



FAQs: Educational Grants- Educational Ascent



Educational Ascent Grant

[What is an Educational Ascent Grant?](#)

[What is covered by an Educational Ascent Grant?](#)

[Who is eligible for an Educational Ascent Grant?](#)

[As an employee based in Canada or Australia, do I qualify for an Educational Ascent Grant?](#)

[Why is the Educational Ascent Grant not offered in Canada?](#)

[Where can I apply?](#)

[What are the application deadlines?](#)

[What is required as part of the application process?](#)

[Can I apply for an Educational Ascent Grant if I am not yet enrolled?](#)

[Can I apply for multiple deadlines?](#)

[Can I apply at a second deadline, if I have already received a grant?](#)

[Will everyone who applies and is qualified receive an Educational Ascent Grant?](#)

[I want to get my GED or take a GED or ESL class. How do I get a grant for that?](#)

[Who is responsible for approving grant applications?](#)

[How are grants fulfilled?](#)

Further Questions?

Contact Details

www.epicpromise.com

epicpromise@vailresorts.com

Educational Ascent Grant

What is an Educational Ascent Grant?

An Educational Ascent Grant is a financial grant up to **US\$2,500** for Vail Resorts employees who are pursuing a degree or certificate program. Examples include: vocational degree programs, bachelor's or specialized degrees (i.e. nursing degrees), master's degrees, professional degrees (law or medical degrees), EMT certificates.

While the grant is not automatically renewable, applicants may apply at multiple deadlines. There are four application deadlines per calendar year.

What is covered by an Educational Ascent Grant?

The maximum award for an Educational Ascent Grant is US\$2,500 to cover or support with the costs of tuition, fees, books, and course materials. If your charges are less than US\$2,500, the grant will cover the exact charges and no more.

Who is eligible for an Educational Ascent Grant?

Educational Ascent Grants are open only to *U.S. Vail Resorts* employees with full-time, part-time or SIS (*Seasonal Inactive Status*) status whose annual household income is at or below:

- Single person household: **US\$89,320** (refer to the [Income Qualifications](#) for households with more than one individual).
 - This increases by approximately US\$31,360 for each additional family member.
- Income and employment classification will be verified through Vail Resorts Human Resources.

As an employee based in Canada or Australia, do I qualify for an Educational Ascent Grant?

No. The Educational Ascent Grant is only offered to employees based in the United States.

Why is the Educational Ascent Grant not offered in Canada?

The Canadian Revenue Agency takes the position that scholarships paid by employers to employees are taxable employment benefits that would need to be offered to all employees and that the training or education must benefit the employer. This is in direct contradiction to the Internal Revenue Service's laws governing the Foundation's U.S. charity status, where employee education grants should not benefit the employer.

Where can I apply?

The application is available online at www.epicpromise.com/ascent via both desktop and mobile. You must answer all questions and include all required documentation.

What are the application deadlines?

The 2020-2021 Educational Ascent Deadlines are:

- Friday, January 15, 2021
- Wednesday, April 21, 2021
- Friday, August 13, 2021

What is required as part of the application process?

If the financial requirement is met, the committee will consider the following elements to determine grant awards:

1. **5 Short-Answer Questions** – 62% of total application score
 - Emphasizing your community involvement and how the course/program will help you personally and professionally.
2. **Degree/Curriculum Checklist** – this could be one of the following:
 - Outline of Program Requirements or a Course Catalog
 - Official Course Syllabus

** If your course does not have a degree/curriculum checklist, please provide a document that explains how the course you are taking leads to the degree/certificate that you are pursuing.*

3. **Two Completed Referral Forms** – 18% of total application score
Download and use the referral form template on the application. If a blank document or incomplete form is uploaded, zero points will be received for this section.
 - One form from your Vail Resorts Supervisor
 - One form from another personal or professional contact, such as a Vail Resorts colleague.

How to Use the Reference Forms: Reference Forms will be found in the application. Applicants will need to download the Reference Form and send it to their chosen references, who will then need to fill out the form and send it back to the applicant to upload as part of their application. You will not be able to submit an application without both completed reference forms uploaded to the site.

If your reference prefers to send the form directly to the EpicPromise Employee Foundation (without the applicant viewing beforehand) they can email it to epicpromise@vailresorts.com.

NOTE: If this option is taken, there is a checkbox on the form that the referral will need to check, sign and send back to the applicant for upload. No applications can be submitted without a completed form or confirmation that a form will be emailed to EpicPromise.

* Reference Forms from family members and partners will not be permitted.

***ALL DOCUMENTATION MUST BE SUBMITTED AS A .PDF DOCUMENT.**

Can I apply for an Educational Ascent grant if I am not yet enrolled?

Yes, but you must have at least applied to your educational degree or certificate program prior to applying for an Educational Ascent grant.

Can I apply for multiple deadlines?

Yes. You can apply at each application deadline, whether or not you have received a grant in the past.

Can I apply at a second deadline, if I have already received a grant?

Yes. You must complete a new application, however. We recommend refreshing your essay and letters of recommendation.

Will everyone who applies and is qualified receive an Educational Ascent Grant?

No, the process is competitive. Based on the rules of the Internal Revenue Service, only 10% of those who apply and are eligible, may receive grants.

The only exception to the 10 percent-rule are grants to those who pursue a GED/HSE program or who participate in an ESL program.

Who is responsible for approving grant applications?

The EpicPromise Employee Foundation Board of Directors has appointed an Educational Grants Committee. This committee is comprised of non-executive Vail Resorts employees from across the Company that volunteer their time to review applications and determine all awardees. Only full and completed applications are considered.

How are grants fulfilled?

All grant monies are sent directly to the student's academic institution (*i.e. the institution's bursar's office*). Grant monies will not be sent to individuals directly.

Income Qualifications Chart:



2020 INCOME QUALIFICATIONS

Number of Persons in Household	USD	CAD
1	\$89,320	\$116,116
2	\$120,680	\$156,884
3	\$152,040	\$197,652
4	\$183,400	\$238,420
5	\$214,760	\$279,188
6	\$246,120	\$319,956
7	\$277,480	\$360,724
8	\$308,840	\$401,492

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EPICPROMISE EMPLOYEE FOUNDATION

Contact Details

www.epicpromise.com

epicpromise@vailresorts.com

About the EpicPromise Employee Foundation

The EpicPromise Employee Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit funded by Vail Resorts, company employees and the community. We provide grants for unplanned emergencies and educational scholarships to Vail Resorts employees and their families.