

2021-2022 Scholarship Program Guidelines and Instructions

Thank you for your interest in the Northwest CT Community Foundation's 2021-2022 Scholarship Program. This year, the Community Foundation will administer more than 30 scholarship funds.

Applications are available online at www.northwestcf.org/scholarships and must be submitted by April 1, 2021. Additional required information: Student Aid Report (only for those scholarships with a need-based component.) Graduating high school seniors and those applying for a scholarship for their first semester of college are also required to submit a signed transcript release form and SAT and/or ACT scores. We strongly encourage applicants to upload all materials through the secure Online Scholarship form, or email them to scholarships@northwestcf.org. If this is not possible, documents can be submitted to the Community Foundation in hard-copy format and must be postmarked by April 1, 2021.

For high school students, the Community Foundation will obtain your transcript and class rank directly from your school guidance office only when your application and all other material, including your SAR (for scholarships that have a need-based component), SAT and/or ACT scores and the transcript release form have been submitted and determined to be complete. Applicants who are currently attending college will request transcripts be sent through their college or university.

The selection process is competitive, and **many (but not all) awards are based on financial need and academic merit.** To be considered for a scholarship, applicants must exhibit good citizenship, exemplary character and academic merit and for those scholarships with a financial-need component, demonstrate financial need according to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and meet all other eligibility requirements (see Application Checklist).

Students should **read the application carefully and answer all pertinent questions** in each of the following sections: applicant/family information, academic history, activities, work experience, and essays. Prior to selecting the scholarships for which you wish to apply, **carefully review all scholarship descriptions to ensure that you meet specific eligibility requirements.** Please provide all required information (see Application Checklist) by the application deadline. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Students must reapply each year. Receipt of an award for one academic year does not guarantee that an award will be granted in a subsequent year; conversely, students who are denied an award should not be discouraged from reapplying in another year. Selection of scholarship awards is based on specific criteria established by the fundholder/donor. Each fund may have unique and/or specific selection requirements. Most awards are based on financial need, academic achievement, extracurricular activities, work experience and community involvement. While there is no minimum GPA requirement for consideration, most past recipients have had a GPA of at least 3.0.

A volunteer review committee consisting of community, academic and civic leaders will review the applications and make award recommendations. Applicants will be notified via postal mail of any awards they have received. Scholarship award checks, unless otherwise noted, are made payable to both the school and the student, thus ensuring that the funds will be used for academic expenses only. All award checks must be cashed by the student's college or university by December 1, 2021.

Application Checklist

The following must be completed, verified or included in your application packet in order for you to be considered for a scholarship. Please refer to this checklist to ensure that all necessary application materials have been included in your application packet.

Are you ...

a U.S. citizen (or in possession of an alien registration card) with permanent residency in the Foundation's *20-town service area for 12 months prior to your application? (for town-based scholarships only)

Did you ...

apply for enrollment (or matriculate) at an accredited college or university in pursuit of a baccalaureate or advanced degree?

review the eligibility requirements specific to each of the scholarships for which you are applying to ensure that you are a qualified candidate?

answer all pertinent questions contained in the online scholarship application, including both essays representing your own writing ability, truthfully and to the best of your knowledge?

submit your online application?

upload via the online scholarship application a Student Aid Report (SAR), including an Expected Family Contribution (EFC)? (for scholarships with a need-based component only)

For college students, request your official academic transcripts?

For high school students, upload via the online scholarship application your SAT and/or ACT scores.

For high school students, upload via the online scholarship application a completed Community Foundation transcript release form.

Submit all required information by April 1, 2021. (Note: If mailing forms, SAR, SAT and/or ACT scores and academic transcripts must be postmarked by April 1, 2021.)

We encourage applicants to upload all materials through the secure online Scholarship Application, or email them to scholarships@northwestcf.org. If this is not possible, mail to: Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, Attn: Scholarships, P.O. Box 1144, Torrington, CT 06790. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.