



The TFEC Aspire to Rise Scholarship provides financial assistance for non-traditional students who have experienced adversity in their lives but are looking to overcome those struggles through further education.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Non-traditional students 22 years of age or older
2. Applicants must have faced challenges that prevented them from continuing their education. Applicants will be asked to write an essay describing the role education will play in their efforts to overcome their circumstances and achieve long-term goals.
3. Additional consideration will be given to applicants who have not completed a post-secondary degree.
4. Legal resident of Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lebanon or Perry County. Or, legal resident of Dillsburg in York County
5. Plan to attend a four year college or university, a two year trade or technical school, or an associates or certificate program on a full-time or part-time basis. Or, plan to register or are scheduled to take the GED
6. Financial need

HOW TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP TO FUND HIGHER EDUCATION

The application process is online. You can access and submit the application beginning January 1.

[Click here](#) to access the online application.

If you are signing back in to complete your application, please [click here](#).

Before accessing the application, be prepared to attach the following items:

***** YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION UNTIL THESE ITEMS ARE ATTACHED*****

1. Personal Resume.
2. Completed Supplemental Form. Applicants who have previously completed a post-secondary degree are asked to provide additional information about the nature of their degree. [Click here](#) to download the pdf file that you should complete, save, and attach to your application.
3. FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR): Please attach the report in its entirety. This report must include the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC). Please be aware that the SAR is **not** the same as the Summary Report. In addition to the SAR, you may also provide a letter with information you believe will be useful in determining your financial need (e.g., family and student income). Are there extenuating circumstances of which we should be aware? For example, illness in the family, loss of employment, or other relevant information?
 - a. **If you are requesting support to enroll in a certificate program that does not require the completion of the FAFSA, you may submit your most recent tax return instead of the Student Aid Report.**
4. Personal Essay: *Why is your presence in higher education a significant achievement?* Applicants should keep in mind that the award is designed to support non-traditional students who are looking to overcome their struggles through further education. Please reference any adversities and the role education will play in achieving long-term goals. Describe challenges that have prevented you from attending college and what has motivated you to pursue a degree now. 400 words minimum, typewritten, 12 pt. font, double spaced.

The following requirements must be emailed to scholarshipapplications@tfec.org separately. These items will not appear as attachments to your online application or prevent you from submitting:

The following requirements must be emailed by your personal references:

1. *One (1) Personal Reference Letter. Letters may be written by an employer/manager, community service leader, caseworker, or someone who can attest to your personal character and ability to complete your studies. Letters from family members will not be accepted. **All reference letters must remain confidential.***

HOW TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP TO FUND GED TESTING

The application process is online. [Click here](#) to access the online application.

If you are signing back in to complete your application, please [click here](#).

Before accessing the application, be prepared to attach the following items:

**** YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION UNTIL THESE ITEMS ARE ATTACHED ****

1. Personal Resume.
2. Most Recent Tax Return: In addition to the tax return, you may also provide a letter with information you believe will be useful in determining your financial need (e.g., family and student income). Are there extenuating circumstances of which we should be aware? For example, illness in the family, loss of employment, or other relevant information?
3. Personal Essay: *Why will earning your GED be a significant achievement?* Applicants should keep in mind that the award is designed to support non-traditional students who are looking to overcome their struggles through further education. Please reference any adversities and the role education will play in achieving long-term goals. Describe challenges that have prevented you from graduating from high school and what has motivated you to earn your GED now. 400 words minimum, typewritten, 12 pt. font, double spaced.

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1. *One (1) Personal Reference Letter. Letters may be written by an employer/manager, community service leader, caseworker, or someone who can attest to your personal character and ability to complete your studies. Letters from family members will not be accepted. All reference letters must remain confidential.*

RENEWABILITY

This scholarship is a one-time only award; however, individuals may re-apply for consideration at the completion of their original award period by completing the **full** application process.

MATCHING AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

AES/PHEAA's PATH Program: Scholarship recipients are eligible to have their awards matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by AES/PHEAA's 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 as an undergraduate student on at least a half-time basis, who are a Pennsylvania state grant recipient and who demonstrate financial need. Students must also be a resident of Pennsylvania, not in default on any educational loans, maintain academic progress, and not be considered an incarcerated student. The match provides last-dollar support for tuition and fees. *Scholarship funds used for reimbursement of textbook purchases are not eligible for a PATH Program match.* 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.