

Students & Parents

Funds underneath the Community Foundation of Western PA & Eastern OH currently offer more than 240 scholarships throughout our region. These scholarship opportunities are an amazing way to invest in our community's next generation of leaders. Because of the generosity of our donors, in 2024 the Community Foundation was able to disburse just over 1 Million in scholarships.

Our donors strive to financially assist graduating high school seniors who will be continuing their education at the post-secondary level. Selection criteria can range from choosing students who are graduating from a specific high school, to a student with a love of music. Many times it comes down to a student exhibiting virtues that remind family members of a loved one.



FOLLOWING UP WITH REFERENCE PROVIDERS

Even though our automated system takes most of the responsibility off the applicants, you still need to follow up with your reference providers to confirm that their letters were in deed submitted. Without a letter of reference, applicants risk not making it into certain scholarship opportunities for which you may otherwise qualified for.

SUBMISSION IS NOT THE FINAL STEP

It may seem counterintuitive, but there maybe further steps that need completed once the application has been submitted. Upon submission, a list of qualified scholarships opportunities will populate for you.

These opportunities may require additional information such as another essay or an additional letter of reference. If you do not submit your initial application until close to March 1st, you may not have time to compete any additional requirements. We strongly encourage that you give yourself enough time in order to take advantage of the most opportunities available by submitting early.

Email is Essential

We've noticed that students aren't always the best at checking your emails but it is a vitally important part of communication during every stage of our scholarship program. It is also important that you submit your application using a personal email, rather than your school issued account so that future communications are not interrupted after graduation. It is crucial to follow these steps to ensure that you do not miss out on money for school.



IMPORTANT DATES

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|-------------------------|--------------------|
| January 1 st | Applications Open |
| March 1 st | Applications Close |
| March 15 th | Reviews Begin |
| April 15 th | Reviews Closed |

Going forward March 1st will be a Hard Deadline.

A LITTLE PREP GOES A LONG WAY

The first of the year can be a very hectic time for our seniors as you plan for the next stage for your lives. Doing a little preparation before January 1st can help you tremendously by decreasing the workload later and lessoning the stress. We've found the best way to do this is by creating a Student Resume.

The following information will be needed for all scholarship application, including ours:

- Community Service – Dates you participated, what you did, name and contact for your supervisor.
- Employment – Dates you were employed, what your duties were, name and contact for your supervisor.
- Transcripts – Name and email address of the person that submits transcripts
- Reference Providers – (**Ask permission to use them as a reference first**), names and emails of reference provider.
- Extra-curricular Activities – Only for High School, list all school activities and length of participation.
- Leadership Roles – Position held and the duration.
- Out of School Organizations - List organizations where you were active members, along with dates and how you are affiliated, example: church, unions, volunteer fire departments...
- Essay Prompts, all three must be answered - 1) Please explain why you chose your field of study. 2) How do you see yourself over the next four to five years, for example: will you live on campus, participate in collegiate sports/music, work part time, or perhaps pursue an internship. 3) Scholarships through the Community Foundation are made possible by our generous donors, all of whom desire to help local students defray the cost of furthering their education. If you are fortunate to win a Community Foundation Scholarship, how would you, in a charitable and unselfish manner, help others in your community.
- Student Aid Report – We will need a copy of the first page only, it's there that the SAI is listed.

