



# United Way of Long Island's Scholarship Programs 2024

United Way of Long Island advances the common good, creating opportunities for a better life for all by focusing on three key building blocks: health, education, and financial stability.

We're on a mission to increase opportunities for students who face unique financial challenges which can make education seem out of reach. United Way's Scholarship program is an undergraduate college scholarship program that may be used to pay for tuition, fees and room and board, or commuter allowances, if applicable.

## DREAMS for Youth Academic Scholarship:

- Awards range from \$1,000 – Up to \$3,000 for the first year of college
- Open to graduating seniors attending a 4-year college/ university or vocational program
- Awards paid over 2 semesters and are based on maintaining a 2.0 GPA
- All payments sent directly to the school

## The Robert B. Read Memorial Scholarship Fund:

- Open to graduating seniors attending University of Michigan

## Thomas F. Cruso Memorial Scholarship:

- Open to graduating high school seniors living in Suffolk County's East End who will be attending college or vocational training

## Doreen D. Miller Memorial Scholarship/ Grace Scholarship Fund:

- Open to young people who were part of the foster care system and will be attending college or vocational training



**For a Full Listing of all United Way  
of Long Island Scholarships visit:  
[www.unitedwayli.org/scholarships](http://www.unitedwayli.org/scholarships)  
or use the QR Code**

## Eligibility Criteria

To qualify, applicants must:

- Be a current resident of Long Island
- Attend a High School in Nassau or Suffolk Counties
- Be involved with community service activities
- Show demonstrated financial need
- Complete the scholarship application by the deadline

## Application Schedule

**Jan. 15:** Call for application submissions opens

**April 28:** Deadline to submit applications

**June 30:** Awards announced

## Application Checklist

Applications will only be considered complete and valid when all items listed below are submitted together.

- 2024 Scholarship Application
- Copy of parent/guardian's most recent Annual Income Tax Return (blackout all SS#'s)
- Household Gross Annual Income
- Applicant and Parent/Guardian Disclosure
- Student's school transcript (for graduating high school seniors)
- Student's essay; (for graduating high school seniors; **one page only**)
- Two letters of recommendation (for graduating high school seniors)
- Copy of FASFA Student Aid Report (SAR) (for graduating high school seniors)
- Student's resume (for graduating high school seniors; include name on each page)

*\*Note to Guidance Counselors: Please provide transcript & recommendation letters to student for submission with all other items.*



# United Way of Long Island's Scholarship Programs 2024

## Application Tips

Here are some things you can do to prepare for a competitive application:

Talk to parents, counselors, mentors, and teachers about your plans and how to be a strong candidate for pre-college enrichment or college admission and student aid.

Carefully consider which teacher, school administrator, community leader or other non-family member to ask for a reference letter. You should select an individual who has engaged in your community service activities during the school year or summer and who can provide insight into your academic performance and potential for success in pursuing pre-college enrichment or a college/university degree.

For graduating high school seniors, apply for federal student aid. Go to [www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov) to familiarize yourself with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and to get more information on federal student aid. If you are a finalist, we will use this form to confirm your eligibility and better understand your financial needs.

Review your transcript to ensure your GPA and coursework meet the eligibility requirements.

Let our advisory board get to know you through a well written essay that conveys how your interests, goals, motivation, and experiences have shaped your decision to pursue pre-college enrichment or undergraduate degree. Be sure to have someone proof your essay for spelling and grammar.

For questions or assistance, please email: [bdepena@unitedwayli.org](mailto:bdepena@unitedwayli.org)

## Further Details

The United Way of Long Island Scholarship Advisory Board will review, select, and notify the recipient by July 22, 2024. All qualified applicants will be considered without regard to race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. Awards are distributed directly to the educational institution.

Applicant and parent/guardian signatures indicate that all information contained in the application is complete and factually accurate. If any information is found to be false, this may result in forfeiture of the scholarship award. It is the responsibility of the scholarship award recipient to submit reports at the end of the semester for which the scholarship was received.

For undergraduate college scholarships, grade reports are required at the end of each semester along with the next semester tuition bill. Students must achieve a GPA of 2.0 or above. Reasonable explanation and corrective action essays for those not achieving the required GPA will be considered.



# Scholarship Application 2024

## Applicant and Parent Data (Please print clearly)

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: mm / dd / year      Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Home Phone: Student Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Current School: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Guidance Counselor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the Scholarship Program? \_\_\_\_\_

## For Undergraduate (Graduating High School Seniors)

College/University Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Intended Major for Academic Scholarship Applications (graduating HS Seniors only): \_\_\_\_\_

College Tuition Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Room/Board Cost (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a first generation college student? \_\_\_\_\_

Additional scholarships you have received? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently employed? \_\_\_\_\_

## Parent(s) or Guardian Information:

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_



# Scholarship Application 2024

## Essay/Personal Statement: (Graduating High School Seniors)

### Answer one of the of the following questions.

1. What challenges have you had to overcome to achieve your goals and pursue your education?  
How did you overcome those challenges and what did you learn about your own unique leadership capabilities?  
How will you apply the lessons learned to help you achieve your future goals?
2. Statement of Financial Need: Describe why you need financial assistance.  
How will this scholarship help you achieve your goals?
3. Describe an event, achievement or experience that has had a strong influence on your life using one of the DREAMS acronyms (Determination, Realization, Enrichment, Academics, Mission or Service) as a focal point.

## Letters of Recommendation: (Graduating High School Seniors)

### Please provide two letters of recommendation:

1. One from a teacher or school administrator
2. One from a church, community leader or other non-family member who can attest to your involvement with community service activities at school, church or your community.

As a friendly reminder please include the letters with all other materials.

Do not ask the school to send them separately.

## Resume and Essay Specifications (Graduating High School Seniors)

Please include the following:

- Current School
- Graduation Date
- GPA
- Academic Honors, Awards or Titles (if any)
- Leadership Roles/Responsibilities (if any)
- Community Service Activities (if any)
- Extracurricular Activities (if any)
- Work History (if any)
- Name of College/University you have been accepted to or plan to attend
- List of all Colleges/Universities Applied
- Anticipated Major

## Applicant and Parent/Guardian Disclosure (Pre-College and Graduating High School Seniors)

I, \_\_\_\_\_ attest that all of the information provided in this application is complete, factually correct and honestly presented. I understand that if any of the information is found to be false, this may result in disqualification or forfeiture of the scholarship award. I understand that it is my responsibility to submit appropriate bills to United Way of Long Island for payment that will be made directly to the appropriate academic institution or vendor. I understand that my signature below attests to the above, and I agree to adhere to these terms. If the applicant is under the age of 18 years old, an additional signature of a parent or guardian is required.

---

Applicant Signature

Parent or Guardian Signature

### SEND APPLICATION AND ALL MATERIALS TO:

United Way of Long Island  
Attn: Community Impact - Scholarship Committee  
819 Grand Boulevard, Deer Park, NY 11729

Or send via email to: [bdepena@unitedwayli.org](mailto:bdepena@unitedwayli.org)