

CYC Launches \$1.5M CAPS Scholarship Program through Merancas Foundation



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New CAPS Scholarship Program Will Provide Scholarships and Mentors to Help CYC Fellows Graduate Debt-Free

We are thrilled to announce that Carolina Youth Coalition (CYC) is launching a new \$1.5 million scholarship program to provide under-resourced students in Charlotte, NC with the long-term mentorship and financial support they need to graduate college debt-free and be ready for career success!

Funded by a grant from the Merancas Foundation, the Creating Access to Pathways for Success (CAPS) Scholarship Program will fill the gap between what students receive in financial aid and what it costs to attend college while also matching students with a mentor to guide them, starting their junior year and continuing through college graduation to their first job. Recipients will be able to redeem the

scholarship at any in-state, public post-secondary institution.

Partnering with local schools and community organizations, the CAPS Scholarship Program will identify a cohort of 15-20 CYC Fellows per year who need it most – those who may not qualify for significant scholarship dollars and need an additional layer of support to make it to and through college. Combined with their participation in CYC's core programming, scholarship recipients will have access to a robust set of academic, social, and financial resources to be well-positioned for college and career success.

90% of kids who grow up in poverty but graduate from college will not live in poverty as adults according to the Pew Charitable Trusts: Economic Mobility Project. Yet, only 13% of students from families with the lowest incomes nationally earn a bachelor's degree by age 24, according to the Pell Institute.

"We cannot sit back while smart, hard-working students with so much potential get derailed from their educational path," said Nicole Mermans, the Merancas Foundation board member who conceived the CAPS Scholarship Fund. "We want to provide them with this additional layer of support so they can achieve their goals and dreams."

Carolina Youth Coalition is one of two nonprofits that were selected to build and administer this program. We are looking forward to working alongside our counterparts at [College AIM](#) in Atlanta, GA to make college possible for students who may not have the resources to go it alone.

CYC is seeking mentors who can commit to at least three years of working closely with a student beginning in Summer 2022. Click below to learn more!

Mentor with CAPS!

Visit CAPS Scholarship Website

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