



ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Applicant must be under the age of 21 prior to the application due date;
2. Applicant must be residing in New Hampshire at the time of applying for the scholarship;
3. Applicant must be actively pursuing post-secondary education;
4. Applicant must have experienced homelessness at some point during their school career.

Parameters on homeless status are defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act:

According to the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, a person is considered homeless who “lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence.” This includes people living in shelters, cars, motels/hotels, campgrounds or places not meant for human habitation. The definition includes children and youth who are living with friends or relatives temporarily (doubled-up or sharing the housing of others) because they lack permanent housing.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants will be evaluated on each component of their submission. All applicants are to submit the following:

1. Complete application form (application forms are available online at www.nhceh.org/scholarship).
2. A personal essay (500 - 1,000 words, double spaced) that address the following questions:
 - a. How has the experience of homelessness impacted you? What would you like people to understand about homelessness?
 - b. How did you maintain your focus on your education while experiencing homelessness?
 - c. What are your professional goals?
 - d. What are your educational goals and how will they help you reach your career goals?
 - e. How will this scholarship help you reach your educational goals?
3. An official school transcript, include class ranking if available. If there are any barriers to obtaining an official school transcript, please contact us at info@nhceh.org.
4. A letter from a local homeless education liaison, school official, outreach worker, shelter provider, religious leader, or other homeless service provider, confirming current or former homeless status.
5. A minimum of one letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor or other adult (not related) that can speak to the applicant’s qualifications and experiences.

NOTE: If selected for a scholarship award, you will be required to provide proof of post secondary school or program enrollment prior to release of scholarship funds.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY APRIL 20th, 2026

Complete this application and email to info@nhceh.org or mail to:
NH Coalition to End Homelessness
ATTN: Hope Starts Here Scholarship
66 Hanover Street #200, Manchester, NH 03101

Notification of Award(s) will be sent by May 15th, 2026

STUDENT INFORMATION:

First Name:_____

Last Name:_____

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY):_____

Mailing Address:_____

Telephone:_____

Email:_____

Please provide the name of a contact person who can be reached in the event we are unable to reach you.

First Name:_____

Last Name:_____

Relation to you:_____

Telephone:_____

Email:_____

SCHOOL INFORMATION:

Have you already applied to college or an institute for post-secondary education? Y N

If yes, which college/institution are you planning to attend?_____

If you are undecided, please list up to 3 college/institution choices:_____

What is your anticipated major?_____

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Estimated annual tuition (total): _____

Estimate of cost for additional expenses (books, software, etc):_____

Total expected cost: _____

Total amount of other grants/scholarships you are receiving: _____

Total estimated loans you are receiving: _____

Total funds still needed: _____

What other scholarships have you applied for or anticipate applying for?

Signature of Applicant:_____Date:_____