

# 2026 Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference Scholarship Application

Conference scholarships provide access to the Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference (RVP) for resident leaders and representatives from public agencies and the nonprofit community whose work and community will benefit from their conference participation.

The scholarship covers registration for conference activities from **September 23-25, 2026**. Applicants traveling from outside the Pittsburgh region may apply for coverage of two nights of hotel accommodations. The scholarship does not cover travel expenses (e.g., airfare, mileage, and ground transportation).

The Center for Community Progress is committed to ensuring that RVP reflects the diversity of the communities that we serve. We encourage qualified applicants of all races, ethnicities, and genders that share this commitment to apply.

Applications are due **April 22, 2026 at 11:59 PM ET**. [Apply here »](#)

## Program Eligibility

Eligible applicants are resident leaders and representatives from public agencies and nonprofit organizations who serve communities facing negative impacts of widespread problem properties, particularly communities disproportionately impacted by the legacy of segregation and discriminatory laws and/or public health, housing, and economic crises.

*Individuals who have received scholarship awards for a previous RVP Conference are not eligible.*

## Selection Criteria

Scholarship applications will be evaluated by Community Progress staff based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated commitment to serving communities with widespread vacancy and abandonment and residents in those communities who have been most affected
- Demonstrated financial need
- Demonstration of how lived experience in neighborhood(s) impacted by vacancy and abandonment, if any, has inspired their work in the field of community development

## Important Dates

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>April 22, 2026</b> | Application deadline (11:59 PM ET)        |
| <b>May 25, 2026</b>   | Scholarship recipients notified via email |
| <b>July 17, 2026</b>  | Scholar registration deadline             |

*For questions regarding conference scholarships, please contact our team at [events@communityprogress.org](mailto:events@communityprogress.org).*

## Scholarship Application Questions

If awarded a 2026 RVP conference scholarship, I agree to:

1. Respond to requests for information and submit paperwork by established deadlines
2. Attend the 2026 RVP conference in its entirety (September 23-25, 2026)
3. Complete a conference evaluation
4. Share what I learn from the conference with my community
5. Inform Community Progress of any on-the-ground results following lessons learned from the conference

### Section 1: Contact/Professional Information and Financial Need

First Name:

Last Name:

Job Title:

Organization:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Daytime Phone:

Email:

I would be attending this conference as a representative of a:

- Nonprofit
- Public Agency
- Academic Institution
- Neighborhood Association
- Other (Fill in box)

My role in this organization is:

- Employee
- Volunteer
- Student
- Other (Fill in box)

The mission of the organization is: (essay box)

Briefly describe your role in the organization:

The organization's operating budget is:

- \$0 - \$100,000
- \$100,001 - \$250,000
- \$250,001 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$2,500,000
- \$2,500,000 +
- N/A

Briefly describe your financial need for this scholarship. (250 words limit)

### **Student**

I am currently a student

*(Students will be required to show a student ID at registration)*

- Yes (Continue)
- No (Skip to Next Section)

School Name

School City/State

Field of Study

Degree Type (Bachelors, Masters, etc.)

Expected Graduation Date

### **General**

I am applying for a scholarship award to cover the following (check the appropriate box):

- Registration fee
- Registration fee and overnight accommodations

## Section 2 (Narrative Responses)

**Question #1:** Describe the community you serve. Include the population, socio-economic makeup, scope of vacant properties, and most pressing issues the community faces (e.g., health, housing, economic stability, etc.). (200 word limit)

**Question #2:** Describe the specific community revitalization projects or advocacy work you have been involved with. How did that work connect to advancing equity in impacted communities? (200 word limit)

**Question #3:** What do you hope to gain by participating in the Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference? Include how you hope to share what you learn at the conference with others in your community. (200 word limit)

**Question #4:** Briefly describe what inspires you to dedicate your time and expertise to the community development field. (200 word limit)