



## First Literacy Scholarships 2022-2023

### GENERAL INFORMATION for Both New and Continuing Applications

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#### 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 the face of hardship, and
- Service as role models for their families, peers, or communities.

#### 2022-2023 NEW and CONTINUING Scholarships Description

First Literacy will award scholarships to deserving and promising individuals, as well as a limited number of Continuing Scholarships to past recipients.

- First Literacy Scholarships are \$1,500 each
- First Literacy Scholarships are NOT for graduate work
- Returning Scholars can apply for a Continuing Scholarship each year for up to four years in total, including the first year. Transcripts are required.

#### Eligibility

First Literacy Scholarships are for adults who have completed or will have completed their adult basic education (ABE) studies between April 30, 2020 and June 30, 2022, at a community-based ABE program, a free preparatory program offered by a local higher education institution, or a volunteer-based program serving the basic education needs of adults in Massachusetts.

- A maximum of **two applications per program under the same 501(c)(3) will be accepted.**
- 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 June, either in person at a Winter meeting hosted by First Literacy, or by filling out a form emailed to them by First Literacy.
- Students who are awarded a scholarship, but who are unable to pursue their studies as planned, must inform First Literacy within one month after stopping their studies.
- Past First Literacy scholars who have maintained contact with First Literacy and have fulfilled our simple reporting requirements will be invited to apply for a Continuing Scholarship. A link to the Continuing Scholarship Application online will be sent directly to these scholars, who may apply on their own, without connecting with their former ABE (Adult Basic Education) programs.

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## APPLICATION PROCESS

This year the application will be completed online (for the application link go to [First Literacy Scholarships](#)). Applicants will be asked to create a login, so they will be able to save drafts of their application to return to later, if necessary, before completing and submitting. **Applications will not be accepted via email.**

### New Scholarship Applicants

Students interested in applying for a scholarship must consult with their teachers or advisors in their ABE program. Programs are encouraged to help identify candidates—a maximum of two per 501(c)(3) program.

- **Applications, with the documents listed below, must be submitted online no later than May 26, 2022, at 5:00 PM.**
  - Proof of acceptance to a community college, a four-year college, or an accredited vocational training program of one year or longer.
  - 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).
- Late submissions will not be considered.
- All NEW scholarship finalists are required to participate in a 30-minute interview at a date and time scheduled between June 3 and June 22, 2022. This will be a virtual meeting.
- **Applicants will be notified by Monday, June 29, 2022.**

### Continuing Scholarship Applicants

A link to the Continuing Scholarship application online will be emailed directly to current scholarship recipients.

- **Applications, with the documents listed below, must be submitted online no later than May 26, 2022, at 5:00 PM.**
  - Letter of recommendation from a professor where the scholar is studying,
  - Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 transcripts,
  - Evidence of registration for the next academic year,
  - Plan for the coming Academic Year (number of classes, cost, and financial need)
- Late submissions will not be considered.
- **Applicants will be notified by Monday, June 29, 2022**

### Scholarship Awards

Scholarship award certificates will be presented at a ceremony held in Summer 2022, which scholarship recipients are expected to attend. **Scholarship award payments will be delivered to the recipient's school after the add/drop period.**

Do you have questions about the online application? Please contact Bryan McCormick, Program Director, at [bmccormick@firstliteracy.org](mailto:bmccormick@firstliteracy.org).