



**Angel Scholarship Fund Tuition Assistance Program
Award Distribution of Undesignated and Designated Funds Overview 2026-2027**

The Angel Scholarship funds are the result of a tax credit available under section 5747.73 of the Ohio Revised Code for qualified donations to “scholarship granting organizations” certified by the Ohio Attorney General to support the tuition needs of families. The Scholarship Granting Organization of the Catholic Community Foundation (a “subsidiary” of the Catholic Community Foundation) was certified as a Scholarship Granting Organization in December of 2021 and is doing business as *The Angel Scholarship Fund*.

The Angel Scholarship Fund received funds designated for each school and undesignated funds to the area of greatest need, and will distribute those funds in the form of scholarships to students following the process indicated below:

- To be considered for an award, families must have completed an Angel Scholarship Fund Application through an online form where they reported their household size and total household income. The information they submitted yielded a federal poverty level based on the [2026 Federal Poverty Guidelines](#) and listed each applicant as “above” or “below” 300%.
- The Office of Catholic Education of the Diocese of Cleveland (OCE) manages the review process to award funds from the Angel Scholarship Fund. Each school with designated/undesignated funds and applicants are required to submit a completed excel sheet (using the template provided by our office) of recommended scholarship recipients and amounts by September 1st, 2026. For a submission to be considered qualified, it must be sent in EXCEL format, document your recommendations by potential recipient, and include the criteria used for making assistance awards in the space provided on the award template. **Schools are required to meet the following criteria in their award recommendations:**
 - **Prioritizing scholarships to low-income students.** In making recommendations, the designated school **must** prioritize awarding scholarships to low-income students, and the award

recommendations must clearly indicate how this is accomplished. Per guidelines set by the Office of the Ohio Attorney General, low-income in this case refers to “below 300% of poverty level.”

- **Applicants that are below 300% FPL must have their entire tuition gap filled before students that are above 300% FPL will be approved for an award.** In other words, for students below 300% FPL the Recommended Award \$ for Tuition must either: reduce the tuition gap to \$0, or use the Comments/Justification field to include an explanation of how the remaining tuition gap is being funded (e.g., parish grant, Fund A Dream scholarship, etc.).
- **Students on the award list must have a completed application** through our ASF diocesan application. They are considered complete if listed as "Above" or "Below" 300% FPL. Schools must use the FPL Listed in the application results spreadsheet compiled from the parent submitted application to make awards for students.
- **All applicants should be included in the award recommendation spreadsheet,** even if the student is not recommended for an award. The school shall list the amount to be \$0 and include a justification as to why they were not awarded.
- **Each award recommendation shall include a justification** which clearly documents the reasons the award is appropriate.
 - ♣ The following are examples of justifications, which will **not** be accepted:
 - “Volunteer at the Parish / School”
 - Not an allowable justification to support a tuition assistance award
 - “Donations to the Parish / School”
 - Not an allowable justification to support a tuition assistance award
 - Same justification comment provided for different award recommendations
 - For example: If an award to one family is \$500 and another is \$1,200, there must be a clear & specific justification supporting the different award recommendations.
- Undesignated award amounts were allocated by the diocesan office. The award amounts cannot be adjusted; however, if the students originally recommended are not enrolled or their tuition is already covered by other scholarships, the award can be reallocated to other students who are also below 300%. The total undesignated amount cannot exceed the total originally awarded to the school. Notes in the justification column of the “26.27 Award Recommendations” Sheet should provide an explanation of these updates.

05/27/2026

- Once the final list of award recommendations is reviewed and approved by the Angel Scholarship Assistance Team, schools are notified of the approval and one award check for the total award amount is issued to the school along with a schedule of award recipients. Checks are distributed in mid/ate October 2026.
- While the deadline to submit is September 1st, schools do have the option to submit early. If you choose to submit early, you will forfeit the opportunity to revise your awards after approval. Funds for students who do not enroll or do not need their awards will not be reallocated and will need to be returned. If you would like an early submission, please email asf@dioceseofcleveland.org with this request and dates for next steps will be provided to you. As early reviews will be happening during summer, we cannot guarantee timeline so please allow for a couple weeks to review and an additional couple of weeks for checks to be cut.
- Schools are responsible for communicating the final approved awards to families.