



The NAEHCY Scholars Program

Overview

The NAEHCY Scholars Program awards at least three \$5,000 scholarships annually to postsecondary students who have experienced homelessness* and are actively pursuing their post-secondary education. Selected scholars are chosen from a pool of applicants who meet all eligibility criteria and submit all required materials by the deadline.

Selected scholars are invited, encouraged, and financially supported to attend NAEHCY's annual conference (November) where they participate in enrichment and professional development activities, share their experiences with NAEHCY stakeholders, and participate in an awards ceremony. Beginning in 2025, NAEHCY Scholars will be invited to participate in two additional convenings designed to support their educational journey and provide personal and professional enrichment as well as mentorship opportunities.

Below you will find all of the important information necessary to apply. Please visit our website at naehcy.org/naehcy-scholarship-fund to learn more about the program, read the Frequently Asked Questions, and find additional scholarship resources for students.

2024 Important Dates and Deadlines

- June 5, 2024 - Application Opens
- Tuesday, September 3, 2024 - Application Deadline (by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time)
- October 2024 - Notification of Awards
- November 17-19, 2024 - Annual Conference in Orlando, FL

Eligibility

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

- Applicants must be under the age of 23, as of September 3, 2024.
- Applicants must be actively pursuing postsecondary education/trade school.
- Applicants must be eligible for McKinney-Vento assistance or have experienced homelessness* (while in school) within the last six years.
- Applicants must submit a letter from their homeless education liaison, verifying their eligibility. (Liaison should be from their current school district or the district from which they graduated.)
- Applicants may alternately provide eligibility verification from a school official, outreach worker, shelter provider, religious leader, or other homeless service provider, confirming current or former homeless status.

Please note, undocumented students who meet the above criteria ARE eligible. However, **previous recipients of a NAEHCY scholarship are NOT eligible.**

**The applicant's homeless status is defined by the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, which defines a person considered to be homeless as one 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/relatives temporarily (doubled-up) because they lack permanent housing.*

Terms/Conditions/Requirements

- Submit the [application form](#) and all application materials by September 3, 2024 (by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time) to scholarship@naehcy.org.
- Be sure to include a current, working email, not a high school email.
- You will receive an auto-generated email confirmation if you submit your application form online. You will receive a confirmation email (by September 15) to let you know that you are being considered for an award.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered for an award.
- If selected for an award, you will be required to provide an official copy of your school's transcript as well as proof of postsecondary school or program enrollment prior to the release of funds.

How to Apply

Applicants will be evaluated on each component of their submission. If sending multiple emails, make sure to include the applicant's full name and date of birth with each message and attachment to ensure our reviewers can accurately identify materials. Accepted file formats include PDF, Word, JPG and PNG.

- [Complete the application form online](#)
(Or, complete the form on pg. 3 and email to scholarship@naehcy.org.)
- Gather required documents
 - Personal essay (guidelines on pg. 4)
 - Unofficial transcript (If there are barriers to obtaining a transcript, contact us at scholarship@naehcy.org.)
 - Letter verifying current or former homeless status (guidelines on pg. 4)
 - Minimum of one letter of recommendation (guidelines on pg. 4)
- Email all required documents to scholarship@naehcy.org
- If you need assistance or accommodation, or need a Spanish application, please contact us at scholarship@naehcy.org

If you have any questions throughout the submission process, please contact us at scholarship@naehcy.org.

2024 Scholarship Application: Form

We strongly encourage you to [complete this form online](#). Alternatively, you may complete the fields below and email the completed PDF to scholarship@naehcy.org.

Contact Information				
Last Name	First Name	Class Year	DOB (MM/DD/YYYY)	Gender
Street Address				
City	State		Zip	
Mobile Phone	Email (working email address required)			
High School or Recently Attended College				
School Name		School Counselor or Trusted Teacher		
School Address				
Contact Person <small>A contact person is someone who is in regular communication with the applicant and is able to reach them if need be.</small>				
Name		Title		
Phone Number		Email		

Postsecondary Education Plans	
SAT/ACT Score (most recent)	
Anticipated (or Current) Field of Study	
Anticipated (or Current) College/ University	Have you been accepted? YES or NO
Applied for Financial Aid YES or NO	Awarded Financial Aid YES or NO
Long Term Professional Goals and Career Interests	

Additional Questions
We provide an opportunity for our scholars to attend our annual conference, taking place this year from November 17-19 in Orlando, Florida. If awarded, are you able to attend the conference which will include an award ceremony? Yes or No
If awarded, would you be interested in participating in a forum to tell educators and policy professionals what has worked well with your education, and what could be improved? Yes or No
If awarded, would you be interested in joining the NAEHCY alumni network and potentially mentoring future scholars? Yes or No

Signature	Date
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If you have any questions throughout the submission process, please contact us at scholarship@naehcy.org.

2024 Scholarship Application: Additional Materials

Personal Essay

Please complete a personal essay (500-800 words, double spaced) that addresses one of the following questions.

1. What would be the one thing you would change about the educational system for students experiencing homelessness, and why?
2. If you were an entrepreneur, what would you develop, and why?
3. As you look back, what would be one piece of advice you would give to someone starting High School, and why?
4. Looking forward, what is something you plan to change about yourself, or add to your life, and why?
5. What is your biggest challenge? If you woke up tomorrow and that obstacle was gone, how would you go about your day?
6. What activities or interests do you have that support your educational goals (i.e. church, community service, sports, the arts, etc.)?

Recommenders and References

1. A letter from your local homeless education liaison, school official, outreach worker, shelter provider, religious leader, or other homeless service provider, confirming current or former homeless status. This individual must include their contact information and signature on the letter.
2. A minimum of one letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or other adult (not related to applicant) that can speak to your qualifications and experiences. This individual must include their contact information and signature on the letter.