



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. Involving youth as partners in decision-making that affects them increases the likelihood that the decisions will be recognized, adopted, and applied to their daily lives. Research and discuss a plan to increase meaningful youth engagement in the Pennsylvania State Government process. For example: What can state government officials and institutions do to enhance outreach to youth in the Commonwealth? How can youth increase their awareness of the political process and issues? Essay should be titled, 500 words maximum, typewritten, 12 pt. font, double spaced.

**The following requirements must be emailed to [scholarshipapplications@tfec.org](mailto:scholarshipapplications@tfec.org) by your school's counseling office:**

1. *Official Transcript.* Home schooled students should submit a detailed grade report.
2. *School Counselor Form.* [Click here](#) to download the form

**The Recommenders Tab in the online application is used to request others attach the following items for you:**

1. *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. **All reference letters must remain confidential.**

When prompted to "Notify Selected Recommenders," type a brief message that can be sent to all recommenders. When sent, your message will include a link for your recommender to use to upload their letter of reference. The application portal automatically generates this link; you will not provide it. Please inform your recommenders that they can expect an emailed request to come from [mail@grantapplication.com](mailto:mail@grantapplication.com).

**SAMPLE MESSAGE:** (You may copy & paste the message below, if convenient)

Subject: Letter of Reference Needed for Scholarship Application — YOUR NAME

Message: I am applying for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Scholarship Fund through The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. Please use the link below to upload your letter of reference for me. Thank you!

**\*\* YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION UNTIL ALL ITEMS HAVE BEEN ATTACHED (DOCUMENTS YOU PREPARED AND ALL REQUIRED LETTERS OF REFERENCE). 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).