U.S. Community College Grants to Support Recent Afghan Refugee Enrollment
Call for Applications

Background
IIE has a long history of supporting access to higher education opportunities globally, including higher education pathways for displaced and refugee students. In response to the escalating number of young refugees worldwide, IIE created the IIE Odyssey Scholarship in 2021. This program provides motivated and qualified refugees or displaced students with the opportunity to pursue in-person undergraduate or master’s degrees in the United States, Latin America, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, or Sub-Saharan Africa. The program provides both financial assistance in the form of a full scholarship (including tuition, housing, and living expenses), as well as ongoing support services from an IIE advisor to enhance outcomes and help program participants realize their full potential throughout the duration of their studies. The opportunity to pursue their education, develop their potential, and achieve their goals will enable these undergraduate and graduate students to emerge from positions of deep insecurity to become leaders in creating positive change.

Community College Grant Opportunity
IIE anticipates making multiple awards to U.S. community and technical colleges for a period of up to 24 months, beginning on or around September 15, 2023 to provide scholarships to support recently arrived Afghan student enrollment and degree completion.

Funds should be used for partial or full scholarships for nominated students who meet the scholarship nomination criteria below:

- Refugee or Displaced Person originally from Afghanistan. All of the following statuses would be considered eligible for nomination: permanent resident, refugee, asylee or asylum seeker, temporary protected status (TPS), humanitarian parolee, special immigrant visa (SIV) holder.
- Entered the US no earlier than January 1, 2021.
- Meets Admission Criteria of Institution, including but not limited to the following:
  - Academically Prepared: Aspires to achieve a post-secondary degree and possesses the ability to effectively undertake a course of full-time study.
  - Transferable Qualifications: Holds credentials that would likely be recognized to fulfill admissions requirements to study at the post-secondary level (e.g., GED, diploma, other secondary education certifications, etc.).
  - Language Skills: Possesses a level of language proficiency to complete a degree program in the language of instruction.
- Barriers to Accessing Higher Education: Unable or unlikely to pursue higher education without this scholarship, due to finances and other barriers.
- Potential: Proven character and determination to adapt successfully to new environments; desire to contribute to university community and greater society.
- Soft Skills: Leadership potential, community involvement, other skills.
Application Process and Requirements
Proposals are due by Friday, September 1, 2023 and should be submitted to odyssey@iie.org. The length should be no longer than 5 pages including attachments. Proposals should address the following areas:

1. Ability to Identify and recruit eligible scholarship recipients;

Include information on the number Afghan students residing in the state and/or communities near the institution, or already attending the institution (as relevant). Please detail any new plans to identify and recruit students, including a focus on engaging families and recruiting women. Successful applicants will be asked to share profiles of nominated students for approval by IIE before an award can be made.

2. Experience in supporting newly arrived and displaced populations;

Include institutional experience with displaced student populations and any specialized support services already in place from which scholarship recipients would benefit.

3. Cost per scholarship and number of nominees per institution;

Applicants must propose a per student scholarship amount up to the full cost of attendance (COA) and propose a number of nominated students (no minimum and up to 15 per institution). Partial scholarships will be considered. Please include a brief justification of the amount proposed per student, detailing how it will allow scholarship nominees to overcome barriers to accessing your institution. Please include a link to the official COA, or include as an attachment.

4. Proposed timing of the scholarship:

Awarded scholarships should span 1-2 years, and support students in either all two years of their studies, or in their final year of studies. All nominated students should be on track to graduate by no later than the end of the 2025 academic year. Based on this information, propose the number of students you anticipate being able to identify and award a scholarship, knowing that IIE may not be able to support the full number proposed.

5. Overview of your institution, populations served and majors offered:

In addition to a brief overview of your institution, please identify an office and key point(s) of contact responsible for this proposal and scholarship administration, if awarded.

Award Process
IIE will make awards directly to institutions to support an agreed upon number of students for 1 or 2 years of study. The institution will provide IIE with a slate of nominees to be reviewed that includes a summary profile of each nominee. Once reviewed and approved, IIE will also enter into terms of award directly with each awardee as IIE Odyssey Scholars.

Inquiries
Please direct any inquiries to odyssey@iie.org. The last date to submit questions is Thursday, August 24, 2023.