

2026

ORGANIZATION PROFILE

Your Support. Their Future.

Together, We Create Opportunities.

"More than financial support, this scholarship gave me the clarity, focus, and hope to pursue my future with confidence."

-Carolina, TTU

"Over the past three years, the Stars Scholarship has profoundly shaped my academic and career journey. Its support truly changes lives."

-Alondra, TAMU

"The Stars Scholarship transformed uncertainty into opportunity. Because of your support, I now see a future filled with possibility."

-Karen, UTRGV

"This scholarship has allowed me to focus on my education while motivating me to keep striving toward my goals."

-Fatima, A&M

"This scholarship is more than financial assistance — it is the key to unlocking the future I've worked so hard to achieve."

-Mayli, UTEP

"Receiving the Stars Scholarship recognized my hard work, eased my financial burden, and allowed me to focus fully on my education. Knowing others believe in me inspires me to one day give back."

-Manely, UT



Mission

Stars Scholarship Fund is dedicated to providing successful futures for local students.

Stars Scholarship Fund was established to offer students an opportunity for advancement in higher education. Scholarships provide deserving students the ability to achieve success at the college or university of their choice.



Vision

Stars Scholarship Fund is a non-profit organization committed to promoting access to and success in higher education for all students in our community.

Based in McAllen, Texas, Stars offers scholarships to students from south and west Texas who are dedicated to completing a degree at an accredited college or university.

Stars Scholarship Fund envisions a community where all people have the opportunity to reach their full potential by participating and succeeding in higher education.

The Stars Scholarship Fund sees higher education as a catalyst for positive change, a force that can transform the lives of individuals and families and advance the economic and civic health of societies.

A community that truly recognizes the importance of higher education is one that ensures the doors to post-secondary opportunity are open to all who have the potential to succeed, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, background or lack of resources.

Board of Directors

Behind every scholarship is a team that believes in the power of education to change lives. Stars Scholarship Fund's Board of Directors brings together accomplished professionals from business, community leadership, and education, united by a shared commitment to opening doors for the next generation of students.



Joe LaManita, Jr. †
Founder



Morgan LaMantia
Chairman
L&F Distributors
Harlingen, Texas



Greg LaMantia
Vice-Chairman
L&F Distributors
McAllen, Texas



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Corpus Christi, Texas



Margarita Flores
IBC Bank
Laredo, Texas



Gloria Hicks
Ed Hicks Family of
Dealerships
Corpus Christi, Texas



Joe LaMantia, III
L&F Distributors
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Steve LaMantia
L&F Distributors
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Tony LaMantia
L&F Distributors
Corpus Christi, Texas



Val LaMantia
L&F Distributors
McAllen, Texas



Lisa Peisen
L&F Distributors
El Paso, Texas

Lives Changed Through Your Support



Luis Canchola
University of Texas - Austin

"Receiving the Stars Scholarship bridged the gap between pursuing a world-class education and making it financially possible. It eased the stress of paying for college and allowed me to focus fully on earning a 4.0 GPA."



Hector Flores
Texas A&M University - Kingsville

"The Stars Scholarship has greatly supported my college experience. Without it, balancing the financial demands of college would have been far more challenging. Because of this support, I've been able to dedicate myself fully to my studies."



Derrick Wade
University of Texas at El Paso

"The Stars Scholarship has strengthened my ability to attend college and focus on my education without the constant worry of financial strain."



Luis Gonzalez
El Paso Community College

"This scholarship not only supported my education, but also strengthened my motivation to pursue my goal of becoming a doctor."



Diego Zuniga
Our Lady of the Lake University

"Throughout my college journey, the Stars Scholarship has eased the financial burden on my family and allowed me to stay focused on my studies and long-term academic goals."

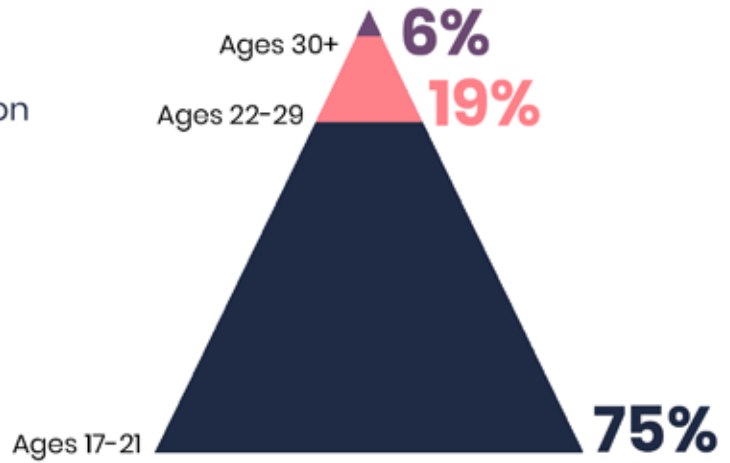
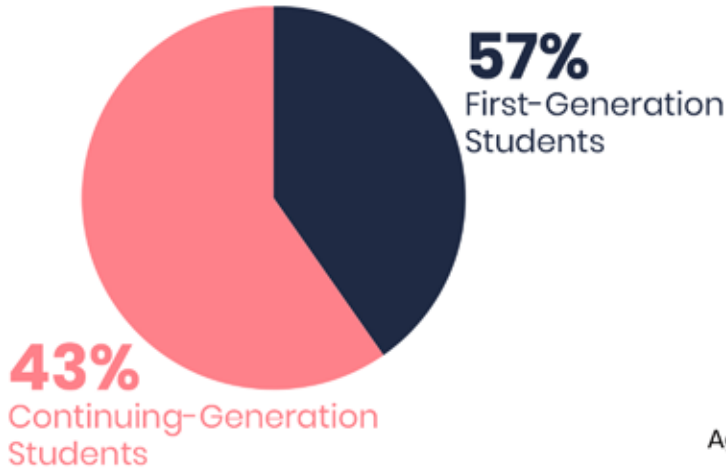


John Meehan
UT Health San Antonio

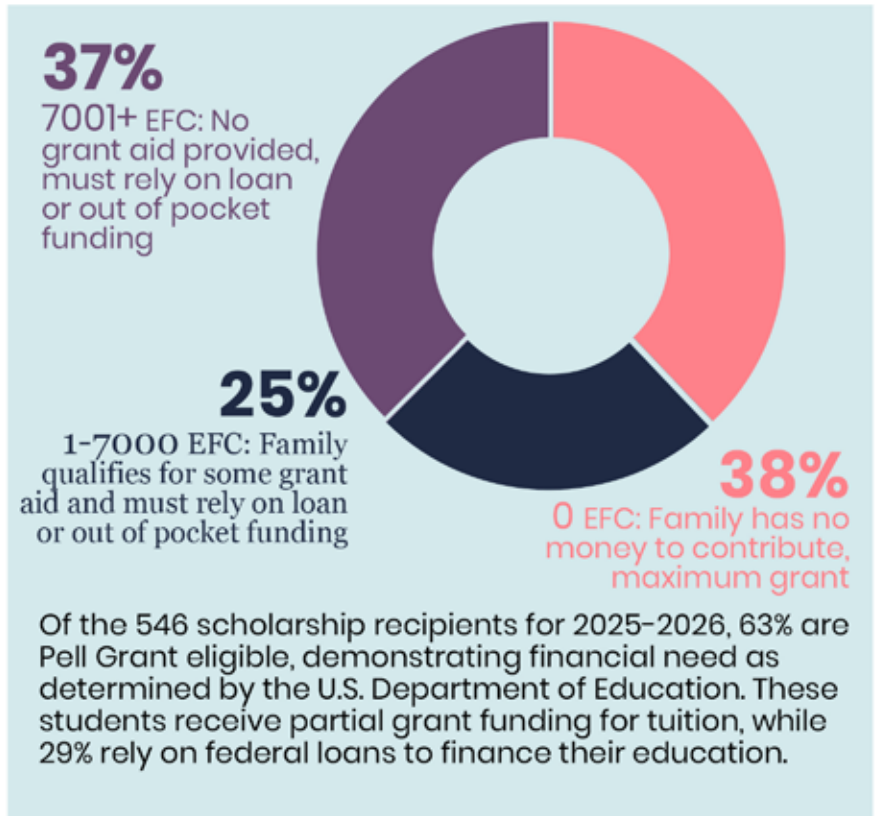
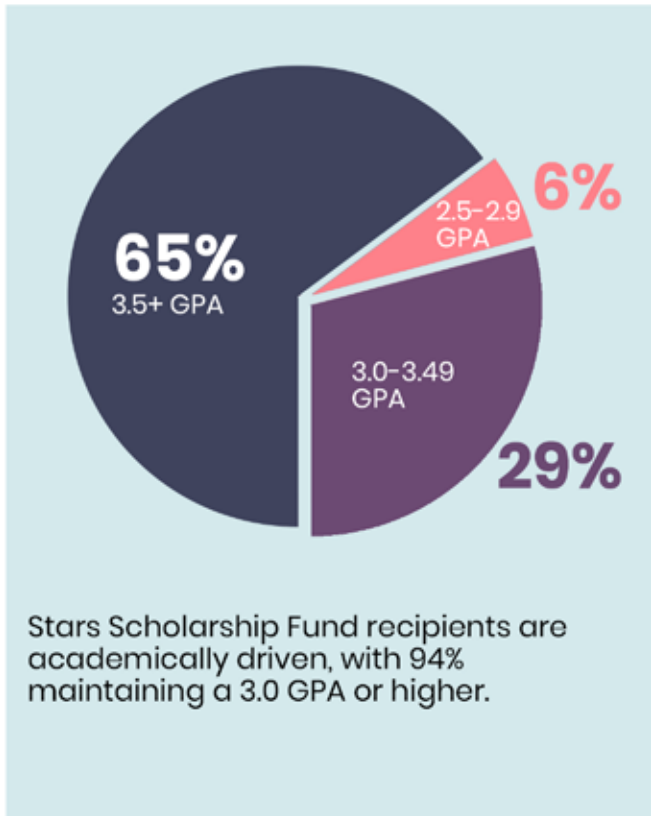
"The Stars Scholarship has supported my educational journey from undergraduate studies through medical school. I am deeply grateful for this investment in my future and for the opportunity to pursue my passion for serving underserved communities."

2025-2026 Recipient Demographics

Only **7** out of every **10** eligible applicants received a scholarship



Stars Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to students of every level of higher education and field of study. We award students from our community of any gender, any ethnicity, any age, any religion, and any background.

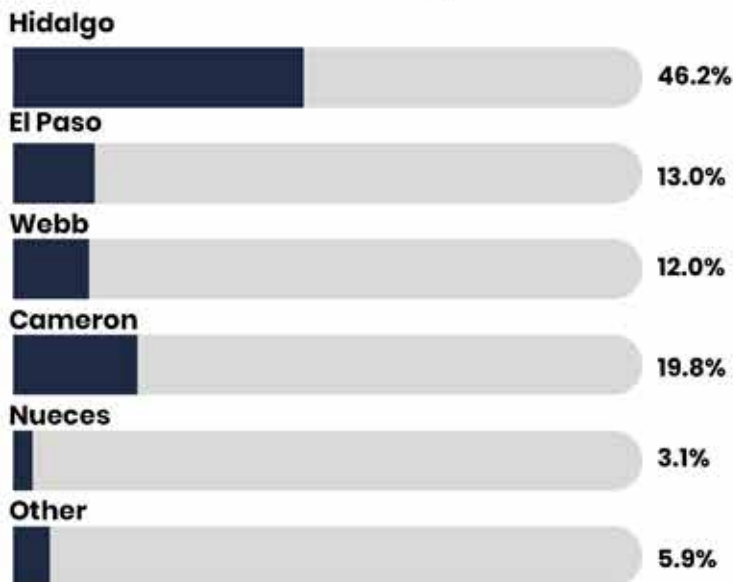


Who we are helping



2025-2026 Recipients

Recipients represent the following counties for this academic year:



Stars Scholarship Fund serves 30 south and west Texas counties.

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|--------------|
| Aransas | Hudspeth | Nueces |
| Bee | Jeff Davis | Pecos |
| Brewster | Jim Hogg | Presidio |
| Brooks | Jim Wells | Refugio |
| Cameron | Karnes | San Patricio |
| Culberson | Kenedy | Starr |
| Duval | Kleberg | Terrell |
| El Paso | La Salle | Webb |
| Goliad | Live Oak | Willacy |
| Hidalgo | McMullen | Zapata |

Application History

Academic Year	Ineligible Applicants	Eligible Applicants	Recipients	Total Submitted Apps	% Awarded	Amount Disbursed
<i>Not Awarded</i>						
2025-2026*	824	1,219	546	2,549	21.42%	\$1,720,000
2024-2025	2,782	709	490	3,272	14.98%	\$1,622,500
2023-2024	2,382	1,366	567	4,315	13.14%	\$1,511,624
2022-2023	2,493	1,212	714	4,419	16.16%	\$1,509,250
2021-2022	2,915	1,719	702	5,336	13.16%	\$1,443,183
2020-2021	3,064	1,576	712	5,352	13.30%	\$1,487,548
2019-2020	3,092	1,906	938	5,936	15.80%	\$1,815,509
2018-2019	3,254	2,054	893	6,201	14.40%	\$1,784,375
2017-2018	3,600	2,300	916	6,816	13.44%	\$1,810,500
2016-2017	3,854	2,074	1,051	6,979	15.06%	\$2,270,448
2015-2016	3,611	2,441	1,148	7,200	15.94%	\$2,336,927
2014-2015	3,499	2,123	1,084	6,706	16.16%	\$2,167,284
2013-2014	2,036	1,971	1,047	5,054	20.72%	\$2,330,341
2012-2013	1,402	798	981	3,181	30.84%	\$2,110,876
2011-2012	1,482	1,698	905	4,085	22.15%	\$1,784,541
2010-2011	866	1,188	1,012	3,066	33.01%	\$2,180,763
2009-2010	1,011	933	1,080	3,024	35.71%	\$2,170,450
2008-2009	690	806	1,299	2,795	46.48%	\$2,426,433
2007-2008	694	912	987	2,593	38.06%	\$1,939,650
2006-2007	462	434	1,003	1,899	52.82%	\$2,015,317
2005-2006	144	747	1,006	1,897	53.03%	\$2,275,921
2004-2005	321	0	1,012	1,333	75.92%	\$2,163,500
				91,459		\$42,876,941

* 2025-2026 totals reflect implementation of a new application system requiring all supporting documents to be uploaded prior to submission. As a result, incomplete applications were not counted as submitted. 6,565 applications were initiated during this cycle – the highest number of applications started in program history.

<h2 style="margin: 0;">94,008</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Applications submitted since inception</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">50,270</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Total eligible applicants since inception</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">20,093</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Total scholarships awarded since inception</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">30,186</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Total students were left unfunded since inception</p>
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Matching Partnership History

Institution	2025-2026 Award Amounts	Scholarship Disbursement To Date	Recipient Totals To Date	Partners Since
Del Mar College	\$2,000.00	\$776,350.00	706	AY 2004-2005
El Paso Community College	\$2,000.00	\$602,400.00	378	AY 2014-2015
Laredo Community College	\$2,000.00	\$496,620.40	412	AY 2006-2007
Our Lady of the Lake	\$5,000.00	\$344,828.00	70	AY 2013-2014
Schreiner University	\$5,000.00	\$231,000.00	46	AY 2013-2014
South Texas College	\$1,000.00	\$1,352,851.00	1407	AY 2004-2005
St. Mary's University	\$5,000.00	\$714,000.00	174	AY 2013-2014
St. Mary's University School of Law	\$10,000.00	\$360,000.00	38	AY 2013-2014
Texas A&M International University	\$4,000.00	\$2,424,000.00	1194	AY 2004-2005
Texas A&M University	\$5,000.00	\$5,068,500.46	1482	AY 2004-2005
Texas A&M University Corpus Christi	\$4,000.00	\$3,392,000.00	1715	AY 2004-2005
Texas A&M University Kingsville	\$3,000.00	\$1,942,500.00	978	AY 2004-2005
Texas State Technical College	\$2,000.00	\$718,150.00	473	AY 2004-2005
Texas State University		\$1,315,000.00	674	AY 2007-2008*
Texas Southmost College	\$1,000.00	\$9,000.00	10	AY 2025-2026
Texas Tech University	\$4,000.00	\$746,250.00	306	AY 2006-2007
Texas Tech Health Science Center El Paso	\$8,000.00	\$282,000.00	53	AY 2020-2021
University of Texas - Austin	\$6,000.00	\$3,905,498.89	1072	AY 2010-2011
University of Texas - Pan American		\$3,397,877.84	1659	AY 2005-2006*
University of Texas at Brownsville		\$3,654,200.00	1749	AY 2004-2005*
University of Texas at El Paso	\$4,000.00	\$1,811,568.00	844	AY 2014-2015
University of Texas at San Antonio	\$4,000.00	\$882,500.00	408	AY 2013-2014
University of Texas Health San Antonio	\$3,000.00	\$1,176,000.00	524	AY 2004-2005
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	\$4,000.00	\$3,460,000.00	1614	AY 2015-2016
University of the Incarnate Word	\$4,000.00	\$416,000.00	108	AY 2015-2016
General Fund	\$2,000.00	\$3,397,846.91	1997	AY 2004-2005
		\$42,876,941.50	20,091	

*Partnership is no longer active

Colleges and Majors for Recipients

Alvin Community College	1
Baylor University	3
Brigham Young University	1
Brigham Young University Idaho	1
Del Mar College	5
El Paso Community College	17
Laredo College	9
McMurry University	1
New Mexico State University	1
Oklahoma Baptist University	1
Our Lady of the Lake	3
Purdue University	1
Rice University	1
Schreiner University	2
South Texas College	50
Southern Methodist University	3
St. Edwards University	1
St. Mary's University	8
St. Mary's University-SOL	2
Texas A&M International University	25
Texas A&M University - College Station	55
Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi	21
Texas A&M University - Kingsville	16
Texas A&M University Health Science Center	1
Texas A&M University- San Antonio	1
Texas Christian University	1
Texas Southmost College	11
Texas State Technical College	5
Texas State University - San Marcos	11
Texas Tech University	11
Texas Tech University HSC El Paso	11
The Master's University	1
Trinity University	1
University of Houston	1
University of Missouri	1
University of North Texas-Dallas Law	1
University of Notre Dame	1
University of Texas - Austin	54
University of Texas - El Paso	38
University of Texas - Permian Basin	1
University of Texas at San Antonio	19
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	130
University of the Incarnate Word	8
University of Utah	1
UT Health - San Antonio	7
West Texas A&M University	1
Yale University	1

TOP 10 MAJORS PURSUED BY RECIPIENTS

1. Biological Sciences
2. Nursing - LVN/RN/BSN
3. Computer Science
4. Health Sciences
5. Business Administration
6. Mechanical Engineering
7. Psychology
8. Criminology
9. Accounting
10. Education



Investing in Mental Health: A Bold New Initiative

“Every barrier we remove brings us one step closer to a community where mental health services are accessible and effective for all.”

—Morgan LaMantia, Board Chairman

The Need Is Here. The Crisis Is Real.

The Rio Grande Valley is home to nearly 1.4 million people, and one of the most severe mental health provider shortages in the nation. Our region has just 100 mental health providers per 100,000 residents, placing the RGV in the bottom 25% of counties across the entire United States and well below the Texas state average of 181 per 100,000. Nationally, the benchmark is 1 provider for every 320 residents. In the Valley, families are navigating closer to **1 provider for every 1,000 people**.

Making matters more urgent: rates of depression in the RGV run nearly double the national average, driven in part by a lack of access to affordable, culturally responsive care. Too many families go without the support they need, not because they don't want help, but because help simply isn't available.

The answer isn't just more awareness. It's more providers.

What Stars Is Doing About It

Stars Scholarship Fund has launched a new initiative in partnership with The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) and The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) to grow the next generation of Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs), one of the most essential and in-demand mental health providers in our region.

The path to licensure is long and expensive, costing aspiring providers more than \$13,000 out of pocket beyond their graduate degree. For talented students from the RGV, that financial barrier is often the final obstacle between them and a career serving their own community. Stars removes it, covering 80% of supervision costs and the licensing exam fee, with university faculty at UTRGV and UTEP providing board-approved supervision every step of the way.

Why This Investment Is Different

The students supported through this program aren't coming from somewhere else. They grew up here. They understand our culture, speak our language, and have chosen to build their careers serving the families they grew up alongside. Research consistently shows that providers who are culturally and linguistically connected to their patients deliver better outcomes, and are far more likely to stay. Each cohort supports 36 students and takes approximately 2.5 years to complete. UTRGV launched its first cohort in Fall 2024. UTEP follows with its first cohort in Spring 2025.

This is not a one-time grant. It is a sustained pipeline, a long-term investment in building the mental health workforce the Rio Grande Valley has long needed and deserved.

Mental health provider data: RGV Health Connect / County Health Rankings, 2025. Population data: DHR Health, 2024.



\$1 million pledged by the LaMantia Family



\$130,000 gifted to each pilot university to launch program



Covers 100 hours of supervision by a licensed Texas LCSW supervisor required per student



Licensing exam covered



2.5 year completion timeline

Contact Us

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 www.starsscholarship.org



STARS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

To inquire on sponsorship opportunities, contact:

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