



Sapienza Scholarship FAQ's

Am I eligible to apply?

The criteria that apply to the Sapienza Scholarship Fund for individual applicants are as follows:

- Be a permanent resident of New Canaan
- Demonstrate financial need
- Demonstrate academic achievement
- Demonstrate dedication to chosen course of study
- File a completed application by the deadline.

Your site mentions two possible Sapienza Scholarship awards 1. to Individuals and 2. to Non-Profit Organizations.

The bulk of the awards from this fund consist of scholarships for deserving New Canaan residents to further their education. There is also a smaller component of this program that makes awards to non profit organizations that in turn award scholarships to their students, clients, or employees trying to further their education .

Is the Sapienza Scholarship only available to those seeking a college education?

No. The Sapienza Scholarship is available to any resident seeking to further their education at any level. Scholarships are paid directly to the non-profit school, on behalf of the student.

Is the Sapienza Scholarship only available to current high school seniors?

No. The Sapienza Scholarship is available to all New Canaan residents seeking to further their education. We encourage younger students seeking educational options to apply and older adults seeking to further their education to apply. Also, recipients from past years are encouraged to apply for subsequent years of scholarship support.

If I am an older adult seeking to further my education, how do I get my current transcript?

If you are an older adult currently enrolled in a local education organization, we ask that you use the transcript from that organization. If you are seeking to return to school after a long absence, you may submit a copy of your most recent education transcript that you have available. If this is not available, please call the NCCF office at 203-966-0231 for assistance with this requirement.

Is there a fee to apply for a scholarship?

There is no charge to apply.

What do I send in?

- A completed application form
- A personal statement as outlined in the application.
- Copy of Student Aid Report (SAR) available at www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you are not eligible to complete this form, you must submit other relevant financial information as requested by the Scholarship Committee. Please contact the NCCF office for assistance at 203-966-0231.
- Official Grade Transcript from school (a photo copy is **not** acceptable).
- 2 Personal Recommendations (please use the form provided)

Application and support materials must be mailed to:

New Canaan Community Foundation – Sapienza Scholarship
111 Cherry Street
New Canaan, CT 06840

When is the deadline?

The deadline is April 1, 2011. All parts of your application should be received by the Foundation office by this date.

How do I obtain my Student Aid Report (SAR)?

Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov and follow the instructions for filing a report. A completed copy of your report must be sent to NCCF.

Are the scholarships awarded sufficient to pay the cost of my education?

No. These scholarships are intended to provide only partial support.

If I am awarded a scholarship, how much will I get?

The amount awarded varies according to the applicant's need and educational costs. The NCCF Scholarship Committee also takes into account other forms of assistance the applicant is receiving. Typical awards range from \$1,000 to \$7,500.

Do I need to pay scholarship money back?

No. These are charitable grants that do not need to be paid back.

If I am awarded a scholarship, do I get the check?

No. The checks are sent directly to your school's financial aid office.

What can my scholarship be used for?

The scholarships can be used for any educational expenses: tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, and other miscellaneous school expenses.

Will a Community Foundation award affect a student's financial aid package?

The impact of the scholarship on your total financial aid package will depend according to each institution. Colleges or universities may adjust financial aid packages to reflect scholarships other than those granted by the college. Usually a college or university will first use an outside scholarship to replace unmet need, or reduce the amount of loans or work study before adjusting grants or scholarships. However, policies vary and students should check with their institutions' financial aid office. NCCF makes every effort to encourage every school to finalize their financial aid package for a student without regard to our scholarship, so that each student receives the maximum benefit from our award.

If I receive a scholarship one year, will I automatically receive an award for the following year?

No. Students must complete a modified application process the following year in order to be considered for another scholarship award. The Scholarship Committee will want to review your most current academic transcript.

When will I be notified?

You will be notified after the Scholarship Committee meets, which will be between late April and early May. The awards are publically announced at a special reception in mid May.

If I receive a grant should I send a thank you note? Where do I send it?

Thank you notes are highly encouraged. Donors and scholarship committees enjoy reading thank you notes. Your note may be mailed to:
NCCF Scholarship Committee
111 Cherry Street
New Canaan, CT 06840

I am looking to apply for a "Block Grant" Scholarship. What do I do?

Block grants are made only to those organizations that have received IRS tax-exempt status. Scholarship funds support non-profit organizations with grants to fund their existing or planned scholarship programs, to benefit their students, clients or employees. Grants may be used to support tuition expenses, books, tutoring costs, and other related educational expenses and fees paid to the school or program. Awards will be paid by the Foundation directly to the non-profit organization, not to the recipients.

Based on the donor's intentions, the Foundation makes these "block" grants that enable non-profit organizations to provide scholarship funds to students, clients or employees who show great promise in their field of study and who may not otherwise be able to afford to continue their education. Note that financial need may, but need not be, a consideration for determining the award recipients.

Information to be Supplied by Non-Profit Grant Applicant

Scholarship Program

- A. General description of the scholarship program intentions and operations;
- B. Amount of grant request;
- C. Specific details as to how the NCCF grant will be allocated to students seeking scholarship assistance;
- D. Need of applicants and benefit to student recipients;
- E. Estimates of educational costs, such as tuition, books, tutoring, other costs;
- F. Who will assume responsibility for carrying out the program;
- G. Contact person: name, address and phone number.

Background Information About Your Organization

- A. Stated purpose as set forth in your By-laws;
- B. Brief history of your organization;
- C. List of officers and management personnel;
- D. List of board members and home towns;
- E. Use of volunteers and number of volunteer hours;
- F. Copy of IRS tax-exemption letter.

Financial Information

- A. Copy of current operating budget for your existing scholarship program, in terms of grants and administrative expenses;
- B. Other sources of scholarship funds currently administered by your organization;
- C. Description of how any previous NCCF grants have been used (if applicable);
- D. Audited financial statements if available.

SAPIENZA BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION FORMAT

- A. Requests should not exceed 5 pages in length (financials not included);
- B. Pages must be one-sided only, 8 ½ x 11, 3-hole punched;
- C. No staples should be used;
- D. Ten copies of the completed application must be submitted, including the budget ; (It is not necessary to send 10 copies of brochure, annual report, financial statement etc.)
- E. Ten copies of the grant proposal cover sheet (included) must be submitted as well;
- F. Please three-hole punch everything that you send 10 copies of.