



Homeless Children's Education Fund
Hope Through Learning Award
Support for Post-Secondary Education or Career Training
Application Due May 31st, 2017

The mission of the Homeless Children's Education Fund (HCEF) is to advance the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness, guiding them to be productive, empowered citizens.

Award

HCEF will grant post-secondary awards to selected applicants in the amount of **\$2,500** each. This is a non-renewable award that can be used for tuition, books/equipment, fees, or living expenses.

Eligibility Criteria

- Experiencing or has experienced homelessness during school attendance years. Homelessness is defined as lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence, and includes students living in a shelter, car, motel, doubled-up situation, or places not meant for human habitation, or lacking permanent housing.
- Currently residing in Allegheny County
- 24 years of age or younger
- Accepted into a post-secondary education or career program (e.g. college, university, community college, business school, technical school, vocational school, career training, internship, apprenticeship) for the first time, and are scheduled to begin classes/training before the end of 2017
- High school graduate or GED recipient, or due to complete secondary education at the end of the 2016-17 school year

Rating Criteria

- Commitment to education despite homelessness
- Compelling challenges due to homelessness
- Academic achievement and accomplishments
- Financial need for college
- Statement of goals and career interests
- Writing style and ability
- Community involvement

Looking for more post-secondary resources?

Check out www.homelessfund.org/hope

Join the Hope Through Learning Facebook group!

A private place for Allegheny County youth who have experienced homelessness to come together to discuss higher education.

Contact kmorrison@homelessfund.org to join.



www.facebook.com/groups/hopethroughlearning

Application Requirements

- **Application Form:** All sections must be completed
- **Resume:** Include any work, volunteering, honors, awards, etc.
- **Most Recent High School Transcript**
- **Essay:** One to two pages. Please respond to each item.
 - Describe your experience with homelessness.
 - How has your experience with homelessness affected your education? How have you overcome the challenges of housing instability to succeed in school?
 - What do you think should be done (or what would you do) to increase awareness or address the issue of student homelessness?
- **Copy of Post-Secondary Program Acceptance Letter**
- **Two Letters of Recommendation:** Letters should be on letterhead and include the author's title, address, phone number, email address, and signature. Examples include teachers, mentors, clergy, community leaders, case managers, or homeless housing staff, excluding family.

Submission and Selection Process

Copies of this application may be downloaded from the HCEF website at www.homelessfund.org/hope. To receive an application via email, fax, or mail, or if you have any questions, please contact the program coordinator at 412-562-0154 or kmorrison@homelessfund.org.

Completed applications (*no staples, please*) should be sent to:

Krystle Morrison
Homeless Children's Education Fund
2020 Smallman Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Finalists will be invited to an interview in June. A committee will choose the awardees. All applicants will be notified by mid-July.

Additional Requirements of Selected Award Recipients

- Submission of signed Awardee Agreement form, including anticipated use of funds
- Understanding that HCEF may publicly use awardees' first names, basic information (e.g. name of high school or post-secondary institution), or essay excerpts in the public announcement of this award.
- Ability to come to Pittsburgh to attend an awards ceremony in July. Understanding that the awards ceremony may include media presence.
- Submission of transcript after first year of post-secondary program

Name: _____ **Age as of May 31, 2017:** _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____
Phone: _____ **Email Address:** _____

Current Level of Education:

High School Senior High School Graduate Earning GED Earned GED Other: _____
Graduation or GED Completion (or Anticipated) Date (Month/Year): _____

Current or Most Recent High School: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____
Other High Schools Attended: _____

Post-Secondary School/Program That You Will Be Attending: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Area of Study, if Known:** _____
Scheduled Start Date (Month/Year): _____ **Anticipated Graduation Date (Month/Year):** _____
Are you currently attending, or have you ever attended, a higher education program or career training program? Yes No

Describe your academic and career goals. (Attach pages if needed.)

Describe your financial situation. How would this award assist you in fulfilling your goals? (Attach pages if needed.)

When did you experience with homelessness? Check all that apply. (See instructions for definition of homelessness.)
 I experienced homelessness in elem/middle school. I experienced homelessness in high school. I am currently experiencing homelessness.

How did you find out about this award? Please check all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/> Guidance Counselor / School Social Worker	<input type="checkbox"/> Homeless Housing/Service Provider (Specify: _____)
<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Worker
<input type="checkbox"/> Principal	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend/Family/Classmate
<input type="checkbox"/> School District Homeless Liaison	<input type="checkbox"/> Media/Newspaper (Specify: _____)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other School Faculty (Specify: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bus Poster
<input type="checkbox"/> Flyer at School	<input type="checkbox"/> Online Scholarship Listing (Specify: _____)
<input type="checkbox"/> Flyer Outside of School (Specify: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> Internet Search
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Program (Specify: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

If you were to receive this award, do you grant HCEF the right to:
Use your first and last name publicly. Yes No Use your photo publicly. Yes No

I certify that all information included in this application is accurate, complete, and solely my own. I understand that any misrepresentation, plagiarism, or false information is grounds for disqualification or award revocation.

Printed Full Name: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

HCEF prohibits its board, staff, or other designees from sharing identifying information about applicants or recipients with any outside parties, without signed written consent. HCEF may use first names and basic information (e.g. name of high school or post-secondary institution), and may reproduce anonymous information (such as essay excerpts) to promote and publicize the award program within the community.