



Components of a Good Application

- Essay
 - Write about the subject matter that is listed
 - Tie your essay to that specific scholarship (personal touches stand out in the crowd)
 - Use spell check and follow proper grammar and punctuation rules
 - Proofread (at minimum read it out loud to yourself and if possible have someone else read it)
- Transcript
 - Obtain a copy from the school you currently attend, usually from a guidance counselor
- FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid)
 - Fill government FAFSA form out in order to be eligible for financial aid
 - Can be time consuming, so plan ahead
 - Information based on your most recent tax information
 - Student Aid Report (SAR), generated from a completed FAFSA, indicates amount of financial aid for which you are eligible
 - Expected Family Contribution (EFC) usually located in upper right corner of SAR
- Letters of Recommendation
 - Should be from employer, teacher, guidance counselor, coach, and/or clergy member.
 - Should not be from a relative
 - Personalize to that specific scholarship when possible.
 - Talk to your recommender before you have them submit the letter to ensure they are the best person to recommend you.
 - Pay special attention to scholarships which require specific letters be submitted.
 - If using our third party email feature, be sure to double check the email addresses of those you are requesting a letter from.
- Resume
 - Should include: employment history, extracurricular activities, volunteer work, athletic and leadership activities and honors/awards received.
 - Include name of employer/activity/organization, position/role, dates of participation, time participated



Additional Sources for Scholarships:

Our website is just a starting point. Investigate all possible sources of assistance for which you may be eligible. Look into the following potential resources:

- Guidance counselor/department
- College financial aid office
- Employers (for you or your parent/guardian)
- Labor unions or trade and professional associations (check to see if you or your parents are members)
- House of worship/Religious groups (see if either the local or national organization offers any student aid programs)
- Hometown newspapers: especially in April, May and June, often list scholarships given in the area. (Contact sponsoring organization for more information)
- Local civic and fraternal organizations (ex: Rotary Club, Masons, Lions Club, Garden Club, etc.)
- Military affiliation (children of active or veteran service members)
- Veterans' posts (many local, state and national units sponsor some scholarship programs, especially for members' children).
- State Department of Higher Education

The most important thing to remember is that if you don't apply, you cannot receive most scholarships. So apply!

Questions? Please contact scholarships@cfhvny.org or 845-452-3077.