



June 25, 2026

DuPage County Board
421 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187

RE: Letter Requesting 2026 Grant Support

Dear DuPage County Board Members and Grant Review Committee,

On behalf of Green Halo Scholars, I am grateful for the opportunity to request a grant of \$25,000 to provide comprehensive college access and success programming to 35 high school students from DuPage County. Grant funds will be used to provide individualized college counseling, academic tutoring, and ACT and SAT preparation at no cost to students.

Green Halo Scholars is the only nonprofit organization dedicated specifically to college access and success in Chicago's western suburbs. We currently serve students from seven DuPage County area public high schools: Lyons Township, Hinsdale Central, Hinsdale South, Naperville Central, Westmont, Downers Grove South, and Downers Grove North. All Green Halo scholars come from low-income households and/or will be among the first generation in their families to attend college. Approximately 83% are expected to become the first members of their families to earn a college degree.

For our students, the road to college can be extraordinarily complex. They are navigating this process without access to the private counselors, tutors, test-preparation courses, and family experience available to their more affluent peers. Without knowledgeable, sustained guidance, promising students may underestimate their options, enroll in institutions they cannot afford, take on unnecessary debt, or miss opportunities for financial aid.

Green Halo addresses these inequities through a long-term, relationship-based model that begins in 10th grade and continues through college graduation. Each student receives personalized support tailored to their goals, strengths, academic needs, and financial circumstances. Our small cohorts and consistent mentorship allow our team to identify challenges early, celebrate progress, and ensure that no scholar slips through the cracks.

Green Halo's results demonstrate the power of this intensive approach. One hundred percent of Green Halo scholars graduate high school and matriculate to a four-year college or university; on average, each high school scholar receives four offers of admission at financially feasible institutions. Recent scholars have earned admission to institutions across the country, and Green Halo college scholars have attended more than 30 colleges and universities, including Cornell University, Howard University, Michigan State University, Northwestern University, Purdue University, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Illinois Chicago, and DePaul University. The high school scholar Class of 2029 had an average out-of-pocket cost of just \$171 for their first year in college, and 64% received a "full ride" financial aid package. Green Halo college scholars maintain an average GPA of 3.47.

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These outcomes extend far beyond individual college acceptances. When a Green Halo scholar earns a degree, the benefits reach parents, siblings, and future generations. Families gain knowledge about higher education that can be shared with younger children, while graduates enter their careers with stronger earning potential, broader professional networks, and less financial strain. DuPage County benefits from a more educated workforce and from young people who are prepared to contribute their talents and leadership to their communities.

We are deeply grateful for DuPage County's commitment to expanding opportunity for local young people and families. A \$25,000 investment in Green Halo Scholars will provide 35 deserving students with the academic preparation, expert guidance, and sustained personal support needed to transform college aspirations into college degrees.

Thank you for considering this request and for your continued investment in the success of DuPage County students. We would be honored to partner with the County to ensure that family income or first-generation status never determines how far a talented and motivated young person can go.

Sincerely,



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