



Republic of the Philippines
QUEZON CITY COUNCIL
Quezon City
23rd City Council

PO23CC-183

51st Regular Session

ORDINANCE NO. SP- **3537**, S-2026

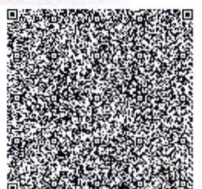
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE QUEZON CITY ADULT LEARNER COLLEGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (QC ALCAP) AS A SPECIALIZED SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR QUALIFIED ADULT LEARNERS, PROVIDING FINANCIAL AND ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE FOR THE COMPLETION OF AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Councilors VICTOR "Vic" D. BERNARDO, EMMANUEL BANJO A. PILAR, ATTY. VOLTAIRE GODOFREDO "Bong" LIBAN III and ATTY. VICENTE BELMONTE JR.

Co-Introduced by Councilors Tany Joe "TJ" L. Calalay, Bernard R. Herrera, Dorothy A. Delarmente, M.D., Joseph P. Juico, Charm Ferrer, CPA, MPA, JD, Nicole "Nikki" V. Crisologo, Mikey F. Belmonte, Aly Medalla, Dave C. Valmocina, Ranulfo "Tatay Rannie" Z. Ludovica, Atty. Christoffer Allan "Tope" Liquigan, Albert Alvin "Chuckie" L. Antonio III, Wencerom Benedict C. Lagumbay, Luigi D. Pumaren, Edgar "Egay" G. Yap, Nanette Castelo Daza, Imee Rillo, Atty. Jesus Miguel Suntay, Raquel S. Malañgen, Joseph Joe Visaya, Aiko Melendez, Alfred Vargas, MPA, Karl Edgar Castelo, Shaira "Shay" L. Liban, Ram V. Medalla, Maria Eleanor "Doc Ellie" R. Juan, O.D., Kristine Alexia Matias, RN, Erwin Rey "Cocoy" A. Medina, and Jhon Angelli "Sami" C. Neri

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines provides that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all;

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, states that every local government unit shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare. Within their respective territorial jurisdictions, local government units shall ensure and support, among other things, the preservation and enrichment of culture, enhance economic prosperity and social justice, and promote full employment among their residents;



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WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10687, otherwise known as the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) Act, aims to properly allocate and utilize all government resources intended for students through effective beneficiary-targeting and to facilitate access to quality education through Grants-in-Aid for students belonging to marginalized sectors;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise known as the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, provides for free tuition and other school fees in State and local universities and colleges, as well as State-run technical-vocational institutions, and establishes the tertiary education subsidy and student loan programs;

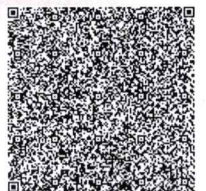
WHEREAS, Quezon City Ordinance No. SP-3283, S-2024, otherwise known as The Expanded Scholarship Code of Quezon City, institutionalized and expanded the Quezon City Scholarship Program to provide financial assistance and support mechanisms to qualified students across various scholarship categories and vulnerable sectors, thereby strengthening the City's commitment to accessible and inclusive education;

WHEREAS, despite these national programs, the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM 2) Year Two Report found that four (4) out of ten (10) students drop out of college, with attrition rates as high as 93% in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), 61% in Central Visayas, and 52% in Metro Manila. The primary reasons cited are the need to work (44%), lack of engagement (25%), and financial struggles (20%);

WHEREAS, in the Philippines, adult and alternative learners face higher opportunity costs and require adequate support to improve their participation and completion rates, indicating the need for targeted assistance;

WHEREAS, adult learners often face distinct educational barriers, including interrupted schooling, employment obligations, caregiving responsibilities, financial hardship, and other socio-economic challenges that require targeted and flexible support mechanisms to improve tertiary education completion rates;

WHEREAS, to address these challenges and operationalize constitutional and statutory policies, there is a need to establish a specialized scholarship assistance program in Quezon City for adult learners that complements existing national and local educational assistance mechanisms, defines eligibility and prioritization standards, and provides appropriate support systems to assist qualified residents in completing tertiary education;



WHEREAS, the Quezon City Government recognizes that many adult learners face financial and personal challenges that hinder the completion of tertiary education, limiting their access to better employment and professional advancement;

WHEREAS, the Quezon City Government is committed to inclusive and equitable education by supporting qualified residents who seek to continue or complete their college studies, in line with its vision of sustainable development and social justice;

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Quezon City Adult Learner College Assistance Program (QC ALCAP) will provide specialized financial, academic, and support mechanisms responsive to the unique circumstances of adult learners, thereby helping reduce dropout rates, improve access to tertiary education, and strengthen the City's human capital;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to allocate funds and institutionalize mechanisms to ensure the effective implementation, monitoring, and sustainability of QC ALCAP, consistent with principles of transparency, accountability, and good governance.

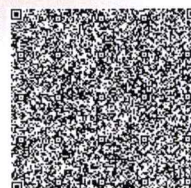
NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. – This Ordinance shall be known as the "Quezon City Adult Learner College Assistance Program (QC ALCAP) Ordinance."

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. – It is hereby declared the policy of the Quezon City Government to promote and protect the right of residents to accessible and quality tertiary education. Toward this end, the Quezon City Government shall support qualified residents who seek to continue or complete their undergraduate education through responsive and inclusive scholarship assistance mechanisms that foster human capital development, promote equitable opportunities, and advance the general welfare.

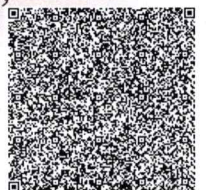
In pursuit of this policy, the Quezon City Government recognizes that adult learners who return to higher education often face distinct educational barriers, including financial constraints, interrupted schooling, employment obligations, family responsibilities, and the need to balance work with academic commitments. Accordingly, there is a need to establish a specialized scholarship assistance program that provides targeted and appropriate support mechanisms responsive to the unique circumstances of adult learners.



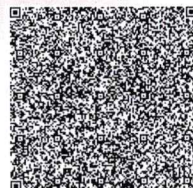
The Quezon City Adult Learner College Assistance Program (QC ALCAP) shall form part of the Quezon City Scholarship Program established under Quezon City Ordinance No. SP-3283, S-2024, otherwise known as The Expanded Scholarship Code of Quezon City, and shall operate as a distinct scholarship subtype or assistance mechanism for qualified adult learners. It shall be implemented with due regard to transparency, accountability, sustainability, and the efficient utilization of public funds in order to maximize educational outcomes, strengthen workforce participation, and promote the long-term social and economic development of the City.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. – For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms are hereby defined as follows:

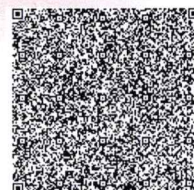
- a. **Adult learner** – refers to a person who is eighteen (18) years old or above who seeks to continue or complete an undergraduate degree;
- b. **Commission on Higher Education (CHED)** – refers to the government agency created under Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the Higher Education Act of 1994, tasked to regulate and supervise higher education institutions and programs in the Philippines;
- c. **Child** – refers to a person below eighteen (18) years of age, or one who is over eighteen (18) years old but is unable to fully take care of or protect himself or herself from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation, or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition;
- d. **Displaced Worker** – refers to a worker in the formal or informal sector who became unemployed or lost his or her livelihood as a result of economic crises, natural disasters, or human-made disasters, including employees or workers involved in labor disputes concerning alleged illegal dismissal;
- e. **Higher Education Institution (HEI)** – refers to any public or private institution duly authorized or recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to offer undergraduate degree programs;
- f. **Indigent** – refers to a person who has no visible means of income or whose income is insufficient for the subsistence of the family, as identified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) pursuant to applicable laws, rules and regulations;



- g. **Minimum wage earner** – refers to a worker in the private sector paid the statutory minimum wage, or to an employee in the public sector with compensation income of not more than the statutory minimum wage in the non-agricultural sector where he or she is assigned;
- h. **Parent** – refers to a biological parent, adoptive parent, or any person exercising parental authority over a child in accordance with applicable laws;
- i. **Person with Disability (PWD)** – refers to a person who has long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder his or her full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others;
- j. **Qualified beneficiary** – refers to an adult learner who meets the qualifications and is approved to receive scholarship assistance under the Quezon City Adult Learner College Assistance Program (QC ALCAP);
- k. **Quezon City Resident** – refers to a person residing in Quezon City, as evidenced by a QCitizen ID, barangay certification, or such other documentary evidence accepted by the Quezon City Government, subject to the residency requirements provided under this Ordinance;
- l. **Quezon City Scholarship Program** – refers to the City scholarship program established under Quezon City Ordinance No. SP-3283, S-2024, which provides financial assistance and support mechanisms to qualified Quezon City residents across various scholarship categories and subcategories;
- m. **Quezon City Youth Development Office (QCYDO)** – refers to the Office created under Quezon City Ordinance No. SP-2803, S-2018, otherwise known as the Quezon City Youth Development Office (QCYDO) Ordinance, which formulates and implements programs and services attuned to the issues and concerns of the City's youth;
- n. **Scholarship Screening Committee (SSC)** – refers to the Committee established under Quezon City Ordinance No. SP-3283, S-2024, tasked to oversee the implementation of the Quezon City Scholarship Program and perform such other functions provided therein;



- o. **Significant barriers to tertiary education completion** – refers to circumstances that make it difficult for a person to complete tertiary education, including financial hardship, disability, employment obligations, interrupted schooling, or family responsibilities;
- p. **Social Services Development Department (SSDD)** – refers to the department of the Quezon City Government mandated to provide comprehensive social welfare services to disadvantaged sectors, including family enrichment, community welfare, and livelihood development;
- q. **Solo Parent** – refers to any individual who falls under any of the following categories:
 - (1) A woman who gives birth as a result of rape and other crimes against chastity even without a final conviction of the offender; provided, that the mother keeps and raises the child;
 - (2) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to the death of spouse;
 - (3) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood while the spouse is detained or is serving sentence due to a criminal conviction for at least one (1) year;
 - (4) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to physical and/or mental incapacity of spouse as certified by a public medical practitioner;
 - (5) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to legal separation or de facto separation from spouse for at least one (1) year, as long as he/she is entrusted with the custody of the children;
 - (6) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to declaration of nullity or annulment of marriage as decreed by a court or by a church, as long as he/she is entrusted with the custody of the children;



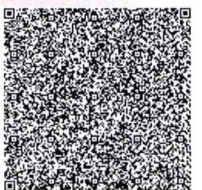
- (7) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to abandonment of spouse for at least one (1) year;
 - (8) Unmarried mother or father who has preferred to keep and rear his or her child or children instead of having others care for them or give them up to a welfare institution;
 - (9) Any other person who solely provides parental care and support to a child or children; or
 - (10) Any family member who assumes the responsibility of the head of the family as a result of the death, abandonment, disappearance, or prolonged absence of the parents or solo parent; and
- r. **Undergraduate degree program** – refers to a tertiary education program leading to the conferment of a bachelor's degree by a higher education institution (HEI) duly authorized or recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

SECTION 4. QUEZON CITY ADULT LEARNER COLLEGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (QC ALCAP). – The Quezon City Adult Learner College Assistance Program (QC ALCAP) is hereby established as a specialized scholarship assistance program for qualified adult learners and shall form part of the Quezon City Scholarship Program established under Quezon City Ordinance No. SP-3283, S-2024.

The Quezon City Adult Learner College Assistance Program (QC ALCAP) shall provide financial, academic, and other appropriate support mechanisms to qualified beneficiaries to enable them to continue and complete an undergraduate degree program in a higher education institution (HEI) duly authorized or recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). Unless otherwise provided herein, the existing systems, procedures, guidelines, and mechanisms established under Quezon City Ordinance No. SP-3283, S-2024 shall apply suppletorily to the implementation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 5. OBJECTIVES. – The objectives of the Quezon City Adult Learner College Assistance Program (QC ALCAP) are as follows:

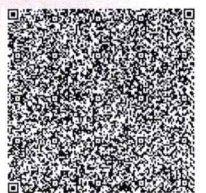
- a. Support adult learners in continuing and completing their undergraduate degree programs through a specialized scholarship assistance mechanism for qualified residents of Quezon City who seek to resume and complete their tertiary education;



- b. *Prioritize applicants belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged sectors, including solo parents, parents with dependent children, minimum wage earners, displaced workers, persons with disabilities (PWDs), indigent residents, and other adult learners who face significant barriers to tertiary education completion;*
- c. *Provide appropriate financial, academic, and support mechanisms to help adult learners remain enrolled and successfully complete their undergraduate degree programs;*
- d. *Complement existing national and local student financial assistance and scholarship programs, including those under Republic Act No. 10687 (Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education [UniFAST] Act), Republic Act No. 10931 (Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act), and Quezon City Ordinance No. SP-3283, S-2024 (The Expanded Scholarship Code of Quezon City), while avoiding duplication of benefits;*
- e. *Promote equitable access to tertiary education, strengthen the City's human capital, and improve workforce participation through transparent, accountable, sustainable, and responsive scholarship assistance mechanisms for qualified adult learners; and*
- f. *Institutionalize a targeted scholarship assistance program responsive to the distinct educational, financial, employment, and family-related challenges, commonly experienced by adult learners.*

SECTION 6. QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANTS. – *Persons who meet the following qualifications shall be eligible to apply as adult learners under the Quezon City Adult Learner College Assistance Program (QC ALCAP):*

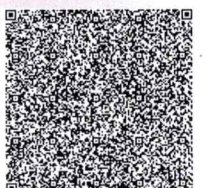
- a. *A Filipino citizen;*
- b. *At least eighteen (18) years old at the time of application;*
- c. *A parent of at least one (1) child;*
- d. *A resident of Quezon City for at least two (2) consecutive years at the time of application, as evidenced by a valid QCitizen ID card or such other documentary proof of residency as may be accepted by the Quezon City Government in accordance with applicable rules and regulations;*



- e. A holder of a valid QCitizen ID card;
- f. Previously enrolled in and has completed at least two (2) semesters of an undergraduate degree program in a higher education institution (HEI) duly authorized or recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and is currently enrolled in, admitted to, or has applied for admission to a first undergraduate degree program in a State university or college (SUC), local university or college (LUC), or private higher education institution duly authorized or recognized by CHED for the purpose of continuing and completing such degree program;
- g. Has not previously completed or been awarded any undergraduate degree;
- h. Must belong to a household classified within the low middle-income to poverty threshold, or must be a member of a vulnerable or marginalized sector;
- i. Has not been dismissed for disciplinary reasons by any higher education institution (HEI) previously attended, as evidenced by a Certificate of Good Moral Character or any equivalent certification issued by the concerned higher education institution (HEI);
- j. Has no unpaid academic or financial arrears with any higher education institution (HEI) previously attended; and
- k. Must have stopped schooling for more than one (1) school year due to employment, family responsibilities, financial constraints, health-related reasons, caregiving obligations, or other analogous personal or socio-economic circumstances.

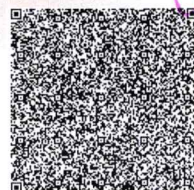
SECTION 7. IMPLEMENTATION. –

- 7.1. Implementing Agency** – The Quezon City Youth Development Office (QCYDO) shall be the primary office responsible for the implementation and administration of the Quezon City Adult Learner College Assistance Program (QC ALCAP), consistent with its mandate under Quezon City Ordinance No. SP-3283, S-2024. The QCYDO shall receive and evaluate applications, determine qualified beneficiaries, in coordination with the Scholarship Screening Committee (SSC), and administer the scholarship assistance and other support mechanisms provided under this Ordinance.



- 7.2. **Coordination with Other Offices and Institutions** – The QCYDO shall coordinate with the Social Services Development Department (SSDD), public and private higher education institutions, and such other offices or institutions as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Ordinance. The SSDD shall assist in the referral, assessment, validation, and coordination of qualified applicants and beneficiaries, particularly those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged sectors.
- 7.3. **Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)** – The QCYDO, through its Department Head and in coordination with the Scholarship Screening Committee (SSC) and concerned offices of the Quezon City Government, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Ordinance within sixty (60) days from its effectivity. Such implementing rules and regulations shall take effect upon approval of the City Mayor and shall thereafter have the force and effect of law.
- 7.4. **Monitoring and Reporting** – The QCYDO shall establish appropriate monitoring and reporting mechanisms to ensure the proper implementation of the Quezon City Adult Learner College Assistance Program (QC ALCAP) and shall submit periodic reports to the Office of the City Mayor and the Sangguniang Panlungsod on the status of the Program.
- 7.5. **Scholarship Assistance** – Each qualified beneficiary under the Quezon City Adult Learner College Assistance Program (QC ALCAP) shall receive scholarship assistance in the amount of Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php20,000.00) per school year.
- 7.6. **Suppletory Application of Existing Scholarship Systems** – Unless otherwise provided herein, the existing systems, procedures, guidelines, and mechanisms established under Quezon City Ordinance No. SP-3283, S-2024 shall apply suppletorily to the implementation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION. – The annual funds necessary for the implementation of this Ordinance shall be included in the yearly appropriations from the General Fund of the Quezon City Government. The QCYDO, as the primary implementing office, is hereby authorized to allocate the necessary funds for the effective implementation of this Ordinance, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing laws, rules and regulations.



SECTION 9. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All ordinances, resolutions, executive orders, memorandum circulars, and administrative orders and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with any provisions of this Ordinance, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

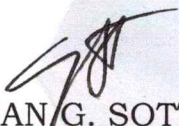
SECTION 10. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – If any provision of this Ordinance is declared void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. – This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the territorial jurisdiction of Quezon City.

ENACTED: June 8, 2026.

CERTIFICATION

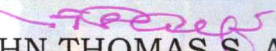
This is to certify that this Ordinance was ENACTED by the City Council on Second Reading on June 8, 2026, was Reverted to Second Reading on July 9, 2026, and was PASSED on Third/Final Reading on July 13, 2026.


GIAN G. SOTTO
City Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

APPROVED: AUG 11 2026


MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE
City Mayor

ATTESTED:


ATTY. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS, III
City Government Department Head III
(Secretary to the Sanggunian)

