Frequently Asked Questions

[Who is eligible to apply?](#)
[Does the patient need to use Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated drugs?](#)
[What is the confidentiality of my application?](#)
[How do you define "good academic standing"?](#)
[When is the application deadline?](#)
[When is the recommendation deadline?](#)
[What is the program timeline?](#)
[What are the selection criteria?](#)
[Who administers this program?](#)
[Who do I contact if I have other questions about the program?](#)
[Who do I contact if I haven't received the scholarship funds check?](#)

Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible for this scholarship, you must:

- Anticipate enrollment as a part-time or full-time first-year, second-year, third-year, fourth-year, or graduate student of a post-secondary program at an accredited institution in the United States or Canada in the fall of 2026 in good academic standing
- Be a person who has been diagnosed with sickle cell disease (SCD) or transfusion-dependent beta thalassemia (TDT), or is the sibling, caregiver, spouse, or child of a person diagnosed with SCD or TDT
- Consent to disclose this information with Scholarship America Inc, Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated, the Vertex Foundation, and the academic institution
- Be a citizen or legal resident of the United States or Canada
- Not be a Vertex Pharmaceuticals or Vertex Foundation employee, contractor, former employee, employee dependent, or immediate family member, as such persons are not eligible to apply

Does the patient need to use Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated drugs?

No. This scholarship is for any person diagnosed with SCD or TDT, their sibling, caregiver, spouse, or child. Use of a Vertex product is not considered.

What is the confidentiality of my application?

If selected, your full application will be shared with the Vertex Foundation and Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated. If not selected, any adverse events disclosed in your application will be shared with the Vertex drug safety team. Any information and material you provide as part of your application process will be handled according to the Vertex privacy notice, which is different from the Scholarship America Inc. privacy notice on the Scholarship America Inc. login page.

How do you define "good academic standing"?

Applicants cannot be on academic probation according to the guidelines of their educational institution, based on academic transcript.

When is the application deadline?
May 6, 2026 at 3:00 PM CT

When is the recommendation deadline?
May 11, 2026 at 3:00 PM CT

What is the program timeline?
- Application Open: March 4, 2026
- Application Deadline: May 6, 2026
- Recommendation Deadline: May 11, 2026
- Notification of Selection Results: June 2026
- Funds Disbursed: Early August 2026

What are the selection criteria?
The elements considered in selecting the recipients include:
- Essays
- Community involvement
- Academic achievements and records
- Recommendation

Decisions will be made by Scholarship America with guidelines provided by the Vertex Foundation. No Vertex Foundation directors or Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated employees are involved in the selection of scholarship recipients.

Who administers the program?
Scholarship America Inc. administers the Vertex Foundation Scholarship Program.

Who do I contact if I have other questions?
Please email **vertexfoundationscdtdt@scholarshipamerica.org** with any questions about the program.

Who do I contact if I was notified that I've been awarded a scholarship but have not received the scholarship funds yet, and my tuition is due soon?
Please email **Scholarship America** at **vertexfoundationscdtdt@scholarshipamerica.org**. All correspondence should reference the Vertex Foundation Scholarship for SCD & TDT Scholars.

Decisions of the selection committee are final and are not subject to review. No application feedback will be given.