



The Pennsylvania House of Representatives 2011-2012 Scholarship Application Form

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives' Scholarship Program enhances educational opportunities for eligible students who reside in Pennsylvania. The program is privately funded by individual and corporate donors; no tax or other public funds are used. The program is administered by The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (a 501(c)(3) community foundation) and uses the nowU Pennsylvania 529 College Savings Program at the State Treasury Department to ensure that the scholarships keep pace with tuition inflation (nowU, formerly TAP 529, was established by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1992).

I. Scholarship Description

The program provides four-year scholarships to two high school seniors per year. Each award consists of the value of one semester of tuition at the State System of Higher Education for each of four years. Eligible educational institutions include nearly all colleges, universities, and career schools in Pennsylvania. Half of each annual award will be paid in the fall semester, and half in the spring semester. Students must maintain eligibility criteria in all four years in order to receive ongoing awards (see section IV).

Scholarship awards must be used for "qualified higher education expenses," as defined by IRC Sec. 529. This includes tuition, mandatory fees, required books and supplies, required equipment, room and board, and special needs services for special needs students. Each award disbursement will be paid jointly to the student and to the educational institution in order to ensure proper use of funds.

II. Matching Award Opportunities

AES/PHEAA's PATH Program: Scholarship recipients may be eligible to have their awards matched up to a dollar-for-dollar basis by the PATH ("Partnerships for Access To Higher Education") Program. PHEAA may grant matching funds to scholarship recipients who are enrolled in an approved Pennsylvania college or career school, who are a State Grant recipient and who demonstrate financial need. The match may provide last-dollar support for tuition, books and fees. The scholarship recipient's information is submitted to PHEAA by TFEC staff. No additional work will be asked of the scholarship recipient. For more information regarding AES/PHEAA, please refer to their website at www.pheaa.org.

SAGE Scholars Program: If scholarship recipients choose to attend one of the participating private college/universities in Pennsylvania listed on www.sagescholars.com, they also are eligible to receive tuition discounts equivalent to the value of the scholarship award. This non-cash tuition discount is available for each scholarship year. Over four years, the discount total cannot exceed one year's worth of tuition at the participating school.

III. Selection Criteria

Scholarship applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Legal residency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
2. Attendance at a Pennsylvania college, university, or career school as a full-time student
3. Academic achievement (minimum of 3.0 cumulative GPA in high school)
4. Commitment to community and demonstrated leadership qualities
5. Extracurricular activities
6. Essay (500 words maximum)
7. Financial need

IV. Continuing Eligibility Criteria

In order to receive ongoing awards in years two through four, the student must:

1. Remain a legal resident of Pennsylvania
2. Remain enrolled as a full-time student at a Pennsylvania school
3. Maintain a grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) of:
 - a. 2.5 in the first year
 - b. 3.0 in each subsequent year (years 2-4)

V. Application Requirements

Please submit the following:

- Completed Application- Information Sheets, Resume, Volunteer & Extracurricular Activities Sheet and Commitment to the Community and Leadership Skills Sheets
- Official High School Transcript with numerical cumulative GPA (Home School students should submit detailed grade reports)
- FAFSA **Student Aid Report** Form (Financial Aid Form) www.FAFSA.ed.gov
- Completed Essay
- Three (3) Personal Reference Letters. At least one letter should be from a **high school teacher on school letterhead**. Letters from family members will not be accepted. **References should be sealed in an envelope, and should not be opened by the student. All reference letters must remain confidential.**
- \$10 processing fee (checks only), made payable to The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. Processing fees do not fund the scholarships, but instead offset program administration costs. The scholarships are privately funded; no tax or other public funds are used.

Please return your completed application to:

Jennifer Doyle, Program Officer
The Foundation for Enhancing Communities
200 N. Third Street, Eighth Floor
P.O. Box 678
Harrisburg, PA 17108-0678
Attn: PA House of Representatives Scholarship

Your completed application must be received in the Foundation office on or before March 11. Applications received after March 11 will be disqualified. Those with missing or incomplete requirements may be disqualified. You will get one notification of information you may be missing; it will be by email or phone. The Foundation for Enhancing Communities will evaluate all applications and may choose to interview the finalists. Applicants will be notified in May-June regarding selection results.

Please direct questions to:

Jennifer Doyle, Program Officer
(717) 236-5040

email: jdoyle@tfec.org