



2025 Ella French Scholarship

About

Ella French Scholarships are awarded annually to children of current or retired employees of the Chicago Police Department and other youth actively involved in police programming. They are intended as financial assistance to offset high school expenses such as tuition, supplies, and transportation. Scholarship recipients and their parents or guardians will be invited to a celebratory luncheon in Chicago on Sunday, September 14th, 2025.

History

On August 9, 2021, Chicago Police Officer Ella French was killed in the line of duty. She was incredibly well-liked and a role model with integrity in the department. Officer French personified the importance of being a Chicago police officer. She had a strong commitment to the community, children, and animals. Upon Officer French's death, Chicago business leader Allan Reich was moved by her story and wanted to create a vehicle for young people to have the opportunity to learn about Officer French and ensure her legacy and that of fellow fallen Chicago officers who died in the line of duty, would live on. In 2023, with the support of Officer French's mother, Ms. Elizabeth French, the Chicago Police Foundation created the Ella French Scholarship program.

Award Amount

Each student selected will be designated an Ella French Scholar and receive **\$2000** to be used for high school expenses.

Application Deadline

May 1st, 2025

Award Notification

Award recipient(s) will be notified by August 15th, 2025.

Application Requirements

Eligible applicants must be in grades 8 through 11 as of January 2025 (Grade 11 early graduates excluded). They must show proof of attending or about to attend high school (Grade 9), carry a 2.7 (or higher) GPA (or equivalent), and have a good attendance record.

To be eligible, applicants must also fit ONE of the following criteria:

- A child or dependent of a currently active or former (retired) Chicago Police Officer
- A child or dependent employee of the Chicago Police Department
- A child or dependent of a fallen Chicago Police Officer

- A high school student who is an active participant in a Chicago Police Department youth program, including:
 - Youth District Advisory Council
 - Chicago Police and Firefighter Training Academy
 - Police Explorers
 - Police Athletic and Arts League
 - Police Cadet Program

Application Process

Applicants who meet the listed qualifications must submit the following required documents with their application.

- A 300-600-word essay about yourself and why Ella French inspires you.
- One digital image of themselves.
- Evidence of CPD youth program participation or the name of the qualifying parent.
- A copy of a current government or school-issued photo ID and a current high school or 8th-grade incoming freshman transcript that includes a GPA (or equivalent) and shows attendance (if attendance is not listed, a note from a school counselor stating the applicant has good attendance will be accepted).
- Two letters of recommendation from a non-family member.
- All items must be submitted by the deadline application date as **one** digital PDF file to **brad@chicagopolicefoundation.org**; otherwise, the application may be denied.

***Scholarship Recipients will be required to provide a social security number for tax purposes. ***



2025 Ella French Scholarship Application

(Include this sheet with the required attachments)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Preferred Email _____

Phone _____

Gender _____

Birth Date _____ Birthplace _____

Please indicate how you qualify for the Scholarship from the list of descriptions:

High School Attending/Will Attend _____

High School GPA (If Applicable) _____

Anticipated Graduation Date _____

NOTE: PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING:

*All items must be submitted by the deadline application date as **one** digital PDF file to **brad@chicagopolicefoundation.org**; otherwise, the application may be denied.

- ☐ A 300-600-word essay about yourself and why Ella French inspires you
- ☐ One digital image of yourself
- ☐ Evidence of CPD youth program participation or the name of the qualifying parent
- ☐ A copy of a current government or school-issued photo ID
- ☐ A current high school or 8th-grade incoming freshman transcript that includes a GPA (or equivalent) and shows attendance (if attendance is not listed, a note from a school counselor stating the applicant has good attendance will be accepted).
- ☐ Two letters of recommendation from a non-family member

Verification and Release

I attest that the information I have provided is complete and accurate, and I agree that the Ella French Scholarship Committee/Chicago Police Foundation may verify this information.

I agree that the Chicago Police Foundation may disclose the information contained in this application to any donors who assist with this educational scholarship. If the Chicago Police Foundation awards a scholarship to me, I hereby authorize the organization, on a royalty-free basis, to include my likeness and story as part of its publicity and fundraising initiatives.

Signature _____ Date _____