



MANTON SCHOLARS PROGRAM 2026 Guidelines

About

The Manton Scholars Program is seeking applications from students who are planning to pursue higher education in the Fall of 2026 and whose families have been significantly and negatively affected by the death or serious illness/incapacitation of a primary income earner, or the serious illness of an immediate family member (i.e., parent/primary care giver or sibling). Students must be U.S. citizens or non-citizens eligible to receive federal financial aid to apply.

In addition to the criteria above, eligible students must meet one of the three criteria below:

- Attend(ed) school in or be a resident of one of these ten towns for the last three years or more: Carlisle, Concord, Dover, Fall River, Maynard, Medway, Natick, Sherborn, Wayland, or Westport.
- OR have been enrolled for the last three years or more at one of these schools: Dana Hall School in Wellesley, Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School in Fall River, Groton School in Groton, St. Mark's School in Southborough, or Worcester Technical High School in Worcester.
- OR be a child of a faculty or staff (full or part-time) of a private or public high school in the listed towns or at one of the listed schools. Parents must have/had a tenure of 3 or more years at the school.

This program is designed to provide tuition and related support and is dedicated to making college or other post-secondary education affordable for families who meet the specific criteria described in these guidelines. The program is funded by the Manton Foundation and administered by The Philanthropic Initiative (TPI) and The Boston Foundation. Scholars selected into the program will be eligible to receive scholarship support at a two or four-year accredited college or university, or a trade school with a demonstrated track record of successfully placing graduates in long-term jobs. Schools must be located in the U.S or Canada. Eligible applicants to this program are entering or currently enrolled in undergraduate school. Students who are already enrolled in an eligible post-secondary institution may apply if they meet all the other eligibility criteria. Scholarships will be up to \$30,000 annually. Award size is based on unmet financial need and will be determined in conjunction with the school the student plans to attend.

Goals

- To provide scholarship assistance to students whose families' financial situations have been significantly and negatively affected by the death or serious illness/incapacitation of primary income earners, or the serious illness of an immediate family member (i.e., parent/primary care giver or sibling).
- To help students pursue bachelor's or associate degrees or technical certification from a program with a demonstrated track record of successfully placing graduates in long-term jobs.

Eligibility Checklist

Residency

Students must meet one of the following criteria:

- Resident of or attend(ed) high school in one of the following towns (and have for the last three years): Carlisle, Concord, Dover, Fall River, Maynard, Medway, Natick, Sherborn, Wayland, or Westport.
- Enrolled at one of the following schools for at least three years: Dana Hall School in Wellesley, Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School in Fall River, Groton School in Groton, St. Mark's School in Southborough, or Worcester Technical High School in Worcester.
- Be a child of a faculty or staff (full or part-time) at a private or public high school in the listed towns or at one of the listed schools. Parents must have/had a tenure of 3 or more years at the school.

Financial Circumstances

- The financial situation of the applicant's family must have been significantly and negatively affected by the death or serious illness/incapacitation of a primary income earner or the serious illness of an immediate family member (i.e., parent/primary care giver or sibling). See qualifying circumstances.
- Substantial unmet need as determined by college financial aid award letter or other documents (applicants will likely not know this at time of application).
- Students must have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Qualifying Circumstances

- Death or serious illness/incapacitation (e.g., cancer, stroke, brain injury, severe mental illness) of family's primary wage earner or immediate family member (parent/care giver or sibling). Qualifying circumstances include those that are sudden, unexpected and health related.

Exclusions Include:

- Chronic conditions (e.g., asthma, diabetes, etc.)
- Developmental disabilities (e.g., autism)
- Substance abuse

Eligible Post-Secondary Institutions

- Two- or four-year accredited college or university
- Accredited trade school that has a demonstrated track record of successfully placing graduates in long-term jobs

Renewals

Scholarships are renewable provided that the student completes a renewal application and remains in good academic standing. The student must also continue to have a comparable level of financial need as when the scholarship was awarded. Most scholarships are renewed for up to 4 years. All renewal applications are reviewed annually on a case-by-case basis.

Process / Timeline

February 13, 2026:	Application deadline
March:	Semi-finalist interviews
End of April:	Manton Scholars are selected and scholarship amounts are finalized
Early August:	Scholarship payments processed to schools for awarded students

I n s t r u c t i o n s

Complete applications are due **Friday, February 13, 2026 at 5pm EDT**. Only complete applications submitted online will be reviewed. Please follow instructions carefully. Applicants' ability to follow instructions will weigh into award decisions.

To access the application, click here: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=manton>

1. Prior to completing the application, please be sure you meet all eligibility requirements. Ineligible applications will not be reviewed.
2. **Required Documents:** Instructions on how to submit required attachments are included in the online application.
3. **Recommendations:** Make sure you give your recommender ample time to complete the recommendation. Your recommender must fill out an electronic form that will be sent to them once you send them an email via your online application. Instructions are included in the application.
4. If you have questions, contact us at manton@tpi.org.

R e q u i r e d D o c u m e n t s

The following materials are required for the scholarship committee to evaluate each student. Only complete applications submitted online will be considered.

1. **Complete Application Submitted Online**
2. **Letter of Recommendation** written by a teacher, guidance counselor, work supervisor, community leader, coach, or any other non-family member who knows you well.
3. **Essays**
4. **Official High School Transcript**
5. Complete **FAFSA Submission Summary**. You must submit the entire document.