



PO Box 74
Larue, Tx. 75770
903-804-5244
dplate5352@gmail.com

Caring for America of Henderson County, Texas

First Responder Scholarship

Dear prospective applicant,

First responders are at the front lines of traumatic injuries and devastating emotional pain and suffering every day. Unfortunately, these heroes often don't receive the recognition they deserve, or emotional treatment they may need. First responders answer the call for help no matter the circumstances, time, location or situation of an emergency. Some of us would not be here if it were not for the brave actions of first responders.

Through natural disasters, fires, and acts of terror, these men and women run towards danger while others flee. Sacrifice is a common word to describe the life of a first responder, their families, and friends. Some make the ultimate sacrifice of laying down their own life in the pursuit of saving someone else's.

The Caring for America of Henderson County (CFA), Texas First Responder Scholarship mission is to provide encouragement and financial assistance to Henderson County students who seek a higher education in the area of law enforcement, fire services, or medical support.

CFA is pleased to offer the First Responder Scholarships of \$1,500 each. These scholarships will be awarded to 2026 high school seniors, who are residents of Henderson County, Texas.

We greatly appreciate your participation in this application and essay process. The scholarship requirements are outlined on attached application. Please complete and sign the application and submit an essay (in APA format) on the following question:

What has been the most impactful event in your life?

The deadline for submission is February 02, 2026. All entries must be postmarked and received on or before that date. Entries which are received afterward will be discarded and not considered. If you have any questions, please contact us at dplate5352@gmail.com or contact us at the address listed above.

Caring for America of Henderson County, Texas

First Responder Scholarship

Scholarship winners will be selected annually by evaluating the prescribed application, community activities, school involvement, and the applicant's original essay.

Applicant must:

- Be entering into a field of study in the area of law enforcement, fire services, or medical support, **including training expenses for the police or fire academy.**
- 2026 High School graduate
- Be a resident of Henderson County
- Be a legal resident of the United States of America with proof of birth certificate, passport, or Naturalization papers.
- Have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or greater
- Be attending a college, university, or technical school in the 2026-2027 school year.

Additional Requirements:

- The applicant's completed application, essay, two letters of recommendation and supporting documents must be *received* at the Caring for America(CFA) post office box *no later than midnight, February 2, 2026*. Late entries will be disqualified.
- The applicants must provide sealed high school transcripts.
- A letter of recommendation from one of the applicant's teachers and a separate personal recommendation (not a relative) must accompany the application.
- The application **MUST** be signed.
- A face-to-face meeting with judges may be required for finalists.
- The application must be complete. Any incomplete packages will be disqualified.
- All applications will be judged by the CFA scholarship committee. The decision of the judges is final.

Essay Requirements:

- The essay must be an original work of the applicant on the question:
What has been the most impactful event in your life?
- The essay, combined answers, must consist of a *minimum* of 500 words. (APA format)
- The winning essay must be typed, using proper grammar, spelling and punctuation and all references footnoted. NO hand written papers will be accepted.

Caring for America First Responder Scholarship Application

Section A - Applicant's Personal Information:

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Address (no P.O. Box): _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

You must be a legal resident of the United States. (Attach supporting documentation with birth certificate, passport or naturalization papers.)

Section B - Applicant's High School Information:

High School: _____

GPA: _____ (Attach sealed transcript(s)) Graduation date: _____

High School activities and achievements to include any work/volunteer experiences, civic or community service:

Section C - Applicant's Scholarship Mission:

Please include a statement of why you want to serve your community in the area of law enforcement, fire services or medical support

List any first responder personal experience (your experience or any experience related to a relative in law enforcement, firefighter, medical support) Explain experience:

Section D - Applicant's College, University, or Technical School:

To which colleges, universities, or technical schools have you applied or been accepted?

Section E - Applicant's Affirmation of Information:

By my signature below, I swear or affirm that the information contained in this application is true, correct, and accurate. I further swear or affirm that the essay attached to this application is my own original work.

Applicant's signature: _____

Printed name: _____

Date: _____

Submission Checklist

- Completed Application**
- Verification of GPA (sealed transcripts)**
- (2) Letters of recommendation, one teacher, one personal**
- Typed 500-word minimum essay (combined) on the question.**
- Proof of legal residency of the United States (birth certificate, passport, or naturalization papers.)**

Submit application BY MAIL ONLY and postmarked by February 2, 2026 to :

Caring for America

P.O. Box 74

Larue, Texas 75770