

# The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund Announces



Thanks to the generous support of the **Janey Fund Charitable Trust**, The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund is now administering The Western Massachusetts College Scholarship Program. **Since its start in 2018, 15 students have been awarded scholarships. In 2019, those 15 students received \$122,500 towards their college expenses. This is a four-year, renewable scholarship.**

- Applicants must be permanent residents of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden or Hampshire counties in Massachusetts, but may attend college anywhere in the United States.
- Applicants must have demonstrated through their activities in high school and/or choice of college major a commitment to social justice and/or environmental causes. Applicants should be sure to highlight their passion for these areas in their essays.
- Awards are limited to students entering their first year of a bachelor's degree program at a four-year college in the U.S.
- Applicants must have a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to be considered.
- Applicants must be United States citizens, or noncitizens with a current lawful presence and work authorization in the U.S.

Applicants must have financial need. It is our intent to award students with Expected Family Contributions (EFC) of \$10,000 or less, although we do consider those families with special, extenuating financial situations. Before beginning the application, use the financial calculator on the Phillips website to be sure that you qualify financially. Please keep in mind that all awarded students in 2019 of The Western Massachusetts Scholarship had family AGIs of less than \$80,000 and federal EFCs below \$10,000.

Applicants who wish to be considered for the Western Massachusetts Scholarship will use the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship application, and all applicants for the Western Massachusetts Scholarship Program will also be considered for traditional Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship awards. Applicants will receive a single response notifying them if they have been granted either award.

**The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc.**

**Visit us at [www.phillips-scholarship.org](http://www.phillips-scholarship.org)**

**Email us at [staff@spscholars.org](mailto:staff@spscholars.org)**



## THE STEPHEN PHILLIPS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.

College Scholarships for the Academic Year 2020-2021

### About the Scholarship

The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund offers renewable, four-year scholarships to students with financial need who display academic achievement, a commitment to serving others (in school, the community or at home), a consistent history of part-time work, grit and passion for overcoming obstacles and/or achieving future goals, and leadership qualities.

- ✓ Applicants may attend college anywhere in the United States but must be from New England.
- ✓ Awards are limited to students seeking their first bachelor's degree at a four-year college. They may be high school seniors or prospective or current college students who will be attending college full time in 2020-2021.
- ✓ Applicants must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to be considered.
- ✓ Students should have a history of part-time employment.
- ✓ Applicants must have financial need. It is our intent to award students with Expected Family Contributions (EFC) of about \$10,000 or less, although families with special, extenuating financial situations should call or email to see if they should apply. Before beginning the application, use the financial calculator on the Phillips website to be sure that you qualify financially. Your financial need takes into account the scholarships and grants that your college gives you, so you need to have that information in order to calculate your need.
- ✓ 90% of newly awarded students in 2019 had family AGIs of less than \$80,000 and 80% had EFCs below \$5,000.
- ✓ Applicants must either be United States citizens or noncitizens with a current lawful presence and work authorization in the U.S.

### How to Apply

Visit [www.phillips-scholarship.org](http://www.phillips-scholarship.org) for more information about applying for the scholarship and to access the scholarship application. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED USING THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORM. Mailed applications will not be considered. Students from Western Massachusetts may also apply for the Western Massachusetts Scholarship using the same application. Begin your online application early enough to be thorough in your responses and to give recommenders time to respond. The majority of applicants report spending between 4 and 10 hours to complete the application.

To complete your application, you will need to upload

- ✓ One formal essay, a few short responses, and a resume. Students applying for the Western Massachusetts Scholarship will also write an additional essay.
- ✓ Financial Aid Award information from the college or university that you plan to attend
- ✓ Your FAFSA Student Aid Report
- ✓ The names and contact details of at least two recommenders, but you may ask more than two. One of these must be a guidance counselor (for high school students) or a professor or advisor (for college students).

**Regular Deadline – 12 noon, May 1, 2020.** Applicants will be notified of decisions in late June.

**Early Response Deadline – 12 noon April 3, 2020.** Available only to students who have the financial aid information from the college they prefer to attend. The first 300 students to submit an application before April 3<sup>rd</sup> will receive a decision before the college common reply date of May 1st.

**2018 Parent Tax Forms and 2019 Student Tax Information** are required from all early applicants. Tax information will only be requested from semi-finalists in the regular applicant group.

THE STEPHEN PHILLIPS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.

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Dear Guidance Staff,

Greetings from the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund! We are writing to update you about the 2019 - 2020 awards from our scholarship award cycle last spring.

This year, the **Phillips Scholarship's new and renewal awards total almost \$3.4 million, with more than \$2 million going to students from Massachusetts** for the 2019-2020 academic year. Of those awards, \$658,500 went to new awards and about \$1.4 million to renewing recipients. Please see the enclosed list of students from Massachusetts, arranged alphabetically by high school, who represent those receiving a Phillips Scholarship for the first time. Students' names marked with an \* received the H&H Scholarship, a program funded by an outside donor for students from the North Shore of Boston.

**Western Massachusetts Scholarship Program, funded by The Janey Fund Charitable Trust**

- Students whose names are in bold on the attached list are the NEW Western Massachusetts Scholarship recipients for the 2019-2020 academic year. 2018 marked the inaugural year of the Western Massachusetts Scholarship. Eight students were awarded a total of \$71,000 for their first year; those awards were all renewed at the same level for the coming year.
- This year, seven new students received Western Massachusetts Scholarship awards, totaling \$51,500. They will also be able to renew those awards for four years of college.
- **We welcome applications for our third cohort this Spring!**

**Early Response Option**

Students who have received the financial aid packages from their preferred college before the early response deadline may apply before April 3rd and receive our decision before the May 1st common college reply date. Applicants for the Western Massachusetts Scholarship may opt for this early response program. We commit to reading the first 400 early applications, but have always been able to respond to all before May 1.

**2019-2020 Application Process:**

- New applications will be posted on the website [www.phillips-scholarship.org](http://www.phillips-scholarship.org) in December 2019.
- The **New High School Application** and **New College Application** are due at noon on May 1, 2020.
- The **Early Response Option for High School Students deadline** is noon on April 3, 2020.
- Applicants for the **Western Massachusetts Scholarship** use the **New High School Application**. They will also be considered for the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship.
- Please share the enclosed Western Massachusetts flyer and "How to Apply" document with your students.

The Fund offers renewable, 4-year scholarships to students from New England with financial need. Successful candidates are those who display academic achievement, service to others, good character, leadership qualities, and a history of part-time employment. We also value demonstrated grit and resiliency in students who have faced significant challenges. Applicants may be high school seniors or recent graduates or current college students.

Thank you for all the wonderful work that you do to help your students with the college search process!

Sincerely,

The Phillips Scholarship Staff  
[www.phillips-scholarship.org](http://www.phillips-scholarship.org)  
[staff@spscholars.org](mailto:staff@spscholars.org)