

2026 PHADA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Scholarships for high school seniors living in public or assisted housing at a PHADA member agency

Applications are due to PHADA by:
January 23, 2026

Three Scholarships Will Be Awarded

Stephen J. Bollinger Memorial Scholarship	\$10,000
Civil Rights and Social Justice Scholarship*	\$5,000
Nan McKay Pathway to Achievement Scholarship	\$5,000

*Additional Essay Required

For the latest information, visit: www.phada.org/Scholarship

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PHADA'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In order to encourage academic excellence and community responsibility among high school students, PHADA has implemented a scholarship program for graduating seniors who are preparing to enter college. PHADA will award three scholarships to deserving youth currently residing in a PHADA member agency.

Stephen J. Bollinger Memorial Scholarship (One scholarship available: \$10,000)

Steve Bollinger (April 11, 1948 – June 18, 1984) was a taskmaster to himself, a human dynamo to those who knew him. He was a natural leader, a person who could rally people around him with wit, satire, and vocal exercises. Steve's knowledge of and dedication to housing those in need was never absent, especially after he was appointed Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development at HUD. His experience at the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority and the associations he had with colleagues, mayors, and others afforded him the opportunity to deal with the bureaucracy in a style that we strive to attain. To the members of PHADA, he was a friend. His belief in the housing profession motivated him to become a founding member of PHADA, for which he served as Vice President. He accomplished much in a short time and we are all thankful for his achievements. PHADA created this scholarship to memorialize Stephen J. Bollinger.

This scholarship will be formally presented at PHADA's Annual Convention & Exhibition (June 10–13, 2026, Chicago, IL). The winner will receive a trip for him/herself and one parent/guardian to attend the convention.

Civil Rights and Social Justice Scholarship (One scholarship available: \$5,000)

Additional Essay Required (see below)

In 2005, PHADA's Board of Trustees met in Montgomery, AL. Inspired by historical sites they chose to give personal donations for the inception of a PHADA scholarship to honor the work of Rosa Parks and the achievements of the civil rights movement.

To be considered for the Civil Rights and Social Justice Scholarship, include an additional personal essay (350–500 words) demonstrating your efforts, and involvement in furthering the values of the civil rights and social justice movements. Explain why these causes are relevant today and how they relate to your educational goals. Include any relevant volunteer experiences and involvement related to advancing the causes of civil rights and social justice.

Nan McKay Pathway to Achievement Scholarship (One scholarship available: \$5,000)

Nan McKay has offered significant financial support to PHADA's scholarship program and has elected to reward one deserving youth with a \$5,000 scholarship. PHADA appreciates their commitment to serving the needs of public housing residents and the community.

The scholarship fund will be administered by the PHADA Scholarship Committee. The money will go directly to the school that the recipient will be attending. The school will deposit the money into the student's account. The money may only be used to pay for tuition, books, and activities directly related to the student's education. If the student discontinues his or her education, the unused portion of the scholarship will be returned to PHADA. For more information, contact Samara Dinkins at: sdinkins@phada.org, or 202-546-5445.



REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

Submit the following documents to the Executive Director of your housing authority. All documents must be typewritten in English. Please do not fold or staple documents.

☐ **1. APPLICATION**

Visit www.phada.org/Scholarship to access the online application. Include the printed application in the packet of materials that you submit to your Executive Director.

☐ **2. VERIFICATION PAGE** (see page 4)

- **Grade Point Average Verification** (must be completed by your school counselor).
- **Certification** (sign this portion of the document before submitting it to your Executive Director).

☐ **3. SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT**

You must provide an original and official copy of your high school transcript by mail.

☐ **4. TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**

You must submit one teacher or guidance counselor recommendation and one personal, NON-Family, recommendation.

☐ **5. ESSAY**

You must submit a typewritten essay in English addressing the following topic: How my community and high school experiences have influenced my life. (350–500 words).

☐ **Additional Essay for the Civil Rights and Social Justice Scholarship**

To be considered for the Civil Rights and Social Justice Scholarship, include an additional personal essay (350–500 words) demonstrating your efforts and achievements in furthering the values of the civil rights movement. The full requirements are on page 2.

☐ **6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

Applications and supporting documents must be in typewritten English and may be submitted in single PDF format via email to: scholarship@phada.org.

- a. Student must be recommended by the Executive Director of the housing authority in a letter signed by the Executive Director for the application to be considered complete.
- b. The Executive Director is responsible for verifying all application requirements.
- c. Application Fee – **A \$25 non-refundable application fee is required** and must be paid by the sponsoring housing authority. All proceeds from the fee will be added to the scholarship award. Check should be made payable to PHADA. **All application fees and official transcripts MUST be mailed to: PHADA Scholarship Committee, 511 Capitol Court, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4931.**
- d. Deadline – **ALL application materials must be received by PHADA no later than January 23, 2026.**
- e. Local promotion of the scholarship program is the responsibility of the housing authority. Each housing authority may submit up to two applications.

Note: One scholarship awarded per student. Winner (and parent) will be required to sign a "Scholarship Agreement Contract" prior to receiving scholarship.

Applications must be completed in their entirety. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

- ☐ **STATUS** – Applicant must be a high school senior and reside in a PHADA member agency owned or managed unit throughout his/her entire senior year. Public housing residents, Section 8 participants or other low-income housing residents are eligible, as long as the agency at which they reside is a PHADA member.

- ☐ **MINIMUM GRADE POINT AVERAGE** – Student must have at least a "B" average (or 3.0 GPA) on his/her school's applicable scale during his/her high school career, cumulatively, to be considered for the scholarship. *Note: School counselor must complete the Grade Point Average Verification form on the verification page of this application.*

