



Sapienza Scholarship Block Grant Application Guidelines

The Sapienza Scholarship Fund was established at New Canaan Community Foundation in 2006 through a bequest from the estate of Anne and Anthony Sapienza. Part of the fund's mission is to fund the existing or planned scholarship programs of local nonprofit organizations that serve students or clients who demonstrate significant financial need.

Based on the donor's intentions, the Foundation makes block grants that enable nonprofit organizations to provide scholarship funds to students or clients with high academic motivation, who show great promise in their field of study, and who may not otherwise be able to afford to continue their education. Block grants are *not* available to organizations that pass through Sapienza funds directly to their selected scholarship recipient(s). Rather, the fund supports existing planned scholarship programs – programs that fundraise from multiple sources, establish formal eligibility requirements, and have an established selection process.

A great deal of attention will be paid to your organization's procedure for identifying and evaluating eligible students. Recipients of scholarships from block grants are not limited to New Canaan residents; therefore, residency does not need to be considered in the selection criteria. Scholarship funds are intended to be used for worthy students to cover their tuition expenses, books, lab fees, tutoring costs, and other related educational expenses and fees paid to the school. Scholarship recipients should be selected by the grant recipient organization in a manner consistent with its scholarship qualification criteria.

Grant Application Deadline: April 14, 2024

1. The submission deadline is strictly enforced.
2. Funding decisions are made by mid-May and grant awards are distributed in late May.
3. Approximately \$17,500 is awarded per cycle with an average grant size of \$2,500.
4. Awards are paid to the organization, not the student.

Online Submission Requirements

1. Cover Sheet
2. Scholarship Program Narrative
 - a. Description of the scholarship program intentions and operations including the benefit to the recipient and the organization, if applicable;
 - b. Description of the scholarship program track record, if applicable;
 - c. Detail the process of evaluating, and the criteria for choosing and awarding recipients;

- d. Financial need of applicants and benefit to student recipients, including criteria used;
 - e. Impact of scholarships on past recipients, i.e. how the award changed their life.
 - f. Estimates of educational costs, such as tuition, books, tutoring, other costs;
 - g. What organizational support is in place for carrying out the program and providing support for its recipients;
3. Financial Information
- a. 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. Most recent 990 tax return.

If you have any questions, please contact the office at 203-966-0231 or msoffen@newcanaancf.org.