



District of Columbia
Office of the State Superintendent of Education

DC FUTURES PROGRAM APPLICANT HANDBOOK

2023-24 Award Period

Feb. 3, 2023

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Introduction

This Applicant Handbook offers information for individuals who are invited to apply to the DC Futures Program (DC Futures). It includes sections on [applicant eligibility requirements](#), the [application process](#), [student participant responsibilities](#), and points of contact.

Once you have reviewed the handbook, if you have additional questions about DC Futures, please contact Melanie Fleming at Melanie.Fleming@dc.gov or (202) 727-2824. Your input will help the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) improve information offered to future applicants.

What is DC Futures?

DC Futures is an application-based program that offers DC residents a variety of supports to ensure their success at the university of their choice - **DC Futures is SO much more than a scholarship.**



A Scholarship – all DC Futures participants are eligible for a last-dollar scholarship of up to \$8,000 a year to attend one of three approved local universities if they major in specific program areas or majors. Participants in spring/summer award periods will be eligible for up to \$4,000.

AND



College Coaching – all DC Futures participants have access to a college coaching program – with either designated DC Futures College Coaching providers or an approved program such as DC Public Schools (DCPS) Persists. This support comes with a coaching stipend of up to \$125 per month, separate from any scholarship award.



Access to additional funds – DC Futures participants *who enroll in their university* are eligible to request up to \$2,000 annually in emergency funds for those expenses that come up on a rainy day.

DC Futures participants *who enroll in their university* are also eligible to request up to \$1,500 one-time for prior year tuition payments. Both types of requests will be based on need and fund availability and will be managed by the recipient’s university.

Whether you are interested the scholarship, coaching, or career advice – explore the sections below, to determine if you are eligible for DC Futures, and then apply!

Please note: Participants in partial award periods (e.g., spring/summer 2023) will not be eligible for the maximum stipend amount, since the number of months with coaching participation will be fewer than those of a participant in the full academic year. For example, a full academic year – fall, spring, summer would include up to twelve months of coaching stipends totaling \$1,500 (12 months at \$125 per month). Participants who begin coaching in January for spring/summer could receive up to \$875 for their participation

(seven months at \$125 per month). Regardless of time period, the monthly stipend is based on participation and disbursement is managed by the designated DC Futures College Coaching providers.

Eligibility Requirements

- ✓ **You have been a resident of the District of Columbia for the last 12 months**

Note: For most students younger than age 24, your residency is determined by your parents. See [here](#) for exceptions.

- ✓ **You can demonstrate financial need based on annual household income**

Your household income aligns with this table. For families/households with more than eight persons, add \$18,880 for each additional person.

Household Size	Maximum Annual Income
3 or fewer	\$100,000
4	\$111,000
5	\$129,880
6	\$148,760
7	\$167,640
8	\$186,520

Applicants will be asked to provide documentation to verify eligibility (see application for additional details). All enrollment information will be confirmed with the applicant’s university prior to awards being disbursed.

If you have questions about eligibility, please contact Melanie Fleming at Melanie.Fleming@dc.gov or (202) 727-2824.

Renewal Criteria

Applicants seeking funding in subsequent years are expected to meet all of the the following program participation terms. You will remain eligible for DC Futures if:

- ✓ **You continue to meet the eligibility requirements detailed above**
- ✓ **You participate regularly in College Coaching**

DC Futures participants participate in College Coaching with a designated coaching provider assigned by OSSE, unless you are already in an approved college coaching program (see below). Either option will help you navigate structural and academic barriers to college persistence and completion and can help you plan for your future career. If you don’t engage with your coach, your eligibility for future DC Futures acceptance is jeopardized.

✓ **You are on track to earn your degree**

As a DC Futures participant you are expected to maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP) as determined by the university you attend, as well as satisfy the minimum credit requirements outlined below each semester in the award year/period. Summer semester enrollment is optional for any DC Futures participant.

Generally, this means a part-time student would enroll in at least six credits in the fall semester and at least six credits in the spring semester, and a full-time student would enroll in at least 12 credits in the fall semester and 12 credits in the spring semester.

Please note: For the spring/summer 2023 award period, a part-time student would enroll in at least six credits in spring 2023, while a full-time student would enroll in at least 12 credits in spring 2023.

✓ **Complete annual application to provide updated information and documentation**

The application for the 2023-24 award period will open Feb. 1, 2023, and current participants must apply in order to be accepted and receive DC Futures supports during the 2023-24 academic year.

Application Process & Documents

The DC Futures application is online. Before you create an account and complete that application, it is helpful to take care of a few things first.

1. Before you apply

- ✓ Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) for the 2023-24 school year, if eligible and get a copy of your Student Aid Report (SAR).
- ✓ Document DC residency and financial need by:
 - Use the table below to identify the documents you will need to provide (if you choose this option, please provide each document you need in one of the following formats: .doc, .docx, .pdf, .jpeg)
 - Note: Applicants (e.g., spring/summer 2023) will not be required to have a completed DC Tuition Assistance Grant (DCTAG) application on-file. However, if they do have an application on-file *that was deemed eligible*, the applicant can indicate this and will not have to upload additional documents.

Please choose one from Column A **AND** one from Column B:

Column A	Column B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022 Certified D-40 Tax Return from the DC Office of Tax & Revenue • 2022 Certified D-40 Tax Extension with 2021 Certified D-40 Tax Return from the DC Office of Tax & Revenue • 2022 Filed/Processed D-40 Tax Return (signed and dated by the parent/legal guardian) 	<p><i>(These documents may be no older than 45 days, and must include parent/legal guardian’s name, date, and address)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank or Mortgage Statement (Name, Date and Address Section) – Credit card statements are not acceptable forms of documentation

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2022 Filed/Processed D-40 Tax Extension (FR-127) with 2021 Filed/Processed D-40 Tax Return (signed and dated by the parent/legal guardian)• 12-month (January-December 2022) Child Support Statement• 12-month (January-December 2022) Retirement/Annuity Statement• 12-month (January-December 2022) Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) or Social Security Income (SSI)• 12-month (January-December 2022) TANF/SNAP/Food Stamp Statement or 'TANF/SNAP Authorization Request' Form• 12-month (January-December 2022) Unemployment Benefits or Workers' Compensation Disability• Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Documentation of Independent Student Status (dated for 2022)• Ward of the Court Letter (dated for 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pay Stub (Name, Date and Address Section)• Utility Bill (gas, water, cable, electric, land line phone) – no cell phone bills will be accepted• Utility Letter (from landlord or on rental office letterhead, stating utilities are included in rent)
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2. Complete DC Futures online application in the Application for Postsecondary Studies (APS)

To complete the application, please:

- ✓ Register to use the new APS at scholarships.osse.dc.gov.
- ✓ Verify your registration using an emailed code.
- ✓ Complete the "My Profile" section by providing your personal information.
- ✓ State your enrollment intentions.¹ Applicants will state their enrollment intentions when applying to DC Futures. These intentions include enrollment in:
 - An eligible institution within the next academic year, AND
 - A degree-seeking program, AND
 - A high-demand field.
- ✓ Applicants will also affirm that they are pursuing their first associate or first bachelor's degree. Students enrolled in non-degree certificate programs are not eligible for DC Futures.
- ✓ Upload the documents that show you meet the residency and financial requirements (applicants are expected to submit all documents electronically and will only be able to submit documents in-person in the case of an extenuating circumstance), or indicate they were already included in a DCTAG that

¹ Because enrollment intentions may only be verified during invoicing with participating institutions for each semester of enrollment (as of the add/drop date), these are not requirements for acceptance to DC Futures. Any participant who does not successfully enroll may still receive coaching support and coaching participation stipend for the duration of the program year, if they are accepted to DC Futures based on residency and financial/income requirements.

was deemed eligible for the 2023-24 academic year. Note: If possible, please complete the DC OneApp DCTAG application BEFORE you register in APS.

- ✓ Provide permission for OSSE to share relevant data with DC Futures partners to make sure you receive services in an efficient manner.
- ✓ Look for a confirmation email stating that your application is complete.

For application support, please contact Melanie Fleming at Melanie.Fleming@dc.gov or (202) 727-2824.

Application Timeline

All applications (including all supporting documents) must be submitted before the appropriate deadline.

The 2023-24 academic year application opened Feb. 1, 2023 and funds will begin being released the following fall semester (on or after August 2023). For example, if you apply in February 2023 and are eligible, you will receive the scholarship and other supports in fall semester of the 2023-24 academic year.

All applicants will receive a determination (acceptance, waitlist, or denial) via email before Sept. 15, 2023 (this includes notification of denial because of ineligibility for any reason).

Applicants on the waitlist who are accepted will be notified via email.

OSSE will work with your university to process your scholarship in a timely manner. The actual scholarship amount will be determined by your university and funds may not be disbursed if your tuition and fees will be covered by other funding sources (e.g., Pell Grant, other scholarships, etc.). **Please note: If your tuition and fees are covered by other sources, you are STILL eligible for other components of this program including coaching and coaching stipends, as well as emergency funds and prior year unpaid balance requests.**

DC Futures Scholarship Details

DC Futures is so much more than a scholarship. Scholarships for 2023-24 will begin fall 2023 and continue through summer 2024. Coaching may begin as soon as March 2023.

This section provides additional information on [DC Futures College Coaching – substitutions](#) and the [coaching stipend](#), [emergency fund and prior year unpaid balance requests](#), [scholarship amounts](#), [costs covered by the scholarship](#), [program time limits](#), [student responsibilities](#), [transfers](#), and [changes in majors](#).

DC Futures Scholarship

Once you meet eligibility requirements for DC Futures, you may receive a last dollar scholarship on a first-come, first-served basis and as outlined under the program’s priorities, which are subject to change. OSSE reserves the right to make final funding determinations based on available funds and program capacity.

Eligible applicants who are not granted funding because of funding restrictions or space in a designated DC Futures College Coaching program will be placed on a waitlist managed by OSSE. Applicants on the waitlist will be notified via email if a space in the program becomes available.

Verification of Applicant Enrollment Intentions

Scholarship payments are processed each semester in APS, via invoices between OSSE and eligible universities. During this process, OSSE will verify each participant’s statement of enrollment intentions from the application. These are:

- ✓ **The applicant is accepted or enrolled part- or full-time at one of the following eligible universities**

Catholic University of America
Trinity Washington University
University of the District of Columbia – Community College
University of the District of Columbia

- ✓ **The applicant is seeking their first associate or bachelor’s degree**

Individuals who have previously received a bachelor’s degree are not eligible to apply for DC Futures. Individuals who hold an associate or bachelor’s degree that is not recognized in the US are eligible to participate in this program.

- ✓ **The applicant is majoring in a high-demand field**

A list of eligible majors is available on the [OSSE website](#). Please make sure you are reviewing the most recent version.

If any of the three above-noted enrollment components are not met (eligible institution, initial degree-seeking enrollment in a high-demand field), the DC Futures participant is not eligible to receive scholarship funds and may jeopardize future acceptance in DC Futures.

Any participant who does not successfully enroll may still receive coaching support and coaching participation stipend for the duration of the program year, if they are accepted to DC Futures based on residency and financial/income requirements.

Please Note: Only *enrolled* DC Futures participants may access scholarship funds, emergency fund requests and previous years’ unpaid balance payment requests because these payments are processed through participating institutions.

All DC Futures participants are strongly encouraged to enroll in an eligible institution of higher education (IHE) as soon as possible. DC Futures will not withhold coaching support or stipends for participants who cannot enroll, but the program does expect all participants to work with their coaches to take the necessary steps to successfully enroll at the college or university that best fits their postsecondary goals and personal situation. If that is not one of the three eligible institutions, the participant may no longer receive coaching or a coaching stipend, and will remain ineligible for a scholarship, emergency funds, or prior year balance request support.

Maximum Scholarship Amounts

DC Futures provides funding to participants pursuing their first associate degree or their first bachelor’s degrees as detailed below:

Degree Type	Semester Award Cap*	Annual Award Cap ²	Lifetime Award Cap
Associate or two-year degree	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$32,000
Bachelor’s or four-year degree	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$48,000
*Spring/summer award periods will follow semester award caps, and any amount received will count toward their lifetime award cap.			

The annual scholarship award caps include tuition and fees for participants enrolled in coursework during the fall, spring, winter, and/or summer semester of a given academic year. Funding may cover developmental and remedial courses. Only summer tuition for courses taken at the student’s home institution (one of the three eligible institutions) may be funded by these remaining funds.

If you transfer from an associate degree program to a bachelor’s degree program, award caps (both annual and lifetime) will reflect the bachelor’s caps. It is the participant’s responsibility to notify DC Futures of this change in APS.

² Participants awarded in a partial award period (e.g., spring/summer 2023) will not be eligible to receive the full annual award cap – rather they may receive the semester award cap for the spring, and any remainder for the summer semester.

Costs Covered by the DC Futures Scholarship

The scholarship award will pay for tuition and fees, until the maximum award amount is reached.

OSSE will provide funding directly to your university, to cover tuition and fee costs, and you will not receive a reimbursement or overage check from this funding. Your university will be required to submit a payment request each semester, with a detailed cost breakdown. OSSE will communicate with the financial aid office at your university with this deadline and payment request information. Remember, if any of the three enrollment components are not met (eligible institution, degree-seeking enrollment in a high-demand field), the DC Futures participant is not eligible to receive scholarship funds, and may jeopardize future acceptance in DC Futures.

DC Futures College Coaching & Stipend

You will be expected to participate in College Coaching with a designated DC Futures College Coaching provider assigned by OSSE, unless you are already in an approved college coaching program (see [below](#)). This provider will help you navigate structural and academic burdens to college persistence and completion and can help you plan for your future career. If you don't engage with appropriate coaching, your eligibility for future DC Futures scholarships and supports will be jeopardized.

DC Futures College Coaching Substitutions

DC Futures may consider other coaching programs that are similar to the support DC Futures College Coaching offers, such as a model where an LEA may offer alumni support directly or through a vendor. For example, participants who are also DCPS Persists participants may apply to substitute their DCPS Persists coach in place of their DC Futures coach. To request a substitution, you must submit a substitution form to your DC Futures Coaching provider. Unless you submit a substitution form and that request is approved, you are required to participate with your designated DC Futures College Coaching provider.

If your substitution is approved, you are **STILL** eligible for other elements of this program including scholarship funds, coaching stipends, and emergency fund access.

DC Futures College Coaching Stipends

DC Futures College Coaching providers also manage the program's participation incentives. Even if your substitution is approved, your DC Futures College Coaching provider will manage the coaching stipend.

The coaching stipend will be administered by your designated DC Futures College Coaching provider on a monthly basis, depending on engagement. To receive the stipend, you must be engaged at least monthly with your provider. Each provider may have their own process for disbursing these funds.

Degree Type	Annual Stipend Cap	Lifetime Stipend Cap
Associate or two-year degree	\$1,500	\$6,000
Bachelor’s or four-year degree	\$1,500	\$9,000

The stipend is intended to be divided evenly by the months in an academic year – fall, spring, summer – over 12 months. So, participants in partial award periods (e.g., spring/summer 2023) will not be eligible for the maximum stipend amount, since the number of months with coaching participation will be fewer than those of a participant in the full academic year.

For example, a full academic year – fall, spring, summer would include up to 12 months of coaching stipends totaling \$1,500 (12 months at \$125 per month). Participants who begin coaching in January for spring/summer could receive up to \$875 for their participation (seven months at \$125 per month). Regardless of time period, the monthly stipend is based on participation and disbursement is managed by the designated DC Futures College Coaching providers.

DC Futures Emergency Funds & Prior Year Unpaid Balance Requests

Only DC Futures participants who are enrolled in an eligible IHE may request and receive emergency funds or prior year unpaid balance request payments.

Emergency funds may be applied toward unexpected expenses related to cost of attendance (such as food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and child care). These funds are capped at \$2,000 annually regardless of your program type (two- or four-year degree) or award period.

If you apply for this funding, you will be expected to document the expense and explanation of why it was unexpected. Each partner university will determine eligibility, describe the request process for their participating students and disburse funds as available based on materials provided. College coaching providers should be able to help you access this information as needed.

In addition to annual emergency funds, students can apply to their partner university to receive one-time funds to pay a previous year’s unpaid balance at another college or university. These funds are intended to enable DC Futures participants to access transcripts and credits that can be applied to their current program. Students can receive up to \$1,500 in total for these purposes, while funds last. This amount can be applied across multiple institutions. Students will be required to submit documents demonstrating their need in order to access these funds, based on the process outlined by their university.

DC Futures Time Limit

No DC Futures recipient may participate in the program for more than six years if pursuing a bachelor's degree or three years if pursuing an associate degree (the time limit represents years of receiving awards, not the time since the first award was received). Partial award periods (beginning with spring/summer 2023) will be counted toward the program time limit. For participants who earn an associate degree and choose to pursue a bachelor's, OSSE will subtract the total received from the new maximum (bachelor's level).

Student Participant Responsibilities

DC Futures includes a coaching component as well as the scholarships. As you apply for the program each year, please review these responsibilities.

1. Notify OSSE whether you will accept or reject the program.

Applicants have two weeks to notify OSSE via email if they will accept or deny the award and the terms of the program.

2. Email or otherwise provide a copy of your DC Futures acceptance letter to your university financial aid office as soon as possible, so that it can be applied to your invoice. You should download a copy for your records.

Please note: It is the participant's responsibility to work with their university to ensure payment requests are submitted in a timely manner. Untimely or improperly submitted payment requests may prevent an eligible participant from receiving DC Futures funding or from receiving funding in a timely fashion.

3. Stay focused on your academic goals. Remember, DC Futures participation is conditional and may be discontinued at any time, if eligibility or program requirements are not met.

Participants who join in fall 2023 must enroll in a minimum of 12 credits per semester (fall and spring) if enrolled full-time. Participants who joined the spring and summer 2023 award period must enroll in a minimum of six credits for the term of the award (at least six credits for spring semester) if enrolled part-time and a minimum of 12 credits if enrolled full-time (students may choose to distribute the 12 credits across spring and summer).

If your circumstances vary, please contact Melanie.Fleming@dc.gov or (202) 727-2824.

4. Stay engaged with the DC Futures College Coaching provider you are assigned to each year.

Your coach is there to help support you throughout your college journey. If you do not engage with your designated DC Futures College Coaching provider, your eligibility for future DC Futures scholarships and supports (scholarship funds, coaching stipends, and emergency fund access) will be jeopardized.

Participants granted a DCPS Persists or other coaching provider substitution are still expected to engage with their approved College Coaching program in order to receive any stipend payments.

Stipends are dependent upon monthly participation.

5. If you need help – coaching stipends or academic support – reach out to your designated DC Futures College Coaching provider.

DC Futures College Coaching providers manage the coaching stipends. Even if you have approved substitutions, your DC Futures College Coaching provider will manage the stipend.

The main goal is to complete your degree and your coach can help address any challenges that come your way.

6. Notify your DC Futures College Coaching provider and submit notification in APS if there is any change in your enrollment – such as associate to bachelor's, change in major, or you transfer to another college or university.

There are modules in the APS for most circumstances and the program staff's main goal is to support you so that you can complete your degree.

7. If you withdraw from your university, please notify you DC Futures College Coaching provider and the DC Futures program manager.

If a participant withdraws from their postsecondary enrollment entirely, they should notify DC Futures program manager Melanie Fleming at Melanie.Fleming@dc.gov or (202) 727-2824 as well as their approved DC Futures coach. The program manager, coaching staff, and Postsecondary and Career Education (PCE) assistant superintendent will consider the student's coaching participation and any events relative to the academic withdrawal to determine whether the student may continue their participation in DC Futures coaching services.

The coach will notify the participant of their status with the program, within 30 days of receiving the withdrawal notification.

Transfers and Withdrawals

Transfers

While participating in DC Futures, there are several considerations around transfers that might be relevant to you.

DC Futures requires enrollment at one of the three eligible universities. If you transfer between semesters, you should submit a notification in your APS account.

Regardless of timing, if you are transferring to one of the other DC Futures-eligible universities, you will provide a financial aid letter from your new university (also called a receiving institution). However, if you are transferring to a college or university that is not eligible for DC Futures, you are no longer eligible for DC Futures.

DC Futures staff will also have an opportunity to review for potential transfer students at each university upon receiving the next semester's invoice. If a transfer student is inaccurately listed on the university's invoice, DC Futures staff will remove that student prior to disbursement.

If you transfer from an associate degree program to a bachelor's degree program, award caps (both annual and lifetime), as well as award time limits, will reflect the highest limits and caps (bachelor's level). For additional information, review the section on [Maximum Scholarship Amounts and Time Limits](#). It is the participant's responsibility to notify DC Futures and their DC Futures College Coaching provider of these changes in the APS.

Withdrawals

If a participant withdraws from their postsecondary enrollment entirely, they should notify DC Futures program manager Melanie Fleming at Melanie.Fleming@dc.gov or (202) 727-2824 as well as their approved DC Futures coach. The program manager, coaching staff, and PCE assistant superintendent will consider the student's coaching participation and any events relative to the academic withdrawal to determine whether the student may continue their participation in DC Futures coaching services.

The coach will notify the participant of their status with the program, within 30 days of receiving the withdrawal notification.

Changes in Major or Program of Study

Applicants will be asked to indicate their intent to pursue a major associated with a high-demand field when applying for DC Futures (see [Academic Requirements](#)). Your enrollment in an approved program for the

current year will be verified by your university after you apply. OSSE will update approved fields and related programs annually. You may transfer between approved programs without penalty.

DC Futures offers support to applicants pursuing majors on the approved list. If you change to a major not on this list, you will no longer be eligible for DC Futures programming and you should notify DC Futures in APS.

If an eligible major is removed from the list of approved programs after your first award year, participants remain eligible if the following criteria are met:

- You remain enrolled in the **same university, program, and major**.
- You apply for DC Futures each consecutive year.
- You continue to meet all other eligibility criteria.

Applicant Ineligibility: Reconsideration Process

If you apply and DC Futures staff determine you are ineligible, you may request that DC Futures reconsider the decision in the APS under “Request for Reconsideration.” Only documents submitted in the APS for the 2023-24 academic year will be considered. All reconsideration requests must be submitted via APS within 15 business days from the date of the ineligibility notification.

A designated OSSE team will review the documentation and provide you with a written response documenting the results of the reconsideration process via email within 10 business days of an appeal being received. The results of the reconsideration process are final.

Reconsideration request packets (letter and supporting documentation) must be submitted through the APS.

As additional information becomes available, this document and related content will be updated.

Appendix A: Questions & Answers

Can I get money from the DC Tuition Assistance Grant (DCTAG), Mayor’s Scholars Undergraduate Program and DC Futures?

Yes, if you meet the eligibility criteria and funds are available for all three programs, you are able to receive awards from all three programs. Please note, the 2023-24 academic year online applications for the Mayor’s Scholars Undergraduate Program and DC Futures Program are located in the [Application for Postsecondary Studies](#) and the 2023-24 DCTAG application is located in the [DC OneApp](#). Applicants are encouraged to complete the DC OneApp first.

Do I have to have a coach? Can I choose my coach? What if I already have a coach? What if my coach is not responding to me (complaints)?

If you choose to participate in DC Futures, you are required to have a college coach. You will be assigned a coach from a designated DC Futures College Coaching provider. If you experience issues or concerns with coaching providers, you should reach out to Christina Beal at Christina.Beal@dc.gov.

If you already have a coach through another college coaching program you should reach out to your designated DC College Coaching provider to see if you qualify for an exemption to participate in that coaching program rather than designated DC Futures College Coaching.

I just graduated from high school and I do not have a major yet. Can I get this scholarship? Do I have to pay the money back if I change my major?

DC Futures is designed to support participants pursuing high-demand careers. Because of this focus, the program only provides support for participants in certain majors. If you have not declared a major on the DC Futures approved list, then you would not be eligible for funding. Reach out to your university regarding rules and requirements for declaring your major.

Do I really need to reapply again each year if I want funding for the following school year?

Yes, continued support requires application updates annually to verify you are still eligible. Spring/summer 2023 participants may notice the gap between applications is short, but they should still re-apply between Feb. 1, and Aug. 18, 2023 to be considered for 2023-24 support.

I participated in the pilot for spring 2022 but did not re-apply in 2022 – what should I do?

Continued support requires students to complete an annual application to verify eligibility. The 2023-24 academic year application opened in February 2023, and you should complete the application at that time, if you believe you continue to meet all eligibility requirements. You will be considered a new applicant if more than one semester passed between your active and inactive participation in DC Futures.

Does participating in the pilot program count against max annual or total awards?

Pilot program participation does count against *lifetime award limits*. Because funding was only available for part of the academic year, 2022 pilot participation will not count as a year against your *program time limit*. However, spring/summer 2023 awards will count toward the program time limit.

If I don’t need the full scholarship amount for tuition and fees, will I receive a refund check?

No, because the scholarship component of DC Futures is a last dollar award, you will not receive an overage check.

Can you help with books, parking, etc.? Can you buy me a computer?

DC Futures scholarship funds can only be used for tuition and required fees. Your coaching stipend can be used for other educational expenses as needed. Further, you may request Emergency Funds or Prior Year Unpaid Balance payments if you are an enrolled DC Futures participant.

I am returning to college, what supports are there for adult learners?

Designated DC Futures College Coaching providers have been selected to best serve a range of student needs, including those of adult learners. If you are found eligible for this program, please reach out to your DC Futures College Coaching provider to support you on your postsecondary journey.

How do I get my coaching stipend?

Each coaching provider may define this process for their DC Futures students. Please discuss this with your coach. Receiving the stipend is conditional upon regular participation in coaching sessions.

How do I get my emergency funds?

DC Futures students should receive directions from their university regarding the process used to request and receive these funds. You may request up to \$2,000 in emergency funds each year you participate in the program to cover unexpected emergency expenses that would impact your ability to remain enrolled at the university you attend (i.e., food, housing, child care, transportation, health, safety and security, and learning resources).

You may also submit a one-time request to pay a previously unpaid balance at a college or university (up to \$1,500). These funds are intended to enable you to access transcripts and credits that can be applied to your current program.

Your assigned coach may provide support around your requests for emergency funds and previously unpaid balances, but those requests must be submitted through your university according to its directions.

If you have questions or need support completing the application, please reach out our DC Futures staff to help you through that process (Melanie.Fleming@dc.gov).