



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).

The program provides four-year scholarships to two high school seniors per year. The award is to be used towards the cost of tuition and fees for a four-year program at a college, university, or career school in Pennsylvania. Each award consists of the value of one semester of tuition at Shippensburg University in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania which is a state supported school for each of four years, as stipulated by members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives when the scholarship was established. 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.

Scholarship awards must be used for tuition & fees and books only. Each award disbursement will be paid jointly to the student and to the educational institution in order to ensure proper use of funds.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

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

*\*Children of legislators and their staff members are not eligible.*

## HOW TO APPLY

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:**

1. Other Scholarship Information: [Click here](#) to download the fill-in Word document that you should complete, save, and attach to your application.
2. Student Resume: [Click here](#) to download the fill-in Word document that you should complete, save, and attach to your application.
3. Commitment to the Community & Leadership Skills: [Click here](#) to download the fill-in Word document that you should complete, save, and attach to your application.
4. 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?

5. Personal Essay: Running for elected office is a difficult process. Imagine you decided to run for public office. Discuss how you would cover the following components:
- What issues would be important to you? What techniques would you use to get your message out? What groups of people organizations would you need to gain support of? How would you raise money?
- Essay should be titled, 500 words maximum, typewritten, 12 pt. font, double spaced.

**The following requirements must be submitted electronically by your school's guidance department through the Recommenders Tab in the online application:**

1. *Three (3) Personal Reference Letters.* At least one letter should be from a high school teacher on school letterhead. Please have references mail or email letters to your high school's guidance department. It is your responsibility to inform your guidance department that they will be receiving personal reference letters. Letters from family members will not be accepted. **All reference letters must remain confidential.**
2. *Official Transcript.* Home schooled students should submit a detailed grade report.
3. *Guidance Counselor Form.* [Click here](#) to download the form

*When prompted to "Notify Selected Recommenders", copy and paste the email message below to be sent to your school's guidance office. Confirm that your guidance office has your references on file before sending this message. When sent, your message will include a link for your guidance office to use to upload these documents. You do not need to provide this link.*

Subject: Materials Needed for Scholarship Application — YOUR NAME  
Message: I am applying for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Scholarship Fund through The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. The application requires that you submit additional materials for me. Please use the link below which will include additional instructions. There is no option to save and finish later, so please upload all materials and submit before exiting the window.

1. Three (3) Personal Reference Letters
2. Official Transcript
3. Guidance Counselor Form. This form will be available to download in the additional instructions.

*You will not be able to submit your application until these items have been submitted by your guidance department. You must log back in to your application before the deadline passes in order to submit your completed application.*

## RENEWABILITY

This scholarship will be automatically renewed for up to four (4) years provided the student remains a legal resident of Pennsylvania; remains enrolled as a full-time student at a Pennsylvania school; and maintains a minimum cumulative "B" GPA as determined by your school – typically a 3.00 on a 4.0 scale – each year. Students must submit their official transcript and tuition bill, along with a note updating their progress **each semester** to TFEC in order for their scholarship to be renewed.

## 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](http://www.pheaa.org).