



Prosperity Denver Fund - Our Story

In 2018, Denver voters passed a ballot measure known as Prosperity Denver (the Fund). The ordinance created a 0.08% sales tax (about one penny per \$10 purchase), which is allocated in the form of reimbursements to nonprofits (the Fund's Supported Organizations, or "SOs") providing scholarships to Denver students for low-income households. The initiative is designed to increase enrollment and completion by Denver students attending public or not-for-profit technical schools, community colleges and universities across Colorado. To date, the Fund distributed more than \$20 million to 35 nonprofit organizations for 7,500 scholarships awarded to Denver students.

How The Fund Works

Here's an example: Latinas First Foundation awards scholarships to students each year. Once those scholarships are awarded, Prosperity Denver Fund reimburses Latinas First for the dollars they award. Wraparound/support services up to the amount of the scholarship are also available for reimbursement. Eligible students must apply for those dollars through Latinas First.

How Scholarships Are Granted

The Fund does not award scholarships directly to students or offer support or wraparound services. The organization works with nonprofits who can help support students in applying for postsecondary education scholarships. The Fund partners with a growing network of 40+ local nonprofit organizations who determine scholarship qualifications, deadlines, other support services, etc.

A Few of our Supported Organizations/Nonprofits

[Visit this page](#) to see which nonprofit organizations are eligible Supported Organizations and how you can reach them.

Examples of “wraparound” or “support services”

Some nonprofit organizations offer services in addition to scholarships, such as academic advising and career guidance counseling. They may also offer assistance with childcare, housing, healthcare, transportation, tutoring, mentoring, etc. These areas of assistance are also avenues of support that make college more accessible, affordable and attainable. Those services are also reimbursable to the Fund’s supported organizations.

Can I partner with more than one nonprofit?

There is no limit to the nonprofit organizations to which a student can apply, as long as that organization is supported by the Fund.

Scholarship Application Deadline

Application deadlines and requirements are determined by each nonprofit according to their statutes, charters and scholarship/assistance guidelines, etc.

Recent Changes

In May of 2023 Prosperity Denver Fund won approval from City Council and the Mayor for ordinance changes that have enabled us to broaden eligibility for students and maximize distribution of funds. We appreciate all of the input and assistance provided by many partners to get these changes passed.

The following amendments to the ordinance became effective on May 30th, 2023:

- **Residency:** If 25 years of age or under, a student must must have graduated from a high school in Denver or lived in Denver for six months prior to their first scheduled postsecondary class day; and if between 26 and 30 years of age, a student must have lived in Denver for six months prior to their first scheduled postsecondary class day.
- **Age:** Eligible students may not be older than 30 years of age as of the final scheduled class day of the academic year for which a reimbursement grant is requested.
- **Credential Programs:** Eligibility is expanded to support state or federal approved apprenticeships and evidence-based programs
- **High School Support Services:** In addition to collegiate support services, the Fund will offer a reimbursement opportunity to high school support services programs.
- **Admin Cap:** The Fund is able to make greater investments in Denver scholarship p\

Minimum G.P.A. Requirements

Each nonprofit SO establishes its own academic and other guidelines and requirements for the awarding of scholarships and/or other types of assistance, but to qualify for reimbursable funds, students must be enrolled in a postsecondary institution and maintain satisfactory academic progress.

Denver Residency

The Fund reimburses nonprofit organizations for scholarships and services to students originating from the City and County of Denver. International students must also reside within the City and County of Denver. For a link to specific areas covered and/or supported students by district and demographic, please click here and scroll:

<https://www.prosperitydenverfund.org/supported-organizations/>

www.prosperitydenverfund.org