

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

- Residence 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.

Evaluating 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 realizes that jobs, commutes, or the need to care for family members can limit the time available for activities.

The required essay needs to be thoughtful and well-written. The essay question is: *If you were to receive the Edwards Scholarship, how would you “pay it forward” after graduation to help your community become stronger?*

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.

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.

Strengthening Communities

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 if the U.S. college will accept the credits earned abroad toward its degree.

Disbursement of the Scholarship

If you are awarded the Scholarship, you should 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 students
- reducing student loans or work
- covering educational expenses that are not in the college's standard cost of education but are deemed necessary by a financial aid professional at the college.

Students are urged to be in contact with the Financial Aid Office concerning policies that address the topic of “outside scholarships.”

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How to Apply for the Edwards Scholarship

The Fund accepts only on-line applications. Go to www.edwardsfund.org for information and links to the applications.

Students complete the First-time Application if they are in high school.

Students in college who have never received the Scholarship complete the First-time-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, usually in mid-March for students applying to receive the Scholarship for the first-time. Renewal Applications are usually due in mid-February. Refer to the website for the due dates.

Students selected to receive the Scholarship must complete an on-line Acceptance in order for the Scholarship to be finalized.

Email Communication

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

You will need an email address that works over the summer after graduation. Report changes addresses promptly to: info@edwardsfund.org,

Time Frame

Most undergraduate programs are 4 years in length. Some are 5. Students who transfer often lose credits. Other factors that can lengthen the time to graduation include health issues, work responsibilities, or family issues. Students should be in contact with the Fund concerning any special circumstances.

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. Scholarships may be increased or decreased from year to year and semester to semester depending on finances. Current awards are \$2,500 for the first year of the Scholarship, \$3,000 for renewals

City Limits of Boston, Massachusetts

Students must reside in Boston from the beginning of their junior year in high school and throughout the time that they receive the Edwards Scholarship. Students can go to high school outside the city limits (e.g., a METCO school). They can go to college outside Boston. But they must legally reside in Boston.

Neighborhoods in Boston

The City of Boston includes many neighborhoods in Boston.

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.

Strengthening Communities

After College: Repay the Fund When Able

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. Since these payments are voluntary, they are tax-deductible.

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
- By phone: 617-737-3400
- By email: info@edwardsfund.org