



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Who is eligible for the Xavier Martin “Fill in the Gap” Scholarship?

The purpose of the Xavier Martin “Fill in the Gap” Scholarship is to make educational assistance available to all ASC-registered children attending kindergarten through 12th grade and trade school. Most ASC children will meet qualification guidelines at **both of the two major foundations** that provide scholarships for these grade levels. Note that trade school may be covered by other foundations (see the list of foundations under the questions below on undergraduate and graduate school expenses). We assume our applicants will use every resource available, and they should apply to the two foundations covering K-12 education unless they have a valid concern about their eligibility. We are here to help families determine that by providing information and reviewing their unique circumstances. The Xavier Martin “Fill in the Gap” Scholarship is for families with a clearly determined qualification issue with at least one of the two foundations. Circumstances where applicants may NOT qualify for grants can be for lack of deployment history, custody status by the fallen, lack of service connection, non-military accidents, and occasionally institution credentials. If you have questions, please call Tom Rankin, Scholarship Administrator at A Soldier’s Child.

### What are the two foundations that offer scholarships for K-12 age surviving children of military families?

#### The Folded Flag Foundation

- <https://www.foldedflagfoundation.org>
- The online application period opens March 1st and closes May 13<sup>th</sup> each year. A summer school scholarship is also available and has an earlier deadline of April 15th. See their website for the most updated information and details.

#### Folds of Honor Foundation

- <https://foldsofhonor.org>
- Online application period opens February 1st and closes March 31st every year. See their website for the most updated information and details.

### What if I need to find out my family’s service connect status for eligibility at any of the education foundations?

Call the VA hotline at (800) 827-1000.

## **How do I apply for the Xavier Martin “Fill in the Gap” Scholarship?**

**Applications for the upcoming 2024/25 Fall/Spring school year will be available March 1st of 2024 by request. If you think you do not qualify for a scholarship at the other foundations, contact the Scholarship Administrator, Tom Rankin, at [TOM@ASOLDIERSCHILD.ORG](mailto:TOM@ASOLDIERSCHILD.ORG) and request an application.**

We will accept applications through April 30th. Qualified and complete applications will be awarded based on financial need and factors that would prevent an applicant from qualifying at other foundations. Keep in mind funding is limited and qualified applicants will be awarded on a first come/first serve order.

The application must be completed in full to be considered for a grant but we have made our process as streamlined and easy as possible. We ask for a minimal amount of documents and information but please do not omit any areas as this may affect our ability to approve the application. Please contact us if you have questions and we will help you.

If the student is 18 years of age at the time of application, he/she should complete the application, otherwise, it should be completed by his/her parent or legal guardian. All applicants need to first be registered with A Soldier’s Child Foundation. To apply, complete all questions on the application, sign, attach 2 required documents, and submit. Required documents are as follows:

- **Proof of enrollment** in school or service provider: this can be letter of acceptance, email on school or service provider letterhead of acceptance, or other proof of enrollment for the upcoming school year. The document should include the student’s name and the period for schooling or services provided.
- **Cost**, provide an invoice, email from the school, communication on letterhead or website cost page showing estimated tuition and tuition fees for the upcoming school year as well as whom to make checks payable to. If the application is for tutoring or home schooling, an invoice should be attached.

## **Is the Xavier Martin “Fill in the Gap” Scholarship available to qualified ASC students in all 50 states?**

Yes.

## **When are the Xavier Martin “Fill in the Gap” Scholarship applications accepted?**

Applications will be accepted March 1st, 2024 through April 30th 2024.

## **What expenses are covered by the Xavier Martin “Fill in the Gap” scholarship?**

One of the following categories is covered: tuition, tutoring, or home-schooling costs.

## **Can a tuition scholarship also cover fees for other expenses such as sports, arts, technology or lunches?**

A tuition scholarship can cover an administrative or technology fee if tuition has first been fully covered for the school year per validation by the school's business office. Other expenses are not covered.

### **Can I select anyone to provide tutoring?**

Payments cannot be sent to an individual. Tutoring should be provided by a licensed business at an established location with a credentialed staff. This also more likely meets IRS guidelines. There are many qualified services nationwide and some of these include Sylvan Learning Centers, Mathnasium, and Kumon Math and Reading Centers.

### **What costs for homeschooling are provided?**

While parents or individuals the family knows may serve the role of "learning coaches," scholarship awards for homeschooling cannot be paid to an individual. Costs covered can be provided as payment to a third-party organization for items such as online or video instruction, required books (as part of a documented curriculum), or other items on a case-by-case basis. In all instances, an invoice on business letterhead should be provided so payment can be made to the service provider.

### **What is the scholarship award process?**

Please note that submission of an application and documents does not guarantee approval. Funding is awarded at the sole discretion of A Soldier's Child Foundation, and we reserve the right to change these policies at any time. Because award decisions are subject to available resources at the time of submission, approval can in some instances be based on a first-come, first-served basis of fully completed submitted applications. All applications should be completed and submitted with documents included by the April 30th deadline to be considered.

### **How are funds provided?**

Scholarship award checks are written to the educational institution or service provider and mailed to the student's parent or guardian for delivery to the correct location. The award check will include the student's name in the memo.

### **Can I submit a receipt for reimbursement?**

Because we draft award checks payable to the third-party institution or organization, receipts are not accepted. An invoice of tuition or services to be provided should be submitted and include letterhead, student name, and school year or dates of service. An email from the school or provider with this information is acceptable.

### **How much is awarded to approved scholarship recipients?**

Grants awarded are up to \$2,500.

### **Is the scholarship renewable from year to year or must I reapply each year?**

A completed application is required each year for each student even if they were a scholarship recipient in previous years.

## **What if I transfer to another school or service provider after my application has been submitted or approved?**

Contact the Scholarship Administrator, Tom Rankin, at A Soldier's Child Foundation as soon as you can. We can update the application with the new information. If funds to another school or provider have already been mailed or deposited, we would first need to recover that, and then whatever portion is refunded to the foundation can be eligible for review for payment to another school or provider.

## **I need help with trade school and undergraduate or graduate college expenses.**

The GI bill and several foundations listed below assist with these expenses. Those with qualification issues for trade school grants for sources listed below, they can apply for the Xavier Martin "Fill in the Gap" Scholarship. For undergraduate and graduate-level education refer to the list below. We also have other information we can share with you. Feel free to use us as a resource. Overall, financial assistance for undergraduate and trade school education is abundant. Applying for this assistance can be time-consuming but well worth the effort. Be very aware of deadlines. For the school you plan to attend, contact their financial aid office once accepted. In addition, here are some resources to be aware of:

- **FAFSA** Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This can provide grants, work-study, and loans. Also note many states and colleges use FAFSA information to determine eligibility for state and school aid. You will need to complete the FAFSA. This can be done as early as October before you attend college the following year and the deadline is June 30th of the year you plan to attend fall semester. FAFSA support for trade school will depend on the school, contact the financial aid office. The link is [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov)
- **GI Bill** There are two main VA programs that provide considerable education assistance to survivors of veterans, the Fry Scholarship or Chapter 33 and Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA) or Chapter 35. Apply as soon as possible after applying to school admissions. Typically, it takes 45-60 days for the VA to issue a certificate of eligibility. The GI bill also covers trade school education. For more information or to apply go to the following links:

<https://www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/fry-scholarship/>

<https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/288>

**What foundations provide grants for surviving military families to assist with trade school, undergraduate, or graduate school? Note that most foundations have a limited application period from roughly February to end of April for the start of school the following fall. There are exceptions but most are in this range.**

**The Folded Flag Foundation**

- <https://www.foldedflagfoundation.org>
- The online application period opens March 1st and closes May 13<sup>th</sup> every year . A summer school/activity grant may be available and has an earlier deadline of April 15<sup>th</sup>. See their website for the most updated information.
- Note that Folded Flag covers trade school, undergraduate, and graduate school for both children and surviving spouses.

#### **Folds of Honor Foundation**

- <https://foldsofhonor.org>
- Application period opens February 1<sup>st</sup> and closes March 31<sup>st</sup> every year.

#### **Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation**

- [www.fallenpatriots.org](http://www.fallenpatriots.org)

#### **No Greater Sacrifice Foundation**

- <https://nogreatersacrifice.org/>

#### **Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund**

- [FreedomAlliance.org](http://FreedomAlliance.org)

#### **American Legion Legacy Scholarship**

- <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy>

**If you have additional questions or want to discuss your specific needs concerning educational costs, please call (615) 220-1600 and ask for the Scholarship Administrator, Tom Rankin.**