



CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS INITIATIVE

Institute for Municipal & Regional Policy



2026 Children with Incarcerated Parents Scholarship

The University of Connecticut (UConn)'s Institute for Municipal & Regional Policy (IMRP) is home to the CT Children with Incarcerated Parents (CTCIP) Initiative which offers scholarships for UConn students that have, or have had, a close family member incarcerated. Chosen applicants will receive scholarship awards of up to \$1,500 per academic semester.

Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for the 2026 Children with Incarcerated Parents Scholarship, applicants must:

- Be experiencing, or have experienced, the incarceration of a close family member. The length of incarceration does not impact your eligibility.
- Be registered as a full-time, matriculated undergraduate at the University of Connecticut Hartford campus during the Fall semester of 2026

Required Materials

- Complete application with essay response
- Most recent transcript
- Proof of full-time student status
- Two letters of recommendation
 - One from UConn staff or faculty (for incoming freshman and transfer students, a letter from staff/faculty of your prior institution will suffice)
 - One from a community member or community service site supervisor who can speak to your work ethic, leadership, and character

Scholarship Application

Students should apply for the scholarship by completing the application form and submitting the documents listed above. The 2026 scholarship application will open on **January 30th, 2026**, and will be due on **April 3rd, 2026 at 5:00 PM EST**. Scholarship awards will be announced before May 4th, 2026 for the 2026-2027 school year.

Email the completed Scholarship Application and required materials to ctcip@uconn.edu by 5:00 PM EST on Friday, April 3rd, 2026.

Assistance with Scholarship Application

Writing Consultants at the Writing Center at UConn Hartford can assist students with the Scholarship Application. Appointments can be made through the Writing Center's scheduling software: <https://wcenter.hartford.uconn.edu/>. Further details, including hours of operation, will also be on this page.

Scholarship Award

Scholarship awards of up to \$1,500 per academic semester will be granted to chosen applicants. The number of awards will be determined by the CTCIP Initiative based on proposals received and the amount of available funds. Selections will be based on numerous factors including a completed



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application, the submission of all required materials, responses to short and long essay questions, and financial need as categorized by the Office of Student Financial Aid Services at UConn. The scholarship is renewable for a maximum of six (6) semesters in total, provided the recipient maintains full-time status and a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.60.

Recipients who drop below a 2.60 grade point average, or who do not earn the minimum number of academic credits to be considered full-time during any given semester, may be given a one-time probationary period of one semester to meet the renewal requirements. Probation may not be granted for students whose grade point averages are below 2.0, or who have earned less than the minimum number of credits to be considered full-time for an entire academic year (e.g., a minimum of 12 credits per semester for undergraduate students). If this should occur, the student may contact the CTCIP Initiative directly to discuss the possibility of, and requirements for, reapplication.

It is recognized that IMRP's funding for scholarships is dependent upon continued funding from the Connecticut General Assembly for its CTCIP Initiative, as well as donations received to support scholarships. If there is a reduction in funding or other budgetary rescissions imposed or required, IMRP shall, with written notice to awardee(s), terminate or amend any agreement.

Scholarship Recipient Responsibilities

Scholarship recipients are expected to actively engage in the planning and execution of an IMRP-sponsored event with the CTCIP Initiative. This includes serving on the planning committee for a Parental Incarceration Awareness Month event, which is designed to create community and raise awareness about the experiences of children with incarcerated parents. Scholarship recipients must complete at least 20 hours of volunteer service per academic year.

Background on IMRP & CTCIP

The IMRP is dedicated to enriching the quality of local, state, and national public policy. With a practical approach, we bridge the divide between academia, policymakers, practitioners, and the community. Since fiscal year 2008, the IMRP has been receiving annual funding from the Connecticut General Assembly to administer competitive grants for providing positive interventions for youth whose parent(s) and/or family members have been incarcerated. The mission of the CTCIP Initiative is to improve the quality of support for children with incarcerated parents by using the various data and knowledge it gains to inform public policy and practice. More information regarding the Initiative can be found here: ctcip.org.



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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

STUDENT INFORMATION

First Name:	Last Name:
Net ID#:	Email:

Expected Graduation Date:	Major(s):
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Current Address:		
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City:	State:	Zip Code:
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HIGH SCHOOL OR POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION INFORMATION

School	Address	Dates Attended

Multiple Choice: To be eligible for this scholarship, you must be experiencing, or have experienced, the incarceration of a close family member. Does this describe you?

Yes
 No

Short Answer Question #1: Who or what has inspired you to pursue a college education? How would the CIP Scholarship aid you in achieving your academic and personal goals while at UConn?

Short Answer Question #2: How has your family member's incarceration impacted you (financially, academically, emotionally, mentally, physically, etc.)?



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Essay: Select one (1) of the prompts below and create an 800-1000-word response.

Prompt A: Parental incarceration impacts many children and youth across Connecticut and nationwide. What would you do, in collaboration with the CTCIP Initiative, if you had \$2,500 to design a plan to support a child/youth impacted by parental incarceration locally?

Prompt B: The CIP Bill of Rights was created in 2005 by the San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership and serves as a roadmap for reform to ensure that children with justice-involved parents are seen, heard, and supported. Which of the [CIP Bill of Rights](#) do you think is the most important? Why?

Prompt C: Many family members, caregivers, educators, and community members support children with incarcerated parents (CIP) in different ways. Create an outline for an event that brings these CIP champions together to share resources, celebrate CIP, and recognize the contributions of these stakeholders.