

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

How do I apply for a scholarship award?

You will need the following:

1. Completed application.
2. A personal essay (500-800 words, double spaced) that addresses the following questions:
 - a. *How did homelessness impact your educational aspirations? How did you maintain your commitment to education while homeless?*
 - b. *How many times have you been homeless and for how long?*
 - c. *What are your future educational goals and how will this scholarship help you to accomplish those goals? Specifically, how would you use this scholarship, if awarded?*
 - d. *What are your long-term professional goals and career interests?*
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 scholarship@naehcy.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.

When is the deadline for submitting applications?

The NAEHCY Scholarship Fund currently has two deadlines for applications (students must be actively pursuing *(accepted or applying/ planning to attend)* post-secondary education at the time of their application):

May 31st - application will be considered for a scholarship award AND have their contact information forwarded to their accepted educational institution for potential additional scholarships and to have early connection with local resources.

June 30th - final submission deadline in order to be considered for a scholarship award only.

When are letters of recommendation and school transcripts due? Can they be sent separately from my application?

Please attempt to mail/ email all application materials in one packet or try to upload all required documents at the same time. Transcripts and letters of recommendation are required for a complete application. Please contact Jolanda Burton at scholarship@naehcy.org or 612-492-1667 for questions or if you have trouble obtaining your transcript.

Do my letters of recommendation have to be written by teachers, or can they come from anyone?

We ask for two letters of recommendation. At least one 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. The second letter may be submitted by anyone who knows you well and can attest to your experiences, character, leadership ability, commitment to education while homeless, or academic achievement. This may include someone such as an employer, coach, or mentor. It cannot be your mother, father or guardian.

What standardized test results are required? How and when do I submit my scores?

Testing scores are required for the application; please list your most recent ACT or SAT scores.

Do I have to be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident in order to apply for a scholarship award?

No. All students who meet the scholarship application criteria are able to apply.

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

- Applicant must be under the age of 21 prior to the application due date;
- Applicant must be actively pursuing post-secondary education;
- Applicant must be homeless or have been homeless at any time during their school attendance. Parameters on homeless status are defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act (see below).

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.

Can I use the scholarship award at any college and for any major?

The scholarship may be used at any degree-granting accredited college or university within the United States. Recipients may study any academic discipline of their choice.

If I am awarded other scholarships or financial aid, does it affect my eligibility for the NAEHCY Scholarship?

You are eligible for a scholarship award even if you receive other scholarships or financial aid.

Will I receive confirmation that my application was received?

Yes, you will receive email confirmation.

When are the winners notified? Are applicants who have not won also notified?

Winners will be notified in September 2018. Non-winners will receive notification in October 2018.

Where does funding for the NAEHCY Award Scholarships come from?

The scholarships are funded by the NAEHCY Scholar Fund a 501(c)3 charity and through generous donations from friends and partners.

Award Requirement

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.

Contact Information

Submit completed scholarship applications to the NAEHCY Saturday, June 30, 2018, either through the online portal, by email at scholarship@naehcy.org or by mail at:

The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
Attn: NAEHCY Scholarship Fund
PO Box 26274
Minneapolis, MN 55426