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THE LAW

PORTERVILLE COLLEGE

Disability Resource Center

(559) 791-2215

- [Ada.Gov](http://ada.gov)

A guide to the Americans with Disabilities Act with detailed information on your rights, advice, and assistance in understanding the law.

- [Disability.gov](http://disability.gov)

Federal government website for information regarding disability-related programs, policies, and regulations.

- US Department of Education - Office of Civil Rights

- ncd.gov

National Council on Disability– A council of Presidential and Congressional Appointees responsible for advising policies that may affect people with disabilities.

- www.rehab.cahwnet.gov

Department of Rehabilitation- The California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) administers the largest vocational rehabilitation program in the country.

DOR mission is to provide services and advocacy that assist people with disabilities to live independently, become employed and have equality in the communities in which they live and work.

pbis.org

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports

supports schools, districts, and states to build systems capacity for implementing a multi-tiered approach to social, emotional and behavior support.

Government Resources for Students with Disabilities

DEPRESSION RESOURCES

Those who suffer from depression often feel as if they are alone and have no one to turn to. But it's important to understand that isn't the case — people care and they want to help. People suffering from depression also have resources at their disposal that they may not know about. For example, the following organizations are dedicated to providing resources for those living with depression:

ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

This organization is dedicated to promoting the prevention, treatment, and cure of anxiety, depression, and related disorders. Its site offers insight into understanding depressive mental illnesses, provides links for those seeking help and identifies mobile apps designed to help people living with depressive illnesses.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH

A division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the NIMH works to transform public and scientific understanding and treatment of mental illnesses through clinical research, paving the way for prevention, recovery, and a cure. NIMH offers a wealth of information on pinpointing signs and symptoms of mental illnesses, resources for seeking help and opportunities to participate in clinical trials to further research.

ULIFELINE

This online resource for college students seeking mental health wellness provides a wealth of information, such as tips on how best to help friends in crisis and ideas for developing better wellness habits.

AMERICAN COLLEGE HEALTH ASSOCIATION

The ACHA promotes healthy campus communities and works to serve as a principal leadership organization for advancing the health of college students. The organization makes available many resources on its site, including help lines, brochures on different types of depression, and external links.

THE JED FOUNDATION

The Jed Foundation's produces and hosts a number of online resources designed to promote emotional health and prevent suicide among college students. For example, the organization's

HELP A FRIEND IN NEED

This initiative aims to help identify warning signs through social media and its Half of Us campaign promotes mental health awareness nationally via on-air or live events, and connects students with health care providers.

Resources by Disability Type

ANXIETY RESOURCES

The following organizations are examples of excellent resources for students suffering from anxiety disorders. Each organization provides information on the different forms of anxiety and useful resources that explore approaches to coping.

ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The ADAA is dedicated to promoting the prevention, treatment and cure of anxiety and depression, and related disorders. The organization's site offers insight into how we might better understand depressive mental illnesses. Additionally, it suggests several innovative mobile apps that cater to users with depressive illnesses.

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The APA is dedicated to advancing the creation, communication, and application of psychological knowledge to benefit society. Its site offers a great deal of insight into the differences between anxiety disorders and depression, and has tools to help you locate a psychologist who specializes in an anxiety disorder treatment near you.

ANXIETY RESOURCE CENTER

The Anxiety Resource Center is a nonprofit dedicated to offering assistance to those suffering from anxiety disorders. Its website features a lengthy list of education materials, a newsletter, and a blog to help you stay updated on breakthroughs in research and trends.

SOCIAL ANXIETY ASSOCIATION

Promoting the understanding and treatment of social anxiety disorder, this nonprofit maintains a large body of resources for people suffering from social anxiety. The site provides links to support groups, information on how to find health professionals, news and updates on the disorder, and extensive information on treatment options.

BEYOND OCD

Beyond OCD's site features suggestions and resources intended to help sufferers cope with and conquer OCDs in college. The organization also offers tools for visitors to find support groups in their area.

Resources by Disability Type

SUICIDE PREVENTION RESOURCES

There are many resources available to you through your on campus student health center or through the following organizations dedicated to preventing suicide:

ACTIVE MINDS

Active Minds is an organization dedicated to educating and changing the conversation about mental health on college campuses. The organization administers over 400 chapters on campuses across the U.S. that teach prevention techniques for students and faculty. The Active Minds website offers a list of resources for students in a crisis, and features a therapist/counseling search tool for locating professionals in your area.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI)

Dedicated to improving the lives of Americans affected by mental illness, NAMI provides information on suicide prevention, a link to a 24 hour suicide lifeline crisis chat, a text support line, and social network groups to allow victims to join the conversation.

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION (AFSP)

The AFSP works to end and “prevent suicide through research, education, and advocacy.” The organization’s website provides a wealth of information on suicide statistics in America and prevention techniques, along with a lengthy list of available resources. The foundation hosts Out of the Darkness walks on campuses across America to raise funds for youth suicide prevention, to reach out to students, and to help create a safe environment.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

Calling the toll-free number (1-800-273-8255), connects those in need to compassionate people who are there to provide the emotional support some can’t find anywhere else. They will help family and friends of those at risk find ways to help their loved ones. All calls are confidential.

THE TREVOR PROJECT

A project began to provide LGBTQ individuals of any age a safe space to talk and find support, the Trevor Project provides several outlets for communication and help. The Trevor Lifeline (1-866-488-7386) is a toll-free, 24/7 intervention and suicide prevention service.

Resources by Disability Type

NATIONAL EATING DISORDER ASSOCIATION (NEDA)

NEDA is dedicated to improving the understanding of eating disorders in America. Its site has a list of links and tools to seek help and a wealth of information regarding support groups, treatment referrals and research studies.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ANOREXIA NERVOSA AND DISTORTED DISORDERS (ANAD)

ANAD is dedicated to the prevention and alleviation of eating disorders. The organization has a helpline and email to provide information and answer questions for sufferers. ANAD also hosts an annual conference for news and updates on the disorders and to connect patients with healthcare providers and support.

ACADEMY FOR EATING DISORDERS (AED)

This global network is dedicated to the research, education, prevention and treatment of eating disorders. AED is a great resource for learning about the differences between eating disorders, identifying signs and symptoms, and finding information for professionals in your area, as well as news on treatment options and developments in research.

EATING DISORDER HOPE

Eating Disorder Hope provides information on education and awareness, recovery tools, and access to treatment and support. The organization also has a blog with specific news and information for college students suffering from eating disorders.

AMERICAN COLLEGE HEALTH ASSOCIATION (ACHA)

The ACHA promotes healthy campus communities and works to serve as the principal leadership organization for advancing the health of college students. Many resources are made available on the site: helplines, brochures on different types of depression, and external links to seek help.

Resources by Disability Type

Addiction Resources

Consult these resources available to you to find out more about curbing your addiction today:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DRUG ABUSE

This database provides reports on recent research and prevention programs for alcohol and drug addiction. NIDA offers findings on the latest research projects, clinical trial offers, and guidance for those seeking treatment.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE ADMINISTRATION (SAMHSA)

SAMHSA is an agency within the Department of Health that works towards advancing behavioral health in the United States. This site hosts extensive information on substance abuse and a treatment locator by ZIP code. SAMHSA's national hotline (1-800-662-4357) is available 24/7, 365 days a year for individuals suffering from substance abuse.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG DEPENDENCE (NCADD)

NCADD is an organization that provides support for people suffering from substance abuse. The organization's site hosts information for every stage of addiction, from admitting your issues to recovery. It also hosts a directory of programs and services offered in your area.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (AA)

This famous 12-step program is designed to give alcoholics the opportunity to rebuild their lives and learn to live without alcohol. AA provides members with a support group and sponsor to help through the rough patches. You can find a location for a meeting near your ZIP code by way of AA's site.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS (NA)

Much like AA, NA administers a 12-step program designed to help those who have developed a dependency on drugs. You can find meetings near you, publications, news, and the support you need to break your habit and work through addiction.

Resources by Disability Type

Learning Disabilities

- National Center for Learning Disabilities – NCLD is a great resource for students that want to understand their disability better and how to help others with it.
- **Learning Disabilities Association of America** – One of the stand out features of the LDA's approach to education and advocacy is its ability to help parents, educators, adults, and professionals cope and overcome learning disabilities. With helpful guides on how to deal with learning disabilities in a wide variety of scenarios, LDA is a great resource for everyone.
- **LDOnline** – Created as a service by PBS, LDOnline is a treasure trove of stories from people that have struggled with their own disabilities, and advice on how to motivate people with certain learning disabilities.

Visual Impairment

- **Perkins Teaching Resources**– The Perkins School for the Blind has set standards of excellence in blindness education for more than 185 years. Though this site is more geared towards educators, there are lots of resources that parents and students can use to discover their own skills and passions.
- National Association of Blind Students – As a part of the National Federation of the blind, the NABS works to promote equality for the blind by acting as a source of information and a network for students in need of assistance.
- **National Federation of the Blind** – The National Federation of the Blind is a group dedicated to helping blind students everywhere. The NFB hosts many different programs like the Braille is Beautiful Program, and the International Braille and Technology Center for the Blind. Students can search for scholarships here and can participate in many different programs that enable blind students to reach their true potential.

Physical Disabilities

- **National Center on Accessible Instructional Materials** -A great resource that shows educators and students alike the different kind of technologies and methods of education available for people with physical disabilities. Accessible Education Materials can be used in a wide number of ways in learning and work environments.
- **Mobility international USA** – As a resource for those with disabilities, MIUSA advocates for the rights of disabled persons everywhere. This site has many wonderful and insightful ideas on wheelchair use and maintenance, as well as travelling with a wheelchair domestically and internationally.

Resources by Disability Type

Autism

- **Autism Speaks** – Autism Speaks is an organization that advocates for people with autism, and helps further research into this condition. Throughout the year the organization funds a walk in major cities around the country to raise awareness. The organization is known to give out scholarships to those that help further the cause of Autism awareness.
- **Navigating College** – One of the big tips we recommended for students with disabilities was to seek out to the experiences of other students with disabilities and learn from them. Navigating College is a network that introduces the experiences of autistic adults who have survived college and have now written about their experiences for the younger generation.
- **US Autism & Asperger Association USCAP** – The US College Autism Project is designed to help students and educators alike learn to work together. This site provides resources for both parties in the education environment. Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- **Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP)**: a media library of over 4,000 free captioned titles for educational use. Funded by the U.S. Dept. of Education.
- **Pepnet 2**: a range of professional coaching, note taking, and study strategy guides for post-secondary students who are hard of hearing or deaf.

Resources by Disability Type

Dyslexia

- **The Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity:** A digital resource of collected assistive technology suggestions and higher education tips from dyslexic students.
- **Landmark College:** A Vermont-based college was founded in 1985 to serve students with dyslexia, ASD, and ADHD.
- **International Dyslexia Association:** A professional and academic organization dedicated to promoting dyslexia awareness through global advocacy, research, and education.

ADHD

- **ADDITUDE ADHD College Survival Guide:** A digital publication that guides students through the process of selecting a college, applying, and navigating campus life with ADHD.
- **Attention Deficit Disorder Association College Resources:** A professional networking society provides college students with links to study strategies and campus life tips.
- **ADDvance:** A resource database helps students ease into college life with links to stress management tips, ADHD academic success stories, and medication advice.

Scholarships are a great way to help finance a college education because they are essentially free money students can use to pay tuition, purchase books and supplies, and help with room and board. Below, we've included lists of scholarships specific to some disabilities, as well as a section for general scholarships. For more information on making it through school without taking on loans, see our Debt-Free College guide and our list of affordable online colleges with payment plans.

Affordable Colleges Online – Lists scholarships by disability, amounts, due dates, and the requirements of each scholarship.

Accredited Online Colleges – Highlights 250 scholarships that can be sorted by disability type, GPA, renewability, school sponsorship and more. This guide also showcases government resources that can be leveraged to help you learn more about your rights as a student.

National Center for Learning Disabilities – While these scholarships are geared to students with a learning disability, they can be a significant help for students hoping to gain an education.

General Disabilities

1-800 Wheelchair Scholarship

Amount: \$500

Application Due Date: September 15

Two students receive this annual award, established in 2006 to raise awareness of mobility issues on college campuses. Applicants must complete a creative application, based on the current year's requirements.

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

AAHD Frederick J. Krause Scholarship on Health and Disability

Amount: \$1,000 and under

Application Due Date: November 15

Applicants for this scholarship are juniors in college with a diagnosed disability who are pursuing a degree related to health and disability including public health, health promotion, disability studies, disability research, rehabilitation engineering and audiology.

American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation

Amount: \$5,000

Application Due Date: May 22

Graduate students with a disability who are or will be enrolled in communication sciences and disorders are eligible for this scholarship underwritten by the Leslie Londer Fund. Twenty general scholarships are given.

Baer Reintegration Scholarship

Amount: Varies

Application Due Date: January 31

Designed for students diagnosed with bipolar disorder, schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder, applicants must be currently receiving medical treatment for the disease and be actively involved in rehabilitative efforts. Awards are based on academic success, an essay, references and other requirements.

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Bella Soul Scholarships

Amount: Varies

Application Due Date: Varies

Bella Soul gives scholarships to college students with a chronic illness or physical disability. It also provides a community page on its website to support those students.

BMO Capital Markets Lime Connect Equity Through Education Scholarship

Amount: \$2,500 (in Canada)

Application Due Date: Coming Soon

In an effort to foster a diverse workforce, this scholarship provides people with disabilities the opportunity to develop themselves through education. Applicants must submit a resume as well as an essay about their career goals and why they should receive the scholarship.

Business Plan Scholarship

Amount: \$1,000

Application Due Date: December 4

This scholarship requires applicants to write an essay about the process of writing a business plan. Essays are judged by the co-founders of Fit Small Business on originality, writing style and quality of ideas.

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Google Lime Scholarship for Students with Disabilities

Amount: \$10,000 (in U.S.) or \$5,000 (in Canada)

Application Due Date: Not yet posted

Google designed this scholarship for students with disabilities that require long-term or recurring support that impacts one or more major activities considered to be daily functions. This is a one-time award for undergraduate, graduate and doctorate students.

Hydrocephalus Association Scholarship Program

Amount: \$1,000

Application Due Date: Spring

The Hydrocephalus Association has a number of scholarship opportunities for promising young adults who live with the disease. The organization adds scholarships as it grows.

Incight Scholars

Amount: \$500 and \$750

Application Due Date: April 1

Residents of Oregon, Washington and California are eligible for this renewable award for students with a documented disability. Applicants should demonstrate service to the community and the ability to overcome obstacles.

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Injury Lawyer News Annual Disability Scholarship

Amount: \$1,000

Application Due Date: December 31

Pre-law and law students with a medically documented disability (either physical or learning) may apply for this scholarship. Applicants must be accepted to or already attending an accredited university or law school in the U.S.

Lorraine Nelson Herrick Scholarship

Amount: \$1,000

Application Due Date: March 1

This scholarship from the University of Colorado, Boulder College of Arts and Sciences is designed for a student with a solid academic record who has a disability. Special consideration is given to Colorado residents with multiple sclerosis who are anthropology majors.

Louise J. Snow Endowed Scholarship Fund for Disabled Students

Amount: Varies

Application Due Date: Unknown

Offered through the University of Utah, this scholarship is designed for students who have a documented disability and who demonstrate financial need. Applicants must have a minimum 2.5 grade point average.

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Microsoft DisAbility Scholarship

Amount: \$5,000

Application Due Date: March 15

Awarded to promising high school students with financial need who plan to attend a vocational or academic college. This nonrenewable scholarship is designed for students declaring a major in engineering, computer science, computer information systems, law, business or a related field.

Newcombe Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Amount: Varies (average of \$1,623)

Application Due Date: Unknown

The Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation provides grants for students with disabilities who have documented financial need. These grants are paid directly to the students' educational institutions.

Science Graduate Student Grant Fund

Amount: \$1,000

Application Due Date:

The Foundation for Science and Disability aims to provide opportunities for graduate and professional students with disabilities pursuing degrees in science, engineering, mathematics, technology and pre-medical/dental areas.

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Hearing Impairment

AG Bell College Scholarship Program

Amount: Varies

Application Due Date: Mid-March

Full-time students with pre-lingual bilateral hearing loss that is moderately severe to profound who are pursuing a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree are eligible. This is a merit-based scholarship and is very competitive.

Anders Tjellstrom Scholarship

Amount: \$2,000 per year

Application Due Date: October 1

This award is open to Baha System recipients in the U.S. and Canada and was developed to help individuals further improve themselves by continuing their education. Applicants should be enrolled as an undergraduate or graduate student and must maintain a 2.5 grade point average to keep the scholarship.

Graeme Clark Scholarship

Amount: \$2,000

Application Due Date: October 1

Individuals who have received a Nucleus Cochlear Implant are eligible for this renewable award. The scholarship was founded by Professor Graeme Clark, who was committed to finding solutions for the hearing impaired.

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Linda Cowden Memorial Scholarship

Amount: \$1,000

Application Due Date: Unknown

Named in memory of Linda Cowden, an administrative assistant and liaison to area deaf clubs for 10 years, this scholarship is awarded to a student who is deaf or hard of hearing and who has been accepted into a postsecondary institution. Applicants must live in one of the 16 counties of Tennessee that Bridges serves.

Sertoma Scholarship for the Hard of Hearing of Deaf

Amount: \$1,000

Application Due Date: May 1

This scholarship for students with a minimum 40dB bilateral hearing loss in both ears may be used to cover tuition, books and supplies. Applicants must be pursuing a bachelor's degree on a full-time basis at a college or university in the U.S.

Learning & Cognitive Disabilities

Agee Memorial Dyslexia Scholarship Fund

Amount: \$1,000

Application Due Date: June 1

This scholarship for Eastern Kentucky University students is awarded to two recipients each year (one incoming freshman and one continuing student) who have a diagnosed reading disorder (dyslexia). Applicants write an essay explaining how they have worked to overcome the effects of a learning disability.

Allegra Ford Thomas Scholarship

Amount: \$2,500

Application Due Date: December 31

The Allegra Ford Thomas Scholarship is a one-time award to a high school senior applying to a two-year community college to take a vocational tech program or specialized program for students who have learning disabilities. The recipient must demonstrate perseverance and be committed to achieving his or her academic goals.

Allina Health Scholarship for People with Disabilities

Amount: \$1,000

Application Due Date: May 31

This scholarship assists people who have a sensory impairment or physical disability as they pursue educational goals or gain technical expertise beyond high school. Applicants must identify how the award would support their career goals.

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Anne Ford Scholarship

Amount: \$10,000 (\$2,500 per year over four years)

Application Due Date: December 31

Successful candidates for the Anne Ford Scholarship must be a graduating senior in high school who will attend a four-year bachelor's degree program. Recipients must demonstrate financial need and be involved in school and community activities.

Bennett A. Brown Scholarship

Amount: Varies

Application Due Date: April 17

Provided by Georgia State University, this scholarship is for students with language-based learning disabilities who are registered at the Margaret A. Stanton Office of Disability Services at Georgia State. Successful candidates are incoming freshmen who demonstrate financial need.

DREAM Institute's Higher Education Assistance Program (HEAP)

Amount: Varies

Application Due Date: April 1

The HEAP Scholar Award Scholarship is for Oklahoma students with learning disabilities who are pursuing a higher education degree at an Oklahoma college or university. Recipients are eligible to receive academic tutoring, and scholarship funds may go to tuition, fees and books.

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Landmark College Scholarships

Amount: \$5,000 to \$10,000

Application Due Date: February 15

Landmark College is one of only two colleges in the country specifically for students with learning disabilities. Multiple scholarships are available for students and are based on financial aid and merit.

Liff Family Foundation Scholarship

Amount: \$1,500

Application Due Date: Unknown

Full-time undergraduate students with learning disabilities enrolled at Indiana University, Bloomington may apply for this need-based award. Preference is given to residents of Davidson County.

P. Buckley Moss Endowed Scholarship

Amount: Up to \$1,000

Application Due Date: March 31

Graduating high school seniors interested in a career in the visual arts are eligible for this need-based award. Applicants must show a certified language-related learning difference and an artistic talent.

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Physical Disabilities

AmeriGlide Achiever Scholarship

Amount: \$2,500

Application Due Date: May 31

This scholarship is awarded to one full-time college student each year who uses a manual wheelchair, power wheelchair or mobility scooter. Successful candidates will have at least one year of college experience and maintain a 3.0 grade point average.

Chair Scholars Foundation

Amount: Up to \$30,000

Application Due Date: Unknown

Students attending Edinboro University of Pennsylvania or University of Tampa are eligible for this award. Candidates must have a serious physical challenge, which may or may not require the use of a wheelchair for mobility.

Craig H. Nielsen Scholarship Fund for Students with Disabilities

Amount: \$7,000

Application Due Date: Unknown

Established in 2008, this scholarship provides funds for tuition, books and fees for students with spinal cord injuries. Preference is given to students in a business-related major or those studying law.

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Ethel Louise Armstrong Foundation Scholarship

Amount: \$500 to \$2,000

Application Due Date: June 1

This scholarship is available to female graduate students with physical disabilities who are enrolled in a U.S. college or university. The awards are awarded on an objective basis.

Keaton K. Walker Scholarship Fund

Amount: Varies

Application Due Date: Unknown

The University of Utah provides this scholarship to graduate and undergraduate students with physical disabilities, with preference given to those with visual impairments. Students must make satisfactory scholastic progress and demonstrate a determination to overcome physical limitations.

Michigan Cerebral Palsy Attorneys

Amount: \$1,500

Application Due Date: July 31

Designed to both increase awareness of cerebral palsy and celebrate the achievements of those affected by it, this scholarship is awarded to students enrolled as graduate or undergraduate students with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Applicants must write an essay reflecting on how cerebral palsy affects their lives.

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Speech Disorders

American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation

Amount: \$5,000

Application Due Date: May 22

Underwritten by the Leslie Londer Fund, this scholarship is awarded to a graduate student with a disability. Recipients must not have received a prior award from the ASHFoundation.

National Stuttering Association Scholarship

Amount: Varies

Application Due Date: June 1

This award, given by the National Stuttering Association, goes to students with a speech disorder who can demonstrate financial need. Applicants must submit an essay explaining their particular situation and how much financial assistance they need.

Visual Disabilities

American Foundation for the Blind

Amount: \$500 to \$2,500

Application Due Date: May 31

The AFB administers multiple annual scholarships for students who are legally blind. Applicants must submit proof of their blindness, transcripts, an essay and two letters of recommendation. Some scholarships have additional requirements. Some are available only to either undergraduate or graduate students.

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Lighthouse Guild

Amount: \$10,000

Application Due Date: March 31

Up to 20 merit-based scholarships are awarded each year to high school students getting ready to attend college. An additional scholarship is given to a graduate student. Applicants must submit proof of legal blindness, two personal statements, three letters of recommendation and copies of transcripts and test scores.

Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Awards

Amount: \$1,000 to \$6,000

Application Due Date: March 1

This award is for a legally blind student who has been registered as a Learning Ally (formerly RFB&D) for at least a year and will be seeking a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree from an accredited four-year college or university.

National Federation of the Blind

Amount: \$3,000 to \$12,000

Application Due Date: March 31

There are more than 30 merit-based, national scholarship opportunities available through the National Federation of the Blind. To be eligible, students must attend a postsecondary institution full time and attend the NFB national convention.

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

The Office of Civil Rights

Before discussing specific pieces of legislation, the first thing you should know about is the Office of Civil Rights. As a part of the Department of Education, the office of Civil Rights enforces the ADA and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you have any questions about your rights as a student with a disability, you should start at the OCR. Discrimination complaints can be filed here and they will investigate your case.

[HTTPS://WWW2.ED.GOV/ABOUT/OFFICES/
LIST/OCR/TRANSITION.HTML](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html)

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was groundbreaking for people with disabilities because it was the first civil rights statute that prohibited the discrimination of qualified individuals with a disability. Under this law, an institution receiving federal funding cannot limit the number of students with disabilities admitted. It also prevented schools from conducting inquiries before admission as to whether a student had a disability. This law extended beyond the admissions process and into actual coursework as well. Students could not be restricted because of their disabilities, and could also not be advised into a more limited career choice because of their disabilities. The only exception to this last point was if the student did not meet strict professional standards then a counselor could dissuade a student from a particular course of action. In this act, schools were prevented from enforcing rules and policies that would adversely affect the performance of a student in class work, essentially enabling an equal playing field for students from all backgrounds.

Because It's the Law

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

The origins of this law finds its roots in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which made discrimination based on race, religion, sex, nationality and other personal factors illegal. This watershed piece of legislation in United States history, enabled the Americans with Disabilities act of 1990 to extend similar protections to Americans who had a disability—discrimination of an individual thus became an act that was punishable by law. There are two titles directly poignant to disabled students looking to attend post-secondary education. Title II of the act prohibits discrimination by public entities on the state and local level. What this means is that public colleges and universities cannot directly discriminate against students with disabilities without facing serious sanctions and penalties. Additionally, Title II requires schools to provide reasonable accommodations for disabled students (more on this later). Title III prohibits discrimination by private colleges and universities with the exception of religious institutions. However, if a school receives any kind of federal funding for its programs, research, or even student financial aid, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act applies to that school.

Because It's the Law

California Community Colleges Chancellors Office

The Student Services and Special Programs division provides leadership and technical assistance for policy and programs that support student access, equity and success. The division administers more than \$590 million annually in categorical and grant funds that help colleges provide support services across the campus and supplemental services for special populations.

[HTTPS://SUICIDEPREVENTIONLIFELINE.ORG/](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/)

Suicide Prevention Hotline

CalMHSa contracted with Kings View Behavioral Health to operate the Central Valley Suicide Prevention Hotline with specialized support and outreach provided to the seven contributing counties of Fresno, Kings, Mariposa, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and Tulare.

HTTP://WWW.CCCSTUDENT
MENTALHEALTH.ORG

Student Mental Health Program

CCC SMHP is a partnership between the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) and the Foundation for Community Colleges (Foundation). The CCC SMHP grant project began in 2011 which is referred to as Phase I. In April 2015, CalMHSAs released an RFP for Statewide Phase II PEI Programs, Program One: Reaching California's Diverse Communities to Achieve Mental Health and Wellness. The CCCC and the Foundation submitted an application for funding and CalMHSAs Board of Directors approved the proposal for funding in June 2015. The Foundation is the fiscal agent for the project and staff from both the Chancellor's Office and Foundation collaborate in program implementation activities

HTTPS://WWW.EACHMINDMATTERS.ORG/

Each Mind Matters

Each Mind Matters is millions of individuals and thousands of organizations working to advance mental health. We are California's Mental Health Movement.