

COLLEGE ACCESS TAX CREDIT FUND



WHAT IS IT?

Individuals, businesses
and insurance companies
contribute to a fund that
bolsters financial aid.

The credit for contributions to the College Access Tax Credit Fund (CATCF or the Fund) can be used to offset state tax obligations.

A portion of the contributions from individuals, businesses, and insurance companies will go towards the Cal-HBCU Transfer Grant (Cal-HBCU) Program, administered by the California Student Aid Commission. The Cal-HBCU Program provides grant awards of up to \$5,000 to California community college students who have completed the Associate Degree for Transfer pathway to attend a regionally-accredited Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and who intend to return to California following their studies.

A tax credit of 50% of a cash contribution to the Fund is available through taxable year 2027. A taxpayer cannot claim a deduction and a credit for the same contribution. Any unused tax credit may be carried over for six years, until the credit is exhausted.

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State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA



HOW TO APPLY

To claim the tax credit, a taxpayer must apply at the website of the California Educational Facilities Authority (CEFA). CEFA is the administrator of the Fund and is chaired by State Treasurer Fiona Ma.

To be eligible to claim the tax credit for the taxable year, all of the following must occur:

- ✓ CEFA receives a completed application by the deadline (5 p.m. on January 4, 2027 for the 2026 taxable year);
- ✓ CEFA issues a notice granting a tax credit reservation to the taxpayer;
- ✓ The taxpayer submits all required forms and the contribution to CEFA by the listed due date;
- ✓ CEFA provides the taxpayer with a College Access Tax Credit Certification; and
- ✓ The taxpayer provides the certification information when filing their taxes.

CATCF DETAILS AND APPLICATION ARE AVAILABLE AT: www.treasurer.ca.gov/cefa/catc

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Deadlines & Tax Credit Availability

CEFA will accept applications for the tax credit as follows:

2026
taxable
year

Applications for the 2026 taxable year will be accepted through January 4, 2027, 5:00 p.m. (Pacific Time)

For 2026, the Fund has approximately \$488 million in tax credits available.



We Can Accept IRA Contributions

Did you know that you may make a contribution from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) as a Qualified Charitable Distribution? For further details, consult the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or your tax advisor.

Questions?

For assistance with the application, process, or payment of contributions, please contact CEFA through its website www.treasurer.ca.gov/cefa/catc or call (916) 654-5711.

For assistance with tax questions, please contact the California Franchise Tax Board through its website www.ftb.ca.gov or call (800) 852-5711.

For more information about the Cal-HBCU Program, please contact the California Student Aid Commission through its website www.csac.ca.gov/cal-hbcu-transfer-grant-program or email calhbcu@csac.ca.gov.



EXAMPLE



Jane Doe applies online for a tax credit reservation on 10/2/26. Her proposed contribution is \$10,000. CEFA mails Jane a notice granting her a \$5,000 tax credit reservation (50% x \$10,000) by 10/12/26. CEFA also sends Jane a Contribution Submittal Form that states she must submit her contribution no later than 11/1/26. Jane makes a \$10,000 contribution via Automated Clearing House to the Fund on 10/16/26. CEFA then sends Jane a \$5,000 College Access Tax Credit Certification on 10/24/26.

Jane may claim a \$5,000 tax credit on her 2026 California tax return for her contribution to the Fund. She also may be eligible to report a charitable contribution deduction on her 2026 federal tax return. However, she may not report the deduction on her California tax return.

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