

Press Release

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Baltimore Community Foundation Awards Central Scholarship \$575,000 Grant to Launch Francis Scott Key Bridge Trade and Apprenticeship Scholarship Program

Central Scholarship to Administer New Workforce-Focused Fund in Response to Infrastructure Needs

Baltimore, MD – [June 24, 2025] – The Baltimore Community Foundation (BCF) has awarded a significant grant to Central Scholarship to establish the **Francis Scott Key Bridge Trade and Apprenticeship Scholarship Program**, a new initiative supporting Maryland residents pursuing careers in the skilled trades.

This transformational investment from BCF's Maryland Tough Baltimore Strong Key Bridge Fund will provide critical financial assistance to students enrolled in accredited trade schools and registered apprenticeship programs, particularly those preparing for careers in construction, welding, engineering, and other infrastructure-related fields.

"This gift from the Baltimore Community Foundation is both timely and visionary," said **Tierra A. Dorsey**, President of Central Scholarship. "In the wake of the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse, this program invests in rebuilding—not only the bridge itself but the pipeline of talent needed to sustain and strengthen Maryland's infrastructure. We are honored to partner with BCF to support the next generation of skilled workers."

The scholarship program will be administered by Central Scholarship, a trusted nonprofit with more than 100 years of experience in removing financial barriers to education. In alignment with Maryland's economic development goals, this program aims to address workforce shortages and provide equitable access to opportunities for individuals seeking to build careers in the trades.

"This is about making an investment in our community to build long-term resilience and economic opportunity," said Dr. Shanaysha Sauls, President and CEO of the BCF. "We're proud to partner with Central Scholarship to ensure that Marylanders have the resources they need to contribute meaningfully to our state's recovery and growth."

Applications are now being accepted for the program. Eligible applicants must be Maryland residents who are accepted into or enrolled in qualified trade school or apprenticeship programs and demonstrate financial need.

For more information, visit Central-Scholarship.org.

Media Contact:

Niccole Rolls

Director

Central Scholarship

Nrolls@central-scholarship.org

410-415-5502

Central-Scholarship.org
