

The Edwards Scholarship Fund

89 South St, Suite 603, Boston, MA 02111

Supporting Higher Education

In 1939, Grace Edwards established the Edwards Scholarship to help Boston residents obtain college educations.

At a time when scholarships were often awarded on the basis of academics only, she specified financial need as a key criterion for her scholarship.

She believed that an educated citizenry builds strong communities.

Basic Requirements of the Scholarship

- continuing legal residency in Boston from beginning of the junior year in high school
- high school diploma or GED prior to the start of first semester in college
- minimum of 2.0 GPA (on a 4-point scale) or the equivalent on another scaling system
- financial need
- commitment to community service

The Trustees reserve the right to withdraw a Scholarship at any time.

Evaluating the Academic Record

In practice, most successful applicants have averages higher than 2.0 and have taken challenging courses offered by their high schools.

The recommendation from the guidance counselor is important in evaluating the accomplishments and potential of the student, as well as understanding special circumstances.

Strengthening Communities

Evaluating Financial Need

Family income, assets, family size, and number of dependents in college are important factors in the analysis. Families are encouraged to explain special financial circumstances.

Other sources of financial aid will be considered in the analysis.

Evaluating Community Service

Commitment to community service is best evidenced through activities and the required essay. Sustained, meaningful involvement is more important than a long list of activities. The Fund is looking for a short, well-written, and thoughtful essay.

Consideration is given to students who have jobs after school, younger siblings requiring care, or commutes to school that limit their activities.

Renewal of the Scholarship

Scholarship recipients are eligible to seek year to year renewal of their awards, contingent on maintaining legal residency in Boston, ongoing need, and satisfactory academic achievement in college.

College Students as First-Time Applicants

Students already in college can apply for the Edwards Scholarship as First-time Applicants. Priority in funding, however, goes to high school students entering college in the fall.

Length of Time for the Scholarship

The Scholarship is available for undergraduate study, usually completed in 4 years. Additional time, up to 6 years, can be granted when needed.

Eligible Colleges and Universities

The college or university must offer a recognized degree and be accredited by a regional accrediting agency.

Most recipients pursue the bachelor's degree at 4-year institutions.

Students can study at the college or university of their choice, in-state or out-of-state. They can study abroad in the junior year if the college in the U.S. will accept the credits earned abroad toward its degree.

Disbursement of the Scholarship

Scholarship checks are sent to directly to colleges in two equal payments, usually one in August and the other in January. Students should make sure that the Student Accounts Office knows about the Scholarship.

College Use of the Scholarship

The Edwards Fund requires that its Scholarships benefit the student recipients; existing scholarships and grants cannot be reduced due to the receipt of the Edwards Scholarship. Colleges can often help students who are receiving the Edwards Scholarship by

- meeting additional financial need of the student,
- reducing student loans, and
- covering educational expenses that are not in the college's standard cost of education: examples, a laptop computer or study abroad expenses.

Students should inform the Financial Aid Office about their Scholarships and ask about college policies addressing the topic of "outside scholarships."

How to Apply for the Edwards Scholarship

Go to the website, www.edwardsfund.org, to apply on-line. The Fund accepts only on-line applications. The website lists the additional supporting documents required in the First-time and Renewal Applications. Due dates for the upcoming application cycle are also listed.

Students complete the First-time Application for High School Students if they are seniors in high school and will attend college in the fall.

College students who are not receiving the Scholarship may apply by completing the First-time Application for Students in College.

Students complete the Renewal Application if they are currently receiving or have received the Scholarship in the past.

Submitting Application Material On-time

Applications and supporting material must be received by the established due dates. Refer to the website for the due dates.

Students are urged to keep track of the documents that they have submitted and the dates of submission.

Email Communication

Communication with applicants is through email. It is important that email settings accommodate email from the Edwards Scholarship Fund.

Students using high school email accounts should be aware that those accounts might expire after graduation.

Applicants should report changes in their email addresses promptly to: info@edwardsfund.org.

Scholarship Amounts

The amount of the Scholarship for new first-time applicants and renewal applicants varies from year to year in relation to the financial resources available to the Fund.

New awards are currently \$2,500 for the year.

City Limits of Boston, MA

There is no exception to the rule that recipients of the Edwards Scholarship reside within the City Limits of Boston, Massachusetts. Students can go to high school outside the city limits (e.g., a METCO school). But they must legally reside in Boston.

This rule includes both new and renewal students. Students in college can attend colleges outside of Boston, but they must maintain a permanent, legal address in Boston.

Neighborhoods in Boston

The City of Boston includes a number of neighborhoods. Many students identify with their neighborhoods in Boston. These neighborhoods include:

Allston, Back Bay, Bay Village/South Cove, Beacon Hill, Brighton, Charlestown, Chinatown/Leather District, Dorchester, Downtown, Financial District, East Boston, Fenway/Kenmore, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Mission Hill, North End, Roslindale, Roxbury, South Boston, South End, West End, and West Roxbury.

After College: Repay the Fund When Able

The Scholarship program does not require repayment. It is not a loan.

Grace Edwards hoped that recipients would repay the Fund when they were established in their professions. In this way, the Fund would grow to help meet the needs of future generations.

Voluntary repayments express both thanks to Grace Edwards for establishing the Scholarship and an on-going commitment to the Boston community.

Information about repayment is available on-line at www.edwardsfund.org.

Results

The Edwards Scholarship Fund has helped thousands of students and awarded millions of dollars over the decades since its inception in 1939.

Here is a quote from a current recipient who will enter the teaching profession:

"Your acceptance of me for the Edwards Scholarship for the past couple of years has allowed me to financially afford an education that I can use to help serve the community of Boston."

For More Information

- On the web: www.edwardsfund.org
- On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EdwardsFund>
- By phone: 617-737-3400
- By email: info@edwardsfund.org