



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
OF WESTERN PA & EASTERN OH

ONE APPLICATION. 280 SCHOLARSHIPS.

TRADITIONAL DEGREES & TRADES – NEW & RETURNING STUDENTS

ABOUT OUR FOUNDATION

The Community Foundation is committed to helping students achieve their educational goals through scholarship support. With more than 280 scholarship opportunities available and over \$1 million awarded in 2026, the Foundation continues to expand access to higher education for graduating seniors and returning students in Mercer, Lawrence and Trumbull Counties.

HOW TO APPLY

Visit comm-foundation.org/scholarships and select "Find a Scholarship" to create an account. Accounts can be created at any time, but applications should not be started before January 1, 2027- any information entered before that date will be lost.

TIP! Apply Early for Best Results:

Submitting a scholarship application is just the first step. After submission, additional opportunities may appear that require extra essays or reference letters, so applying early is the best way to take full advantage of every available scholarship

IMPORTANT DATES:

- January 1st** Applications Open
- March 1st** Closes at midnight
- March 1st** **HARD deadline for the general application!**
- March 15th** Reviews Begin
- April 15th** Reviews Closed
- Quarterly** Trade/Tech application open (1/1, 4/1, 7/1, 10/1)



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HOW TO PREPARE

Senior year can be busy, but a little preparation now can make scholarship season much easier.

Before January 1, students are encouraged to put together a student resume or gather the following information such as:

- **Community service, employment, and extracurriculars**
- Leadership roles and out-of-school organizations
- Contact information for transcripts and references
- **Letters of recommendation**, letters from coaches, mentors, etc.
- FAFSA SAI #

The general application also requires an **essay**. Students may choose from one of the following two prompts:

- *Describe a time you made a difference in your school, family, or community.*
- *Share an experience that influenced who you are today, and how it's shaping your plans for the future.*

Starting early means students will be ready to take advantage of every opportunity available.

TRADE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Community Foundation offers multiple scholarships specifically for students pursuing careers in the skilled trades; from welding and electrical work to HVAC, automotive technology, cosmetology, and beyond. These trade-focused awards recognize that a four-year degree isn't the only path to a stable, rewarding career, and that skilled tradespeople are in high demand across our region.

How to Apply

Applications are accepted quarterly, so students don't have to wait for a single annual deadline; there are multiple opportunities throughout the year to apply. All trade scholarships are accessible through our Universal Application portal, the same single application students use to be considered for the full range of scholarships we offer. One application, multiple opportunities.

TIP! *Staying connected is key to every step of the scholarship program. To avoid missing important updates:*

- *Check email regularly throughout the application and award process.*
- *Use a personal email address (not a school-issued one) so communication isn't interrupted after graduation.*



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