



VALLEY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ACCEPTING STUDENT APPLICATIONS FOR 2025/26 SCHOOL YEAR

Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (VTCI) will award 20 scholarships to the children of VTCI members pursuing undergraduate study at accredited colleges and universities. Awards will be disbursed at \$4,000 per year over 4 years. Applicants compete first within their own districts; if there are still scholarships remaining to be awarded, the remaining pool of applicants can be considered for 'at large' scholarships. The intent is to award two scholarships per each of the 10 member districts, for a total of 20 scholarships, provided that the applicants meet the criteria of the selection process.

Awards are renewed annually for 3 years or until a bachelor's degree is earned, whichever occurs first, based on recipients maintaining satisfactory academic performance (2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale) and full-time enrollment status at an accredited two-or-four-year college or university. The renewal award amount will include a bonus of \$250 each year the student maintains a 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) or better in the prior year of college. Students may transfer to another accredited institution without penalty of losing their awards. The student must be a dependent child of an active Cooperative member who resides in the VTCI service territory. Awards are for undergraduate study only.

Applications should be sent to Scholarship America, the organization that administers the scholarship program, including selecting the scholarship recipients. Applications will **begin to be accepted on September 11, 2025 and the deadline to submit is November 18, 2025 at 3pm Central Time.**

Scholarship Program Eligibility Requirements

Applicants for the VTCI Scholarship Program must:

- Be a dependent child (as defined in IRS publication 501 at www.irs.gov) of an active member of VTCI who resides in the VTCI service territory, and who has been a member of the Cooperative for at least one year as of the application deadline date
- Be a high school senior as of **November 18, 2025**. Have a minimum high school grade point average of 80%
- Be high school seniors who plan to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two to four year U.S. College or University in Fall of 2026. Recipient must maintain a 2.0 or better GPA average for annual renewal

Award Criteria

Valley Telephone Cooperative Scholarship awards are based on merit. Consideration is based on academic performance and future potential as determined by:

- High school grade average, rank in class and test scores (ACT, and/or SAT)
- Participation in academic-related activities to demonstrate critical thinking and applied knowledge (science fairs, math teams, debate tournaments, etc.)
- Statement of education and career goals
- An appraisal by a school official
- An essay, not to exceed 500 words, on the following topic: "Cooperatives' Contributions to the Community and Economy of South Texas"

The Application Process and Other Information

Applications must be submitted to Scholarship America **no later than 3:00pm CST, November 18, 2025**. Scholarship America will not accept faxed or photocopied applications; only E-Applications will be accepted. Scholarship America will acknowledge receipt of applications via email. Members with any questions please contact Scholarship America at 1-800-537-4180, or by email at vtc-scholarship@scholarshipamerica.org.

Awards may be used for tuition, books, supplies and room and board expenses (any amount used for room and board may be subject to tax). All decisions made by Scholarship America are final, including those on selection of scholars and procedures.