

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 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 unusual or 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, commutes, or commitments to caring for family members that limit their school 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.

Time Frame

The Scholarship is for undergraduate study, usually accomplished in 4 academic years. Additional time may be granted.

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. Community colleges and other 2-year colleges are also eligible 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 U.S. college will accept the credits earned abroad toward its degree.

Disbursement of the Scholarship

If you are awarded the Scholarship, inform both the Financial Aid and Student Account Offices.

Scholarship checks are sent to directly to colleges in two equal payments, usually one in August and the other in January.

College Use of the Scholarship

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

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

Students are urged to be in contact with the Financial Aid Office concerning policies that address 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 if they are not receiving and never have received the Scholarship.

If students are not selected for the Scholarship, they may apply again in the future by completing the First-time Application for Students in College.

Students complete the Renewal Application if they have been awarded the Scholarship and wish to receive it again.

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 accept 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 in relation to the financial resources available to the Fund.

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

City Limits of Boston, Massachusetts

Students must reside in Boston from the beginning of their junior year in high school. There is no exception to the rule of required residency in the City 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 must maintain a permanent 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 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