



**Children with a college savings account
are 3x more likely to go to college.
We're here to help.**

Semillitas is for newborns of Santa Cruz County parents.

We will open a special savings account for your baby. We can offer up to \$50* to get things started.

The savings built up in this account can later be used for your child to go to college or vocational education programs.

As your child grows, so will the savings account!

Did you know? Semillitas automatically creates college savings accounts for all Santa Cruz County newborns!

This will give our kids a head start on a bright future — in life and in school.

Together we can help your children reach their educational goals.

Ready to learn more?

Visit us online at www.semillitas.org or call (831) 200-1719 or email semillitas@sccvonline.org

You have questions. We have answers.

Why Semillitas?

Semillitas can help you get an early start at saving for your child's higher education. We want to help families keep their kids happy and healthy. We want to help them reach their goals in life.

How does Semillitas work?

Each child born to Santa Cruz County parents can get a gift of up to \$50 towards their education. Semillitas will automatically start a special savings account for your child. We will save this money for your child to use for college or vocational education after high school.

Can I see how the account grows?

Yes, you can see how it's doing. Parents can monitor the account online at www.semillitas.org, or give us a call at (831) 200-1719.

How will the account grow?

As your child reaches milestones, our partners will add more money to the account. Our goal is to have the funds reach \$500 by the time your child enrolls in kindergarten. This account will also grow over time through interest and the way the fund is invested.

How will Semillitas funds be invested?

Santa Cruz Community Ventures, a nonprofit organization, will be in charge of the funds. They will put the money in ScholarShare. ScholarShare is California's 529 college savings plan. The funds will be held in this account for your child.

What costs can be covered by this fund?

After your child graduates from high school, your child will be able to use the funds to continue their education. Your child can go to college or get vocational education at accredited and qualified schools.

What happens if my child doesn't want to go to college?

Funds may be used for many kinds of training, not just college. Your child can use it at any school, including a vocational school, that is accredited and qualified. Your child has until age 26 to use the funds. If the funds are not used by then, the funds will be returned to Semillitas.

What will it cost me?

Nothing! Semillitas is free! There are no fees, charges, or hidden costs.

If I take part, will it change the benefits my family gets, like MediCal or CalFresh?

No. The funds are held by Santa Cruz Community Ventures. The funds will help your child in the future. It can't be counted as household income.

What happens if we move?

No problem. It won't matter if:

- Your child changes schools.
- You move to a new city or state.
- You move to another country.

Your child will still be able to use the funds when the time comes. Be sure to tell us each time you move. Email us at semillitas@sccvonline.org or call us at (831) 200-1719.



Can I also give money to my child's account?

It's a great idea for parents and other family members to save for your child's future education. You can open your own ScholarShare 529 account. We can help you make that happen. That account will be a different one from the Semillitas account for your child.

Can I Opt-Out of the program?

Yes. You can email us at semillitas@sccvonline.org or call (831) 200-1719.

What is ScholarShare?

ScholarShare is a 529 college savings plan. It is sponsored by the State of California under the State Treasurer's office. It helps people plan for the cost of higher education.

What is a 529 Plan?

A 529 plan is a special savings account you can use to save for college or accredited vocational school programs. You could save this money in other types of accounts. But 529 plans give you benefits if you want to use the money for higher education.



A PROGRAM POWERED BY VENTURES