



UNITED WAY
Long Island

United Way of Long Island's Scholarship Programs 2026/2027

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.

Scholarships are available through the following funds

DREAMS for Youth Academic Scholarship

The Robert B. Read Memorial Scholarship Fund

Chin Ying Scholarship

Thomas F. Cruso Memorial Scholarship

Doreen D. Miller Memorial Scholarship/ Grace Scholarship Fund

The Frank L. Regnante Memorial Fund

The Sal LaFonte Memorial Fund

The Chin Ying Scholarship

The Anthony J. Stupore memorial Scholarship Fund

The Camilla G. Belsar Memorial Fund

The Lorraine Aycock Memorial Fund

The Scott Martella Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Patricia Michels Memorial Scholarship Fund



**For a full description of our
Scholarship Programs visit:
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

October 1: Application submissions opens

May 16: 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.

- 2026 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.*



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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 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

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 2026/2027

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 2026/2027

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 seperatly.

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