



The Fortera Foundation was established to align Fortera's core values, resources, and commitment to make meaningful investments in the communities we serve.

Through the work of the Foundation, we aim to break the cycle of generational poverty and improve families' long-term financial stability. The Foundation focuses its impact on combatting a high rate of poverty among single parents by enabling access to higher education. Earning a post-secondary degree is a well-established pathway out of poverty, yet it can be difficult to achieve with obstacles such as childcare, transportation and financial strain.

The Fortera Foundation works to help eliminate barriers to success and increase the quality of life for low-income single-parents and their children by:

1. lowering single-parent college dropout rates;
2. increasing educational opportunity & academic success for parents & children; and
3. increasing economic self-sufficiency for single-parent families.

Single parent students may apply for financial or supportive assistance from the Foundation. Scholarships are also awarded through the Fortera Foundation Bridge Scholarship Fund at Austin Peay State University. Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements.

### **Financial Assistance Eligibility Requirements**

- You meet the following definition of "single parent" (all 3 categories)
  - Marital status: You're single (never married, widowed, divorced, legally separated\*) or you're married, but living apart and your divorce will be final by the time the scholarship is awarded.
  - Parenting Status: You're the custodial parent or guardian with physical custody (50% or more) of at least one dependent child. A dependent child is 18 or younger, older than 18 and still in high school, or a severely disabled adult living with and dependent on you.
  - Living status: You're the only adult in the home with the child(ren), you live with parents or relative(s), or you live with a roommate who is not your partner, significant other, or a co-parent.
- You are a legal resident of the United States (or a resident with DACA status).
- You have earned a high school diploma or GED.
- You have not previously earned a bachelor's degree.
- You have at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA.
- Your household income is typically not more than 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- You've completed or are in the process of completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (not required for DACA students).
- You're pursuing a degree or certification that leads to employment at family-supporting wages.