to award a portion of that donation to COLLEGE;

WHEREAS, the Donor's intent for the award for academic year 2026-27 is to provide scholarships and emergency financial aid for students to help them continue their educational journey at the California Community Colleges;

WHEREAS, COLLEGE, intends to use funds received through this Agreement (FUNDS) to provide scholarships and emergency financial aid to students enrolled or intending to enroll at COLLEGE;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree to the terms and conditions contained in this Agreement, outlining the relationship between COLLEGE and the FOUNDATIONCCC.

- 1. Purpose.** The FOUNDATIONCCC, in partnership with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, is pleased to support the CCC Finish Line Scholars Program. This Agreement shall provide COLLEGE with FUNDS to distribute to students based on the COLLEGE's approved application and in alignment with the program guidelines below. Scholarships are intended to help students who are at least halfway through their educational program to complete a certificate or degree or transfer to a four-year institution. Emergency financial aid is intended to be flexible to help individual students overcome short-term financial barriers that may prevent them from beginning or staying enrolled in community college. COLLEGE agrees to comply with the obligations laid out in this Agreement and the application submitted by COLLEGE for the CCC Finish Lines Scholars Program, attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Exhibit A.

2. **Award.** The FOUNDATIONCCC shall provide COLLEGE with **\$300,000.00** (the FUNDS) no later than July 31, 2026. The FUNDS will be provided to COLLEGE or an organization that will receive the FUNDS on behalf of COLLEGE (if applicable). The FOUNDATIONCCC may at its discretion award additional funds to COLLEGE through a written notice (including e-mail) to the COLLEGE's primary contact listed in Section 6. This additional award may be made without the need for an amendment to this Agreement. The FUNDS will be provided to the address and organization indicated by COLLEGE on their application for the FUNDS. If COLLEGE did not provide a W-9 in their application, COLLEGE must provide FOUNDATIONCCC with their W-9 prior to FOUNDATIONCCC disbursement of FUNDS.
3. **Term.** This Agreement shall take effect on **July 1, 2026** ("Effective Date") through **June 30, 2027** at which time, this Agreement will automatically terminate. For clarity, this Agreement applies only to the Term stated above, and COLLEGE is not guaranteed any future funding or contract renewal beyond the Term, as such decisions are left to the ultimate discretion of FoundationCCC and its Donor. Any extension to this Agreement must be in writing (which can include e-mail correspondence) and approved by authorized representatives of both FOUNDATIONCCC and COLLEGE. Should this Agreement expire prior to all FUNDS being expended, COLLEGE shall choose to return the remaining FUNDS to FOUNDATIONCCC as described in Section 4(f) or shall request an extension of up to 90 calendar days to expend the remaining FUNDS to students. FOUNDATIONCCC reserves the right to approve or deny an extension request, at its discretion.
4. **Use of FUNDS.**
  - a. The 2026-27 Grant is for FUNDS to be distributed to students as scholarships or emergency financial aid during the current academic year. For this year, COLLEGE shall use at least 80% of the FUNDS for scholarships and may choose to use no more than 20% for emergency financial aid to support students experiencing financial hardship.
  - b. COLLEGE shall comply with the Scholarship requirements as set by the Funder and Program Guidelines. Scholarships are intended to help students go all-in to reach the finish line of their educational goals within one year. These scholarships will help students take the final steps to complete a certificate or degree. Scholarships provided under this agreement that are not for emergency financial aid awards must comply with the following requirements.
    - a. To be eligible to receive a scholarship, a student must have received a tuition fee waiver under the California College Promise Grant.
    - b. The students' goal must be completion of a certificate or degree program.
      - i. Completion can include receiving a Chancellor's Office approved certificate, an Associate's Degree, an Associate's Degree for Transfer, or a Baccalaureate Degree.
    - c. Students who receive a scholarship must maintain full-time equivalent status during all terms in which the scholarship remains active.
      - i. Students in programs that require significant out of class time, such as Nursing, are eligible for a scholarship if they are enrolled in fewer than 12 units as long as they are deemed full-time by their program.
      - ii. Students who receive support through Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) are eligible for a scholarship if they are approved by DSPS to be enrolled in fewer units.
      - iii. Students who have fewer than 6 units in one semester remaining to complete their program are eligible for a scholarship without enrolling in additional unnecessary units.

- d. Students must have completed at least 50% of the credits required for their program and must have a realistic plan to finish the remainder of their goal in one academic year. Students with 75% of credits are eligible for one semester of funding.
  - e. Students are given priority if they meet two of these three criteria:
    - i. Have completed a transfer level English course
    - ii. Have completed a transfer level math course
    - iii. Have a grade point average of 2.5 or higher
  - f. Students in fields that are regional workforce priorities, such as nursing and STEM, should be given preference.
  - g. Scholarship amounts per student will be capped at \$18,500 per year and must be a minimum of \$1,000 per semester
  - h. Students who receive a scholarship and remain continuously enrolled, barring extenuating circumstances approved by the college staff, may apply for subsequent scholarships for up to a maximum of two semesters.
  - i. Students should be guaranteed renewal funding in two subsequent semesters as long as they continue to meet all of the program's eligibility requirements
- c. COLLEGE should establish its own policies regarding emergency financial aid award amounts, including maximum award amounts per request, term, and year; lifetime limits, if any; if and when exceptions will be made; and other considerations that ensure the success of your students while balancing the need for fairness and proper stewardship of funds. If COLLEGE already has an emergency financial aid program, COLLEGE may apply existing policies and procedures to this program. Emergency financial aid award minimum and maximum amounts that the college should provide to students are not set by FOUNDATIONCCC or the Donor.
- d. FOUNDATIONCCC will provide resources and best practices for structuring and implementing the scholarship program to support improved student outcomes. Additional instructions and requirements for the scholarship program will be provided in the Vision Resource Center CCC Finish Line Scholars Program community.
- e. FUNDS should be used to maximize benefits to students, including addressing any potential income tax impact to students.
- f. Should there be remaining unspent FUNDS at the end of the 2026-2027 academic year, COLLEGE shall choose to return all unspent FUNDS to FOUNDATIONCCC or shall request an extension of up to 90 calendar days to expend the remaining FUNDS to students. FUNDS disbursed through an extension will be reported on in the next academic year. All unspent FUNDS held by COLLEGE at the end of a FOUNDATIONCCC approved extension shall be returned promptly to FOUNDATIONCCC.
- g. For the academic year 2026-2027, COLLEGE can use up to 5% of the award for costs to administer the program. Example administrative uses include program staffing, student outreach materials, and financial aid technology tools used to implement the program.

## 5. College Compliance

- a. COLLEGE is required to meet with FoundationCCC staff twice yearly for individual check-ins to share updates, discuss promising practices, and problem-solve challenges.

- b. COLLEGE is required to adhere to all program guidelines and grant agreement criteria, including stipulations about efficient fund disbursement and requirements to return excess funds if the COLLEGE's annual allocation is not disbursed by the end of the academic year.
- c. Any COLLEGE that does not adhere to all program guidelines and grant criteria described in this Agreement will be ineligible for further grants.
- d. COLLEGE will be subject to the College Notification Policy, attached hereto as Exhibit B, related to student success outcomes and program improvement measures. The College Notification Policy describes the Program's general monitoring and improvement framework and does not create a right to continued funding, any particular funding level, or participation in any future funding cycle.

**6. Reporting Requirements**

- a. COLLEGE shall report the information described below to the FOUNDATIONCCC, who will provide the contents of the report to the Donor on an annual basis.
- b. COLLEGE agrees to report on the impact of this donation to the FOUNDATIONCCC no later than August 1, 2027. The report must include at least the following information:
  - 1) Number of students who received a scholarship or emergency financial aid, and, for each student, the date the funds were distributed, the amount and how students used the funds
  - 2) Students' progress towards their goals, in a manner consistent with Federal and State student data privacy regulations, including:
    - i. Number of students eligible to complete their program during the reporting year
      - 1. Number of eligible students who did complete their program during the reporting year
      - 2. Number of eligible students who did not complete their program during the reporting year and, to the extent possible, information about why the student was unable to complete
  - 3) Comparison Data
    - i. COLLEGE shall collect and report completion data for all scholarship recipients. COLLEGE is also required to provide a comparison of these rates between Finish Line participants and the COLLEGE's general student population.
  - 4) Resources leveraged, including but not limited to matching dollars, if any
  - 5) A brief narrative about program design and implementation
  - 6) Three stories of student success resulting from scholarship or emergency financial aid awards

Please see the application instructions and grant reporting instructions in the Vision Resource Center CCC Finish Line Scholars Program community for additional instructions for reporting.

**6. Communication Requirements**

- a. All communication regarding the CCC Finish Line Scholars Program shall be made to FOUNDATIONCCC. COLLEGE shall not contact or attempt to contact the Donor directly regarding the FUNDS or the Program.
- b. COLLEGE shall refer to this program as the CCC Finish Line Scholars Program in marketing and outreach materials, and may refer to students receiving scholarships as Finish Line Scholars
- c. All notices required or permitted to be given under this Agreement, including but not limited to any notice of change of address, must be directed to the following:

**FOUNDATIONCCC:**

PROGRAM DIRECTOR (All Programmatic and Reporting Issues):

Jodi Samuels  
Senior Director, Strategic Support for Colleges and Scholars  
Foundation for California Community Colleges  
1102 Q Street, Suite 4800  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
916-325-1855  
[advancement@foundationccc.org](mailto:advancement@foundationccc.org)

CONTRACTS (Contracts Issues Only, including but not limited to Contract Notices):

Contracts Department  
Foundation for California Community Colleges  
1102 Q Street, Suite 4800  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
[contracts@foundationccc.org](mailto:contracts@foundationccc.org)

**COLLEGE OF THE SEQUOIAS FOUNDATION:**

Tim Foster,  
Executive Director  
915 S Mooney Blvd  
Visalia, CA 93277  
559-730-3902  
[timf@cos.edu](mailto:timf@cos.edu)

**7. Terms and Conditions**

**a. Recordkeeping and Access to Records**

- 1) COLLEGE shall keep adequate records to substantiate its expenditures of the FUNDS. COLLEGE shall be required to maintain complete and accurate financial records with respect to this grant, along with any other information reasonably requested by FOUNDATIONCCC and copies of any reports submitted to FOUNDATIONCCC, for at least five years following the year in which all FUNDS are fully expended.
- 2) COLLEGE will permit FOUNDATIONCCC and its representatives, at FOUNDATIONCCC's request, to have reasonable access during regular business hours to its files, records, accounts, personnel and clients or other beneficiaries for the purpose of making such financial audits, verifications or program evaluations as FOUNDATIONCCC deems necessary or appropriate concerning this grant.

b. **Use of Name.** Both parties (FOUNDATIONCCC AND COLLEGE) shall have the right to use the name, trade name, trademark, brand name, or other designation of the other party for the purposes of marketing, raising awareness, and/or promoting the CCC Finish Line Scholars Program. COLLEGE shall not use the name of the Donor on any marketing or outreach materials without prior written consent from the FOUNDATIONCCC.

c. **Authority to Bind.** The signatories below and their respective parties each represent and warrant that they are authorized to sign this Partnership Agreement on behalf of their organizations.

**d. Release; Indemnity**

- 1) As a condition of receiving the FUNDS, COLLEGE hereby releases Donor and FOUNDATIONCCC and its directors, officers, employees, agents, and volunteers (collectively, "Released Parties") from any and all liability in connection with the Grant,

COLLEGE's participation in the CCC Finish Line Scholars Program, COLLEGE's acceptance or use of the FUNDS, including liability arising from the negligence or other fault of a released party. COLLEGE further agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Released Parties (and upon a Released Party's request, defend such Released Party) from and against any and all losses, liabilities, damages, costs, expenses (including reasonable attorney fees) and claims arising out of or resulting from, or that are alleged to arise out of or result from, the CCC Finish Line Scholars Program, the actions or omissions by COLLEGE or of any of COLLEGE's officers, agents, employees, contractors or sub-contractors, COLLEGE's participation in the CCC Finish Line Scholars Program, COLLEGE's acceptance or use of the FUNDS, including without limitation any claims by COLLEGE employees, COLLEGE volunteers, recipients of any FUNDS, and other personnel involved in the Project, and including without limitation any compliance obligation regarding all federal or state tax payments, reporting or withholding.

- 2) COLLEGE acknowledges and agrees that any activities by Donor and FOUNDATIONCCC in association with the Project, such as its review or proposal of suggested modifications to the Project, will not modify or constitute the basis for any claim of waiver by COLLEGE of the Donor's and FOUNDATIONCCC's rights under this paragraph.
- e. **Execution of Agreement.** This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original but all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument.
- f. **Assignment.** This Agreement shall be binding on, inure benefit on, and be enforceable by, both parties and their respective successors. The rights and obligations of this Agreement are not assignable by COLLEGE without express written consent of FOUNDATIONCCC.

**THE PARTIES HEREBY EXECUTE THIS AGREEMENT:**

COLLEGE

FOUNDATION FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Name: Jodi Samuels  
 Senior Director, Strategic Support for Colleges and Scholars  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

COLLEGE – second signature, if required

FOUNDATION FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES – second signature, if required

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Name: Melissa Conner  
 Chief Advancement Officer  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title **0030** 12/05/2025  
by **Tim Foster** in **Finish Line Scholars: Academic Year 2026-27** id. 52518287  
915 S Mooney Blvd  
Visalia, California  
93277  
CA  
United States  
5597303902  
timf@cos.edu

### Original Submission

01/13/2026

Score

100%

For which college is this application being submitted? College of the Sequoias

What is the name of the primary contact for this grant application? Tim Foster

Primary contact entity (e.g., CCC, CCC District, CCC Foundation): College of the Sequoias Foundation

Primary contact title: Executive Director

Primary contact email address: timf@cos.edu

Primary contact direct phone number: +15597303902

Do you want to add a secondary contact? Yes

What is the name of the secondary contact for this grant application? Davis Beavers

Secondary contact entity (e.g., CCC, CCC District, CCC Foundation): College of the Sequoias Foundation

Secondary contact's title: Foundation Specialist

Secondary contact email address: davisb@cos.edu

Secondary contact phone number: +15597303876

Do you want to add a third contact? No

What is the name of the person with signing authority for the grant agreement with FoundationCCC? Tim Foster

Legal signatory entity (e.g., CCC, CCC District, CCC Foundation): College of the Sequoias Foundation

What is the title of the legal signatory for the grant agreement with FoundationCCC? ExecutiveDirector

Legal signatory email address: timf@cos.edu

Legal signatory mailing address: 915 S Mooney Blvd  
College of the Sequoias Foundation  
Visalia  
CA  
93277  
US  
36.3246441  
-119.3144706

Is more than one signatory required? No

FoundationCCC will be using electronic signatures. Please indicate if your college requires an alternative method.

We can use the preferred method of electronic signatures

Distribution of Funds to Students For the academic year 2026-27, colleges may allocate 80% to 100% of their grant budget for scholarships and up to 20% for emergency financial aid. Scholarships are intended to help students go all-in to reach the finish line of their education goal. These scholarships will help students take the final steps to complete a certificate, degree, or to transfer to a four year college or university. Scholarship amount per student is capped at \$18,500 per academic year. Emergency financial aid is intended to help students facing unexpected financial hardships. There is no maximum cap set for emergency financial aid awards. Minimum scholarship eligibility requirements include the following: The student must receive a tuition fee waiver under the California College Promise Grant. The student's goal must be completion of a certificate or degree program. Completion can include receiving a Chancellor's Office approved certificate, an Associates Degree, and Associates Degree for Transfer, or a Baccalaureate Degree. Completion can include a student who transfers "early" to a four-year institution (i.e. does not receive a credential from the CCC before transferring). The student must maintain full-time equivalent status during all terms in which the scholarship is active. Students in programs that require significant out of class time, such as Nursing, are eligible for a scholarship if they are enrolled in fewer than 12 units as long as they are deemed full-time by their program. Students who receive support through Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) are eligible for a scholarship if they are approved by DSPS to be enrolled in fewer units. Students who have fewer than 6 units in one semester remaining to complete their program are eligible for a scholarship without enrolling in additional unnecessary units. Students must have demonstrated commitment and ability as indicated by having completed at least 50% of the credits required for their program and must have a realistic plan to finish the remainder of their goal in one year. Students with 75% of credits are eligible for one semester of funding. Students are given priority if they meet the following additional criteria: Have completed a transfer level English course Have completed a transfer level math course Have a GPA of 2.5 or higher Scholarship eligibility requirements apply to the academic terms in which the scholarship is active. In addition to the above eligibility requirements, students in fields that are regional workforce priorities, such as nursing or STEM, should be given preference. Additional guidance: Students who receive a scholarship and remain continuously enrolled, barring extenuating circumstances approved by the college staff, may apply for subsequent scholarships up to a maximum of two semesters. Students should be guaranteed renewal funding in subsequent semesters as long as they continue to meet all of the program's eligibility requirements, allowing them to plan for the future. Colleges should verify a student's enrollment status prior to the start of the term. There is no requirement for colleges to verify enrollment multiple times in one term. Colleges should regularly engage with scholarship recipients to understand any challenges that might be preventing them from remaining enrolled and connect them to resources and support services that empower them to succeed. Colleges may set additional criteria as long as they don't conflict with the Finish Line program guidelines.

How many students do you anticipate supporting with scholarships?

30

What is the award amount or range for your scholarships?

4000-8000

Describe the student population(s) that you are prioritizing for scholarships and explain why your college has selected these student population(s) as a priority for Finish Line funding.

While we have over 1,200 students finish their time at COS after two to three years, our Finish Line Scholars program attempts to award scholarships to students who, within a year or two, will be finishing at COS with either a clear path to transferring to a four-year college or university (transfer-ready) or with a certification that will allow them to seek employment (employment ready) in their desired field immediately. Candidates must be participating in at least one student support program at the college. Preference is also given to participation in multiple programs or clubs at the college. Based on our student population that applies for scholarships, we have seen this broad criterion, along with the GPA and unit requirements, promotes a diverse group of scholarship candidates.

How many students do you anticipate supporting with emergency financial aid?

8

What is the award amount or range for your emergency financial aid?

250-2000

Describe the student population(s) that you are prioritizing for emergency financial aid and explain why your college has selected these student population(s) as a priority for Finish Line funding.

Students prioritized for emergency financial aid are in the final or second-to-last semester to complete their certificate or become transfer-ready and clearly need private financial assistance, given their current support network and the availability of public support for them. The college and foundation really want to make sure that these emergency funds are affording the student the opportunity to complete their educational goal, and that the financial aid will be instrumental in their achievement. This private funding has proven to be the missing tool for the college to truly support a successful student who has run into an unfortunate set of circumstances during this critical window of time that threatens the completion of their educational goals. These students are often disqualified from public assistance due to their citizenship status (US citizenship or State residency) or their parents' financial status (even though the parents are unwilling to help). Should there be competing applications for emergency assistance, the student with the clearest like to complete their educational goals and the least amount of public financial aid would be prioritized. To date, the system of referrals, as explained later, has not created such a competition for resources.

In addition to the required eligibility criteria listed above, what other eligibility criteria (if any) have been established for your program?

The student must have a referral from either the Resolution and Advocacy Department (RAD) or a college dean to be invited to apply for emergency financial aid. The application also requires a college faculty or staff member to acknowledge that the student needs support.

Explain how your program will identify and select students to receive a scholarship or emergency aid and ensure that your selection of recipients is equitable.

We seek referrals primarily from the college's Resolution and Advocacy Department (RAD) and our Giant Marketplace director, who provides support for basic needs, for students who are in need of emergency assistance. Students referred through RAD generally have more than one student advocate or program assisting the student to stay enrolled while enduring whatever challenges they may be facing. This referral system has served the program well because:

1. The student's financial needs are established
2. Additional support has already been deployed for the student
3. The system has not been overwhelmed with the volume of requests that would come from the availability of an open application.

Deans may also provide a referral should they become aware of a student in need that does not rise to the level of a BIT referral. So far, the demographics of those awarded align well with the college's student population.

How will you disseminate information to the campus community about the availability of scholarships and emergency aid to ensure that eligible students are aware of the opportunity and supported to apply?

The COS Foundation utilizes promotional posters and fliers distributed to all three college campuses and all "feeder" high schools to advertise the availability of scholarships to incoming, continuing, and transfer students. The college's marketing team also disseminates social media posts and direct emails to all active students to help ensure there are multiple impressions about our scholarship program with our students. The availability of emergency grants is advertised to the deans and the members of the Resolution and Advocacy Department (RAD).

Explain how you will keep the application process simple for students, get funds to students quickly, and in a form they can use that respects their self-agency.

Besides basic contact information, Students invited to apply are asked these five multiple-choice questions: Were there changes to your income over the past six months? (check all that apply) Please share what immediate needs you have that an emergency aid grant would help cover. (check all that apply) Are you involved in a COS Student Services Program?(check all that apply) Other? Award payments are made using your existing Bank One account with Financial Aid. If you do not currently have a Bank One account, what would be your preferred method of receiving your award payment? This is one short-answer question: Please write a brief description of how this funding will help you complete your college studies this semester. \* Please briefly share the way in which a few hundred to a few thousand dollars will help ensure you stay committed to your studies and complete your courses during this difficult time. Max Length: 300 words. The application is primarily designed to document that a student is making a request following a RAD or dean referral. The Foundation has determined that the referral and the basic funding criteria are the determining factors for funding, not a demonstration of the severity of the need to the Foundation.

Explain how your program will incorporate proven interventions and programs that support timely student completion, such as the goals of the Vision for Success and Vision 2030, the Guided Pathways framework, and your college's Equity Plan.

All Finish Line Scholar awardees are gathered together shortly after the award determination to meet the college president and discuss the terms of their scholarship. This is an informational meeting, but it also starts the process of making the students feel part of another cohort within the student population.

This cohort will also be instructed to have an initial 45-minute meeting with a designated Student Success Coordinator at the college. This meeting will help the students establish an educational goal, plan to reach that goal and help the student success coordinator to refer the student to other support departments and services offered at the college and in the community, guided pathway programs, specific student clubs, and other supportive resources available. Utilizing the college's existing student success program also ensures that each student receives similar services and guidance. Once they are in that system, their individual success rates will be better monitored throughout their time at the college.

Near the end of the school year, a closing reception of the cohort will help us gather student input for program refinements, and anecdotal information about individual student success and experiences and further reinforce the cohort relationship between this group of students before the summer break.

Explain how your program will provide additional support for students beyond the financial award. How will you connect students to other campus resources and services? How will you follow-up with scholarship recipients to ensure they stay on track to complete their goal? What additional "touchpoints" will you implement so that students stay connected and engaged?

By ensuring each awarded student participates in at least one conference with the Student Success Coordinator from our college's Student Success Program, we help ensure all of the available support resources of the college are considered by the student to engage and assist them through their time here. So, there are the initial resources of the Student Success program utilized to evaluate the students' needs, but then there is a variable amount of resources the student can choose to engage in after learning what is available to them. While subsequent contact with the student's success coordinator is voluntary after that initial visit, the vast majority of the students continue to keep in contact with their success coordinator, and the coordinator documents those interactions and any relevant anecdotes about the student's performance and engagement of college services.

What additional resources (if any), financial or otherwise, will you leverage to support the success of scholarship recipients?

We have local donations to both the Finish Line Scholars Scholarship Program and the Finish Line Scholars Emergency Grant Program. Currently, we have annual commitments totaling \$4,000 from one donor for scholarships and \$2,000 from three donors for emergency grants. These leveraged, local donations increase the number of recipients and keep the award levels high for all recipients. Each scholarship recipient is advised of the student success programs available to them with encouragement to utilize more than they currently utilize. This message is relayed via email and during the welcoming reception.

By ensuring each awarded student participates in at least one conference with the Student Success Coordinator from our college's Student Success Program, we help ensure all of the available support resources of the college are considered by the student to engage and assist them through their time here. So, there are the initial resources of the Student Success program utilized to evaluate the students' needs, but then there is a variable amount of resources the student can choose to engage in after learning what is available to them.

Describe your organizational structure for scholarship disbursement.

The COS Foundation manages over \$600,000 in scholarship payments throughout a school cycle. The foundation primarily disburses checks to the individual with two exceptions. Transfer students have their checks made payable to their four-year college or university, and the checks reference the student to ensure the scholarship recipient receives credit for the payments. Emergency Grants are distributed through the college's financial aid Bank One debit card program, by check, or by PayPal distribution, whichever is the fastest and most convenient to the individual student. The foundation's scholarship specialist initiates disbursements. The foundation director authorizes scholarship disbursements and signs the checks or initiates the electronic fund transfers. Students may pick up checks at the college's cashier's window and any one of the three campuses or have the check mailed directly, whichever is most convenient for the student.

Do you anticipate barriers to distributing these funds to students by June 30, 2027? If so, describe any barriers and your strategies to mitigate them.

The two barriers that we must manage are disqualifications of awarded scholarship recipients and an insufficient number of emergency grant referrals from the college's Resolution and Advocacy Department (RAD) and deans. Our system mitigates unused funds due to awardee disqualifications by administering an alternate awardee system. If a student is disqualified, an alternate is drawn from a predetermined, ranked list of eligible students who did not get the original award, are verified to be qualified for the award, and are awarded the unused funds. For the emergency grants, the foundation office keeps the RAD and deans aware of the remaining balance of funds. The foundation director now advises faculty and managers of the availability of the funds and the process by which they can refer a student they become aware of being in need to either the RAD or a dean to further expand the reach of potential candidates in need.

Larger College, Eligible for up to \$150,000:

Larger College, Eligible for up to \$150,000: Based on your college selection, you are applying on behalf of a larger college eligible for up to \$150,000. Larger colleges eligible for up to \$150,000 are: Bakersfield College, Butte College, Chaffey College, Clovis Community College, College of the Desert, College of the Sequoias, Fresno City College, Merced College, Modesto Junior College, Moreno Valley College, Mt. San Jacinto College, Norco College, Reedley College, Riverside City College, San Bernardino Valley College, San Joaquin Delta College, Shasta College, Victor Valley College

Amount requested for Academic Year 2026-27. 150000

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your college's plans for the academic year 2026-27 for your local Finish Line Scholars Program?

We intend to, once again, provide unique Finish Line Scholars stoles for students to wear during the college commencement ceremony. This year, though, the foundation staff will provide a small "cap and gown" stipend to help with those costs and ensure as many graduating Finish Line Scholars participate in Commencement. We will also have a photographer charged with securing group and individual pictures of these graduates. The expectation is that the resulting photos will be better framed and composed for marketing use. The foundation and college student services staff will work together to determine what more can be implemented to better incorporate proven interventions and programs that support timely student completion, with a focus on the Guided Pathways framework and the college's Equity Plan.

One goal of the CCC Finish Line Scholars Program is to get funds into the hands of students quickly. Knowing this, how would you like to receive funds from us?

ACH - the preferred method

Complete and upload the financial form with information for the ACH or check (see link to form below).

[foundationccc-financial-form-COSequoias\\_Final.pdf](#)

For ACH only. Upload a bank letter and/or voided check.

[Voided\\_Check\\_CVCB\\_2024.pdf](#)

Submit the W-9 for the entity receiving the grant funds from FoundationCCC.

[W-9\\_COS\\_Foundation\\_Signed\\_2025.pdf](#)

Reporting and Financial Requirements

The overall goal of the Finish Line Scholars Program is to help students in regions with the lowest educational attainment rate of adults to go all-in to reach the finish line of their educational goals within one year in alignment with. Describe your plan to collect, aggregate, and report data to show progress and impact of your program, including how you determine and measure baseline data.

The administration software used by the COS Foundation Scholarship Program is able to isolate the population of students awarded a scholarship and/or emergency grant. We will, therefore, be able to: 1. report the number of students who received scholarships and emergency funds and, for each student, the date the funds were distributed, the amount, and how students used the funds 2. study and report the answers to the questions within the applications submitted to identify common barriers, uses of funds, and other commonalities that may help direct further assistance and support beyond the scholarship and grant funds. 3. study and report these students' progress toward their goals, including anecdotal information volunteered by these students. 4. communicate directly with these students following their award distribution to request voluntary updates of progress, appearances in marketing collateral for future rounds of funding, and feedback about the application and awarding process. We can work with the district's research department, planning and institutional effectiveness, and other district departments to obtain student data, comparative information about the total student population to establish some baseline data, and other student success anecdotes throughout the school year. These departments collect student success data that we can utilize to develop baseline data. We will all work together to develop what is needed but not currently available, if necessary.

As primary contact for the proposed grantee (i.e. college, college foundation, or district), I agree that the grantee can distribute all of the funds to eligible students, in compliance with the Program Guidelines, no later than June 30, 2027.

Yes

As primary contact for the proposed grantee, I agree that if all funds are not distributed to eligible students by June 30, 2027, the grantee will return undistributed grant funds of \$5,000 or more to FoundationCCC within 30 days thereafter unless a written request for an extension is approved by FoundationCCC. I understand that we should not purposely retain funds, as the goal is to get aid to students in need, and that FoundationCCC reserves the right to adjust or pause future year grant awards to any college with large or ongoing amounts of unspent funds at the end of each grant term.

Yes

As primary contact for the proposed grantee, I understand and agree that a maximum of 20% of funds for the academic year 2026-27 may be disbursed as emergency financial aid.

Yes

As primary contact for the proposed grantee, I understand and agree that by August 1, 2027, my college must submit a report using the template provided by FoundationCCC and including a minimum of at least three student stories. Yes

### Internal Form

Score	n/a
Amount requested:	150000
Amount awarded:	300000

## EXHIBIT B

### College Notification Policy

#### Overview & Background

The Finish Line Scholars Program (Finish Line) was established in 2020 to provide financial support to students at participating community colleges in under-served regions of California to increase student completion rates and help eliminate regional achievement gaps. As the program continues into its fifth year, the Foundation for California Community College (FoundationCCC) has seen the important and positive impact that Finish Line has had on thousands of California Community College students at the 34 participating colleges in the Central Valley, Far North, and Inland Empire regions, and wants to ensure that the program remains strong and viable for the future.

FoundationCCC's intent is to ensure the program continues to be administered successfully, with the ultimate goal of supporting increased student completion rates. The goal of Finish Line scholarships is to support students who are at least halfway through their program so that they attend full-time and complete within one academic year. FoundationCCC has worked closely with participating colleges to implement the program and monitor student success outcomes, including student completion rates. These results have been reported annually to the Jay Pritzker Foundation, the program's funder. Up to this point, however, specific student success outcome targets were not defined.

Based on conversations with the Jay Pritzker Foundation, FoundationCCC is establishing a requirement that colleges set and report on program goals for Finish Line Scholars completion rates. Beginning with the 2025-26 academic year, this College Notification Policy has been implemented to encourage colleges to make program refinements that will improve student success outcomes as demonstrated by the number and percentage of recipients completing their certifications.

#### Objective

The purpose of this notification policy is to alert colleges whose programs are having challenges in achieving the desired student success outcomes in order to (1) ensure that funds are being used effectively and efficiently, and (2) identify opportunities for additional assistance, either from FoundationCCC staff or from other Finish Line colleges, to mitigate any challenges that could result in reduction in or termination of the college's Finish Line Program funding allocation. This notification policy supplements the program requirements, terms, and conditions in the standard grant agreement with each college.

#### Approach and Process

For their Finish Line Scholars scholarship recipients, colleges will be required to achieve student success metrics related to completion rates that meet or exceed the aggregate rate for all Finish Line colleges for a given academic year.

- The target rates will be based on data from the previous academic year's reports (i.e., target rates for the 2026-27 academic year will be based on data from the 2025-26 academic year and past years).
- Colleges that do not meet this goal in any given academic year will be put on notice and will receive additional monitoring of and support for their program administration from FoundationCCC.

If a college does not meet the applicable completion rates for scholarship recipients, FOUNDATIONCCC may place the college on notice and may provide additional monitoring and support. If FOUNDATIONCCC elects to continue funding the college in a subsequent cycle, FOUNDATIONCCC may provide the college up to one academic year to implement improvements before reducing future-year funding and/or determining the college is

not eligible for a future award. Notwithstanding the foregoing, FOUNDATIONCCC (in consultation with the Donor) may adjust participation, funding levels, and eligibility from year to year, including determining that a college will not receive an award in a future cycle.