



First Literacy Scholarships 2017

Purpose

First Literacy Scholarships recognize and reward adult learners who have completed their ABE studies—including ESOL, High School Equivalency, and Bridge to College—and who are continuing to higher education or skills training. Scholarships are awarded based on candidates’

- educational achievement and potential;
- perseverance in face of hardship, and
- service as role models for their families, peers, or communities.

2017 Scholarship Awards

- First Literacy Scholarships are \$1,000 each.
- First Literacy will award up to 15 **new** scholarships to deserving and promising individuals, as well as a limited number of **Continuing Scholarships** to past recipients. Continuing Scholarship applications will be mailed directly to current scholarship recipients.

Eligibility

- First Literacy scholarships are for adults who have completed or will have completed their basic education studies between April 30, 2016 and June 30, 2017 at a community-based ABE program, a free preparatory program offered by a local higher education institution, or a volunteer-based program serving basic education needs of adults in Massachusetts.
- **Before applying for a First Literacy Scholarship, applicants need to have proof of acceptance to a community college, a four-year college, or an accredited vocational training program of one year or longer.**
- A maximum of three applications per program under the same 501(c)(3) will be accepted. *Please note: although you may submit up to three applications per program, we limit our awards to one or two scholarships per program.*
- Programs may assist students throughout the application process, but applicants must write their own personal statements.
- Scholarship recipients must report on their progress to First Literacy in January and July 2018 by filling out a form emailed to them by First Literacy.
- Students who are awarded a scholarship, but are unable to pursue their studies as planned, must inform First Literacy within one month after stopping their studies.

- Past First Literacy scholars will be invited to apply for another year of scholarship funding. Applications will be sent directly to these individuals, who may apply on their own, without the support of their ABE programs.

Application Process

NEW APPLICANTS

- Students interested in applying for a scholarship should consult with their teachers or advisors in their ABE program.
- Programs are encouraged to help identify candidates—a maximum of three per 501(c)(3) program. *Please note: although you may submit up to three applications per program, we limit our awards to one or two scholarships per program.*
- Two letters of recommendation are required of each applicant. At least one of these letters must be from an ABE program staff member (teacher, advisor, administrator).
- Applications, letters of recommendation, and copies of letters of acceptance must be submitted together as attachments *via one email*. Please do not send them one at a time. In the subject line, write: *New Scholarship Application*.
- A complete application package is due no later than June 1, 2017 at 5:00 PM.
- Late submissions will not be considered.
- All scholarship finalists are required to participate in a 20-minute interview at a date and time scheduled between Monday, June 12 and Friday, June 23 at First Literacy, 160 Boylston St., Boston.
- Applicants will be notified by July 7, 2017.
- Scholarships will be awarded at a ceremony held in July or August 2017. Scholarship recipients are expected to attend.

CONTINUING SCHOLARS

- One letter of recommendation from a professor where the scholar is studying is required. Additional letters are accepted.
- Applications, letters of recommendation, copies of Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 transcripts and evidence of registration for the next academic year must be submitted together as attachments via one email. Please do not send them one at a time. In the subject line, write *Continuing Scholarship Application*.

- A complete application package is due no later than June 1, 2017 at 5:00 PM.
- Late submissions will not be considered.
- All scholarship finalists are required to participate in a 20-minute interview at a date and time scheduled between Monday, June 12 and Friday, June 23 at First Literacy, 160 Boylston St., Boston.
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