



APPLICATION to become a COLLEGE BOUND OPPORTUNITIES SCHOLAR

TO BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED NO LATER THAN:

Friday, May 9, 2025

Thank you for your interest in applying to become a College Bound Opportunities (CBO) Scholar. CBO is a not-for-profit organization providing qualified students from Buffalo Grove High School (BGHS), Cristo Rey St. Martin (CRSM), Deerfield High School (DHS), Highland Park High School (HPS), Lake Forest High School (LFHS) and Vernon Hills High School (VHHS), with personal mentoring, academic support, career preparation, and financial support as needed while in college, to ensure every CBO Scholar graduates college. In the eighteen years since its founding, CBO has assisted nearly 500 students in realizing their goal of a college education.

CBO welcomes all qualified applicants (US citizenship not required). To qualify to become a CBO Scholar, you must:

- Be a high school sophomore attending BGHS, CRSM, DHS, HPS, LFHS or VHHS
- Have a strong academic record with a GPA of a B or better
- Demonstrate real financial need

If you are selected as a CBO Scholar, CBO staff will help you and your family complete college, financial aid, and scholarship applications and will work with you and your family to help you determine which college is the best fit for you, academically, socially, culturally and financially. Additionally, you will be paired with a CBO mentor who will help guide you through your high school and college years. CBO staff and your mentor will continue to assist you during your years in college.

CBO also offers its scholars the opportunity to earn financial support (on an as-needed basis). This financial support is renewable each year of college providing you maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 and carry the minimum number of credit hours each semester to ensure you graduate college in four years.

Please note: *CBO Scholars are required to attend and live at a four-year college/university. We do not financially support students who attend community college or those who live at home while attending a four-year school.*

Before completing this application, please read the attached CBO High School and College Contract (pages 15 & 16) to which all recipients must adhere during high school and college in order to maintain their eligibility in CBO and financial support privileges.

If you have questions about CBO or this application, please contact Orlando Chavez, College Access Associate, at orlando@cbo4success.org or at 847-224-4128, or CBO's Executive Director, Susan Bell, at susan@cbo4success.org or at 847-507-2627.

INSTRUCTIONS

Application for the CBO program must be completed and returned no later than:

Friday, May 9, 2025 - Late applications will not be accepted

1. Fill out all pages of the application in their entirety, *including the two (2) essay questions on page 10*. All information must be filled in or the application will not be considered. If an item is not applicable, write N/A.
2. Materials to submit with your application:
 - A counselor recommendation (see page 13) **and** a teacher recommendation (see page 14). Your counselor and teacher should email their recommendations to **Orlando Chavez**, CBO College Access Associate, at orlando@cbo4success.org. ****To give your recommenders plenty of time to write your recommendations, please request your recommendations no later than 2 weeks before the deadline of May 9, 2025.**
 - An unofficial transcript through 1st semester of your sophomore year
 - A copy of your *parents'* most recent tax return(s) (2024 preferred). Due to new rules for filing financial aid forms, please note:
 - If your parents are married and file a joint tax return, please submit their one tax return
 - If your parents are married and file separate tax returns, please submit the tax returns for **each** parent
 - If your parents are unmarried and file separate tax returns, please submit the tax returns for **each** parent
 - If your parents are divorced, please submit the tax returns for **each** parent
 - If you are unable to provide tax returns please provide a brief explanation as to why not
 - A copy of **your** most recent tax return (if applicable)

All supporting documents must be submitted by the deadline, Friday, May 9, 2025, or your application will not be considered. Late applications will not be accepted.
3. Return all application materials to CBO by:
 - dropping off: to CBO staff at your high school or to your counselor at your high school, **or**
 - emailing: Orlando Chavez, CBO College Access Associate, at orlando@cbo4success.org, **or**
 - mailing to: 2033 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Suite 246, Riverwoods, IL 60015
4. Following review of your application you will be notified if your application will proceed to the interview phase. If so, you will be notified by email of your interview date and time, so please make sure the email address you provide is correct, legible, and one you check often.
*****Interviews will take place between June 1st and June 20th**
5. CBO is a highly competitive program and not all applicants can be offered a place within CBO. Applicants will be notified about their selection in mid-July, 2025, **AFTER** CBO reviews your official transcript from both freshman and sophomore year.

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student's Legal Name: Enter your name exactly as it appears on official documents, social security card or passport.

FIRST **MIDDLE** **LAST**

Preferred Name: _____

Student Email: **CIRCLE which one you prefer and will read!**

Student **SCHOOL** Email: _____

Student **PERSONAL** Email: _____

Student Cell Phone: _____ Student Home Phone: _____

ADDRESS:

Street _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy): ____/____/____ Gender (how you currently identify): _____

Place of Birth (City, State, Country): _____

What is your citizenship status? (Citizenship status will NOT impact your eligibility for CBO)

U.S. Citizen U.S. Permanent Resident or Green Card Holder Other Non-U.S. Citizen

Social Security Number (if applicable): _____ - _____ - _____

Ethnicity (Optional) (Please check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African American, Black | <input type="checkbox"/> Mexican American, Chicana/o |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian American | <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian, including Indian Subcontinent | <input type="checkbox"/> White or Caucasian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Latina/o, Hispanic | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American, Alaskan Native
(tribal affiliation _____ enrolled _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander |

High School: _____ **Counselor:** _____

Weighted GPA*:** _____ **Unweighted GPA***:** _____

*****Make sure to include a copy of your unofficial transcript through 1st semester sophomore year**

With whom do you live (Circle ALL that apply):

Mother Stepmother Father Stepfather Grandparent(s) Guardian

FAMILY INFORMATION FOR THE PEOPLE YOU LIVE WITH (this means you live at the same address as this person):

Mother/Stepmother/Grandmother/Guardian: (Circle One)

FIRST	MIDDLE	LAST
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Mother's Cell Phone: _____ Mother's Home Phone: _____

Mother's Email: _____

Mother's Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy): _____

Mother's Place of Birth (City, State, Country): _____

Social Security Number (if applicable): _____ - _____ - _____

Marital Status: Married Divorced Widowed Separated Never Married

Highest Level of Education: _____

College attended (if applicable): _____

Mother's Employer's Name: _____

Employer's Address: _____

Occupation: _____

Ethnicity (Optional) (Please check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African American, Black | <input type="checkbox"/> Mexican American, Chicana/o |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian American | <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian, including Indian Subcontinent | <input type="checkbox"/> White or Caucasian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Latina/o, Hispanic | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American, Alaskan Native
(tribal affiliation _____ enrolled _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander |

FAMILY INFORMATION FOR THE PEOPLE YOU LIVE WITH (this means you live at the same address as this person):

Father/Stepfather/Grandfather/Guardian: (Circle One)

FIRST **MIDDLE** **LAST**

Father's Cell Phone: _____ Father's Home Phone: _____

Father's Email: _____

Father's Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy): _____

Father's Place of Birth (City, State, Country): _____

Social Security Number (if applicable): _____ - _____ - _____

Marital Status: Married Divorced Widowed Separated Never Married

Highest Level of Education: _____

College attended (if applicable): _____

Father's Employer's Name: _____

Employer's Address: _____

Occupation: _____

Ethnicity (Optional) (Please check *all* that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African American, Black | <input type="checkbox"/> Mexican American, Chicana/o |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian American | <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian, including Indian Subcontinent | <input type="checkbox"/> White or Caucasian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Latina/o, Hispanic | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American, Alaskan Native
(tribal affiliation _____ enrolled _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander |

SIBLINGS (whether they live with you or not):

<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>\$ Tuition you pay (If applicable)</i>	<i>School Attending This School Year (2024-25 school year)</i>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			

Other than your parents & siblings, please list any other people who live with you:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relationship to you</i>

Activities (Do not abbreviate activity names. List dates of participation in mm/yy or season/yy format.)

School Activities: List high school-related activities in which you have participated. Please list most important first.

Activity	Leadership Position	Dates of Participation	Hours per Week

If you did not participate in any activities/extracurriculars, please explain the circumstances that prevented your involvement:

Community/ Volunteer Activities: List community activities in which you have participated without pay

Organization	Activity/Service	Dates of Participation	Hours per Week

Awards/Honors: List awards or honors you have received and briefly explain their significance.

Award/Honor	Significance	Date Received

Employment: List any jobs you have held during your high school years, including summers.

Employer	Job/Type of Work	From (mm/yy)	To (mm/yy)	Hours per Week

College Bound Opportunities is looking to learn more about the experiences that have shaped you. Please write two essays (the main essay and the short essay) in response to the following prompts and attach to your application:

Main Essay (approximately 300 words):

Please tell us a story about yourself to help CBO get to know you.

Short Essay (150 words or less):

Along with the main essay, please **choose 1** of the 2 questions you see below. Please keep your response to 150 words or less.

1. What is an achievement you are proud of and why? This could be anything at all – a class, an extracurricular activity, a job, a sport, a church activity.
2. What is your favorite activity outside of classes and why do you like it?

Estimated Family Income Section (dollars only)

****All information below is to be based on 2025 estimates****

Household Gross Income from people **you live with** (do not include guardian income):

Father/stepfather's Income \$ _____

Mother/stepmother's Income \$ _____

Income from parents you don't live with (if applicable) \$ _____

Child Support Received Per Year (if applicable) \$ _____

Social Security Benefits (if applicable) \$ _____

TOTAL FAMILY INCOME \$ _____

Other Financial Information

Do you own or rent your home? Own Rent

If you rent, how much rent do you pay per month? \$ _____

If you own, what is your mortgage payment per month? \$ _____

Total amount in checking and savings accounts, stocks,
bonds or other investments \$ _____

Total amount in college funds
(such as 529 plan or College Illinois) \$ _____

Other Estimated Expenses for 2025

Medical/Dental \$ _____

Legal Fees \$ _____

Other (please explain) \$ _____

Required Certifications

Applicant Certification

I certify that the information provided in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct. I have not knowingly withheld any facts or circumstances that could otherwise jeopardize consideration of this application. If selected for CBO, I give permission for the release of my application materials (excluding identifiable and financial information) for promotional purposes.

Signature of
Applicant _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Certification

I certify that I have reviewed the Application Checklist in the *Application Instructions* and that all requested information has been provided. I certify that the family and financial information provided in the application is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct.

Signature of
Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____

Release of Information (must be signed by applicant AND parent or guardian)

By signing this application, We hereby (i) formally authorize any recipient of any portion of this document to provide any and all information of any kind whatsoever requested to College Bound Opportunities or any of its agents, employees, or representatives, and (ii) forever release any of the entities or individuals seeking or providing any such information from any and all claims or damages that I may or actually do sustain as a result of seeking or providing any such information.

Signature of
Applicant _____

Date _____

Signature of
Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____

Complete and return this Application no later than 5/9/2025.



**College Bound Opportunities
2025 Application for High School Sophomores**

Counselor Recommendation

*****Please give these instructions to your counselor!**

Student Name: _____

This student is applying for the College Bound Opportunities program.

College Bound Opportunities (CBO) is a not-for-profit organization that is primarily supported by individuals and organizations in the north suburban communities of Chicago. We provide students with proven academic potential and financial need the opportunity to pursue a college degree through one-on-one mentoring with a CBO mentor and financial support when needed.

Recommendation

Please write whatever you think is important about this student, including a description of academic and personal characteristics. We welcome information that will help us to differentiate this student from others. Please be sure to include how long you have known the student and in what capacity.

Please e-mail your recommendation to **Orlando Chavez**, CBO College Access Associate, at orlando@cbo4success.org. All recommendations are confidential and will not be shared with the student. Admission to CBO will be based upon the student's transcript, personal essay, individual interview, and your evaluation.

Please return this recommendation no later than 5/9/2025.

We very much appreciate your help. Thank you!



**College Bound Opportunities
2025 Application for High School Sophomores**

Teacher Recommendation

*****Please give these instructions to the teacher writing your recommendation!**

Student Name: _____

This student is applying for the College Bound Opportunities program.

College Bound Opportunities (CBO) is a not-for-profit organization that is primarily supported by individuals and organizations in the north suburban communities of Chicago. We provide students with proven academic potential and financial need the opportunity to pursue a college degree through one-on-one mentoring with a CBO mentor and financial support when needed.

Recommendation

Please write whatever you think is important about this student, including a description of academic and personal characteristics, as demonstrated in your classroom. We welcome information that will help us to differentiate this student from others. Please be sure to include how long you have known the student and in what capacity.

Please e-mail your recommendation to **Orlando Chavez**, CBO College Access Associate, at orlando@cbo4success.org. All recommendations are confidential and will not be shared with the student. Admission to CBO will be based upon the student's transcript, personal essay, individual interview, and your evaluation.

Please return this recommendation no later than 5/9/2025.

We very much appreciate your help. Thank you!



CBO STUDENT CONTRACT DURING *HIGH SCHOOL*

Please review the following CBO rules before completing the application:

CBO high school scholars are required to comply with all of the rules listed below. You will receive two non-compliance warnings. With the third non-compliance, your financial support may be reduced or denied and you may be removed from the program.

All CBO Scholars must:

- 1. Have a mentor. CBO will assign you a mentor, who along with the CBO staff, will assist you with your college search, application and financial aid processes, as well as monitor your progress while you are in college.**
- 2. Maintain a GPA of 2.8 or higher while in high school.**
- 3. You may not drop a class without first consulting with CBO staff and your counselor.**
- 4. Attend ALL other CBO-sponsored classes and meetings.**
- 5. Work with the CBO staff to identify those colleges which will offer you the most comprehensive financial aid package.**
***Please note – because of financial considerations, no CBO scholar will be allowed to apply Early Decision to college.*
- 6. Apply for college scholarships through your high school college resource center.**
- 7. Work during summer vacation, so as to save money and be able to contribute to your own college educational expenses.**
- 8. Respond to all emails, phone calls and texts related to CBO matters within 24 hours of receipt. Meet or speak with your mentor at least twice each month.**
- 9. Continue to demonstrate high motivation, strength of character and responsibility at school, work, and in the community.**

***** All rules and regulations are subject to change without advanced notice.**



CBO STUDENT CONTRACT DURING COLLEGE

CBO college scholars are required to comply with all of the rules listed below. You will receive two non-compliance warnings. With the third non-compliance, your financial support may be reduced or denied and you may be removed from the program.

While in college, CBO Scholars must:

- 1. Maintain a minimum G.P.A. of 2.0. Carry the minimum number of credit hours within your major each semester that keeps you on track to graduate in four years. You may not drop a class without first consulting with CBO staff and/or your college advisor.**
- 2. Live on campus for your first two years of college.**
- 3. Provide CBO the following information whenever asked:**
 - Login to college portal**
 - Grade Status**
 - Financial Aid Status**
- 4. When borrowing monies for college, utilize only Stafford Subsidized and Unsubsidized loans or School-based loans whenever possible. *Review all loans with a member of the CBO staff before signing any loan documents.***
- 5. Apply early for work-study on campus. If a work-study job is not available, secure a part-time job within the campus community.**
- 6. Work during summer vacation, so as to save money and be able to contribute to your own college educational expenses.**
- 7. When home on breaks and summer vacations, participate in all CBO workshops and meetings designed specifically for CBO college students.**
- 8. When home on breaks and summer vacations, be available to meet with younger CBO students to share experiences and knowledge.**
- 9. Respond to all emails, phone calls and texts related to CBO matters within 24 hours of receipt. Communicate with your mentor at least twice each month.**
- 10. Continue to demonstrate high motivation, strength of character and responsibility at school, work and in the community.**

***** All rules and regulations are subject to change without advanced notice.**