



CAYF
COLEMAN A. YOUNG FOUNDATION

Scholars Program 2026 Application

☞ Awarding College Scholarships to Detroit Youth for 44 Years ☜

Go Young! (#GoYoung)

**Applications must be postmarked no later than
Friday, February 27, 2026**

Application (.pdf) is available online at www.cayf.org and can be completed and submitted electronically. Upload or mail required attachments such as 2025 W-2 and tax forms, letters of recommendation, and essay to the CAYF office at the following address:

Coleman A. Young Foundation
8425 W. McNichols
Madame Cadillac Building #231
Detroit, Michigan 48221
Phone 313.962.2200
www.cayf.org

Acceptance and participation in the CAYF Scholars Program is the same for everyone without regard to religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, disability or sexual preference.

Coleman A. Young Foundation, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit, charitable organization with the Federal identification number 38-2400801. Donations can be made payable to Coleman A. Young Foundation. Michigan charitable license to solicit MICS 8599.

Please print/type all information

APPLICATION DATA

Name: _____ SS#: _____ Birth date: _____
(First, Middle, Last)

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
(number, street and/or apartment #)

Home Phone #: _____ Mobile or Other Phone #: _____

Email address: _____

(Check all that apply) I have read the eligibility requirements and I:

_____ attend a high school located in the city of Detroit.

School Name: _____

Prom Date: _____

Graduation Date: _____

_____ am a high school senior scheduled to graduate in May/June 2026.

_____ live in the city of Detroit, and I am claimed on tax documentation by a parent/guardian who also lives in the city of Detroit; and that person will submit a copy of a Michigan Driver's License or State ID to support the tax documentation submitted.

_____ plan to attend a four-year accredited college/university in Michigan, or an Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in the continental United States.

Please indicate your gender: _____ Man/Male _____ Woman/Female _____ Other: _____

Race/ethnicity: _____ African-American _____ White _____ Native-American/American Indian
_____ Asian or Pacific Islander _____ Hispanic _____ Other: _____

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Name of College/University I will attend is: _____

I have been accepted: _____ yes _____ no

City: _____ State: _____

My college major will be: _____

I estimate it will take _____ years to earn my degree.

Estimated annual costs: Tuition & fees \$ _____

Room & Board \$ _____ Books \$ _____

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name: _____ SS#: _____ Birth date: _____
(First, Middle, Last)

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
(number, street and/or apartment #)

Home Phone #: _____ Mobile or Other Phone #: _____

Please list the names and ages of all siblings, and other minors, age 18 and under, in your home, as well as any other people dependent upon your parent(s) or guardian(s) [explain the dependency in the "Need Declaration" section]:

Please list both (regardless of with whom the student resides) the parent's or guardian's name(s), place of employment, position and title, and annual gross income (you must submit the parent's or guardian's 2025 W-2 and a completed and signed copy of the parent's or guardian's 2025 Federal Income Tax return statement, or welfare/general assistance benefits.) If you are self-supporting, please submit a copy of your 2025 W-2 form, a completed and signed copy of your federal income tax return, or a statement of SSI benefits or other welfare/general assistance benefits. If a legal independent, you must present State of Michigan authorized documentation supporting your legally independent living status.

NEED DECLARATION

On a separate page, state clearly your need for this scholarship and provide any applicable information (include details concerning dependents in household) that may be useful in understanding said need. Please list each (regardless of with whom the student resides) parent's/guardian's name(s), place of employment, position and title, and annual gross income (you must submit the parent's or guardian's 2025 W-2 and a copy of a completed and signed 2025 Federal Income Tax return or statement of welfare or general assistance benefit). Also list all other scholarships or financial aid you have already been awarded or expect to receive (include the name, amount and duration of each award). Please sign the statement. Remember to attach proof of family income (2025 W-2 form, and Federal Income Tax return must be signed by parent or guardian. Application is not accepted without this information.)

REFERRED BY: _____

Print name and organization clearly

ATTACHMENTS TO THE APPLICATION

ACTIVITIES, AWARDS, and HONORS

Provide a resume that includes all school, employment, community and ecumenical activities in which you have participated and received recognition during your high school career.

ESSAY

Write an original essay, typed, double-spaced with your **first and last name on each page, numbered, no more than four pages in length (if you are submitting a paper copy of your application, do not staple and/or print on both sides)** that answers or explains **ALL** of the following inquiries:

1. Who are you, and what are your leadership abilities and potential?
2. How did you become interested in your chosen field of study?
3. Why is college attendance important?
4. How will you contribute to Detroit's growth and development after earning your degree?
5. Discuss two examples of Mayor Coleman A. Young's leadership record, personality and/or level of professionalism that you feel you share.
6. Describe a significant event in the career of Coleman A. Young as Mayor of the City of Detroit that affects you and/or your family. Clearly explain how and why this event is significant to you.

CAP & GOWN PHOTO

Submit a **cap & gown photo** with this application. **Note:** E-mailed photos are acceptable, but must be **at least 300 dpi, or minimum 375x375 pixels**. E-mail to info@cayf.org. Photos deemed too unclear for use will be rejected. Repeated failure to deliver a photo useful enough for print may result in disqualification.

Sign the essay and attach it to the application.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Please submit with this application three letters of recommendation. **Rules:** All recommendation letters must be on letterhead. One letter must be from your high school counselor or an instructor, and must appear on official school letterhead. One letter must be from an individual who is not associated with the high school. Letters should provide as much insight as possible about you, including your history and your leadership potential.

TRANSCRIPT INFORMATION

Official transcripts are provided in a sealed envelope with the registrar's/principal's signature stamped across the document. **Paper copies should remain in an unopened and sealed envelope until it is presented to the Coleman A. Young Foundation (CAYF). High schools should issue official transcripts to the student. Please contact our office if you have any additional questions.**

Submit an **official copy** of your high school transcript and have the following section completed by the guidance counselor:

Cumulative Grade Point Average: ___ / 4.0 scale ACT Composite: _____ SAT Math: _____ SAT Verbal: _____
Remarks: _____

Guidance Counselor Signature: _____

Date: _____

Guidance Counselor Printed Name: _____

Office Phone: _____

Guidance Counselor e-mail address: _____

CERTIFICATION

All of the information on this form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. If asked by Coleman A. Young Foundation (CAYF), I agree to provide proof of the information I have given on this application. I realize that if I do not provide proof when asked, I will not be considered for a scholarship.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

If submitting a hard copy of the application, all supporting materials must be submitted together in one package to CAYF, postmarked no later than Friday, February 27, 2026, to:

Scholar Program Manager
Coleman A. Young Foundation
8425 W. McNichols
Madame Cadillac Building #231
Detroit, Michigan 48221

Please see www.cayf.org for information on the foundation.

No facsimiles will be accepted.

2026 APPLICATION: COLEMAN A. YOUNG FOUNDATION (CAYF) SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Coleman A. Young Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit, charitable organization founded in 1982 to develop leadership among Detroit youth through college scholarships, mentoring and other supports for personal growth and development.

Coleman A. Young Foundation (CAYF) Scholars Program

CAYF strives to reach as many students as possible who are confirmed to have leadership potential by teachers, guidance counselors, and community leaders, are committed to Detroit, and who may not be able to attend college without CAYF's assistance. The Scholars Program provides academic mentoring and coaching, and counseling to all its scholars.

Eligibility

Applicants must be residents of Detroit who will graduate from a Detroit high school - public, private or parochial - during the award year. Applicants also must:

- Plan to attend a four-year accredited college or university in Michigan or an Historically Black College or University (HBCU).
- Meet all admission requirements of the college or university.
- Have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better.
- Demonstrate financial need (**proof of annual family income is required**). **A 2025 W-2 Federal Income Tax form filed with IRS is required to accompany this application and must be signed by a parent or guardian. Application is not accepted without this information.**
- Complete a scholarship application and provide the required attachments.
- Proof of residence in Detroit.

The Scholarship Award

CAYF awards scholarships of up to \$5,000 annually for a maximum of \$20,000 over four or five years to eligible graduating high school seniors. Funds must be used to pay for expenses related to attending college including tuition, fees, room and board, books, and transportation.

Key Notification Dates for Finalists

Scholar semi-finalist notifications will be delivered via e-mail on March 13, 2026. Semi-finalists must participate in an interview process. Interview rounds are scheduled **throughout the day** on **Wednesday, March 18, 2026**; and at assigned times on **Wednesday, April 1, 2026** and **Wednesday, April 15, 2026**. All interview dates are mandatory. **Conflicts with the interview dates must be made known in writing at the time your application is submitted.** Scholarship recipients must participate in the **2026 Annual Awards Experience TBD**.

Renewal of Awards

Scholarship awards of up to \$5,000 per year are renewable for a maximum of \$20,000 over 4 or 5 years. Recipients must continue to 1) demonstrate financial need, 2) maintain satisfactory academic performance, 3) demonstrate their ability to succeed, with proper tutoring, counseling and guidance, and 4) maintain a high level of community commitment and involvement.

CHECKLIST — The CAYF Scholars program application becomes complete and valid only when you have submitted all of the following material in one package (please review this checklist carefully):

The Completed Application Form must be accompanied by the following ATTACHMENTS:

- ___ 1. Statement of **need declaration**
- ___ 2. **Proof of family income** (2025 W-2 and 2025 Federal Tax Return; or a statement of welfare)
- ___ 3. **Proof of Residency** in the city of Detroit.
- ___ 4. **Resume**
- ___ 5. **Essay**
- ___ 6. An **official transcript** of grades and either the ACT or SAT results.
- ___ 7. **Three letters of recommendation** (see "Letters of Recommendation" rules on page 3).
- ___ 8. A **cap & gown photo** (see "Cap & Gown Photo" instructions on page 3).

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