

Human Services Career Advancement Scholarship



Program Overview

The [Human Services Career Advancement Scholarship Program \(HSCAS\)](#) provides eligible human services workers a scholarship to complete an Associate, Bachelor's, or Master's degree at the City University of New York (CUNY). HSCAS aims to help human services workers advance in their careers and also help create a pipeline of qualified individuals to fill higher-level positions at human services organizations.

Program Manager: CUNY Office of Career and Industry Partnerships

Key Partners: [Mayor's Office of Talent and Workforce Development](#), [Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity](#), [FPWA](#)

Start Date: Fall 2021

Budget (FY26-FY30): \$1.8 Million (NYC Opportunity and City tax levy funds)

Problem Statement

Human services professionals play a critical role in ensuring New Yorkers have access to the services they need. However, as many human services organizations cannot afford to invest significantly in professional development, these workers may not have easy access to opportunities that help them advance in their careers.

Program Details and Program Goals

The program provides workers at [eligible nonprofits](#)¹ scholarships up to 50% of tuition costs for an Associate, Bachelor's, or Master's degree at a participating CUNY college. These include:

- Associate/Bachelor's Degree: *Borough of Manhattan Community College, College of Staten Island, Hunter College, Kingsborough Community College, Lehman College, School of Professional Studies (SPS), School of Public Health (SPH), and York College*
- Master's Degree: *College of Staten Island, Hunter College, Lehman College, SPS, SPH, and York College (in a program relevant to human services including: Business Administration, Counseling, Disability Services, Organizational Leadership, Psychology, Public Administration or Public Policy, Social Work, Youth Studies)*

¹ Nonprofit organizations that provide human services to people in New York City and have one or more active human services contracts with New York City agencies.

HSCAS works with a steering committee² to conduct outreach to nonprofits about the scholarship program and the program also conducts a series of information sessions for interested human service workers.

The program's goals are to provide opportunities for human service workers to advance in their careers and increase their wages by earning a CUNY degree. Ultimately, the program aims to create a pipeline of qualified New Yorkers to lead the city's human services organizations.

Performance Data:

- # of students currently enrolled (as of May 2026): 22
- # of students graduated (as of May 2026): 23

**The program is currently conducting post-degree career outcomes surveys and interviews with graduates to understand longer-term career trajectories.*

² Steering Committee partners (current and past): FPWA (lead organization), CAMBA, Chinese-American Planning Council, Coalition for Homeless Youth, Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies, Human Services Council, The Jewish Board, LiveOn NY, NYC Employment and Training Coalition, and Safe Horizon.