

STEVE RUDMAN

Opportunity Scholarship Application



Deadline: At 4:30 p.m. April 30th

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

- The scholarship is for study at any accredited post-secondary institution, including two and four year colleges and universities and vocational and technical schools.
- The scholarship is for persons between 17 and 24 who will be full-time students entering or already enrolled in a post-secondary education program.
- Final award is contingent on admission and paid to the school directly for a post-secondary education program for the school year starting in September 2025.
- Use the checklist on page 2 to complete all application information.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must be enrolled in or have graduated from Home Forward's GOALS program. In addition, they must currently reside in a Home Forward residence or a Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) participant in good standing.
- If you are the head of household, are age 17-24 and meet the qualifications above, you also may apply.
- If you are in high school, you must be in your senior year and have a 3.0 grade point average. If you are already in a post-secondary education program, you must have a 2.75 grade point average as applicable.
- If you did not graduate from high school, you must have completed a GED program.
- You must write an essay about your educational goals and provide two community or school references.

APPLICATION PROCESS

APRIL 30TH, 2025

Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. to Shaun Cox at shaun.cox@homeforward.org or Home Forward, 135 SW Ash St., Portland, OR 97204

MAY 5TH TO MAY 9TH, 2025

Selection Committee reviews applications and chooses recipients

MAY 15TH, 2025

Scholarship recipients notified



**SCAN TO
APPLY ONLINE!**

All applications must be received by **4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 30th**. You may request an electronic version of the application scan the QR Code. Email your completed application to shaun.cox@homeforward.org or bring it to Home Forward's offices at **135 SW Ash St., Portland, OR 97204**.

STEVE RUDMAN OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Applicant first & last name:

CHECK LIST

Please return completed checklist with application to ensure you have all documents.

- ☐ **Applicant profile** (page 3)
- ☐ **Post-secondary education information** (page 4)
- ☐ **Activities and interests** (page 5)
- ☐ **Essay** – please be sure your name is at the top of every essay page
- ☐ **Acknowledgement statement and statement of willingness to participate in Home Forward communications** (page 7 – must be signed by you and your parent or guardian)
- ☐ **High school or college transcript or GED certificate** – attached or you arranged for it to be sent to Home Forward (see contact information below)
- ☐ **Two letters of recommendation** – attached or you arranged for them to be sent to Home Forward (see contact information below)

Documents sent separately from your application (Letters of Recommendation and Transcripts) should be mailed, faxed or emailed to the contact below. In addition, you may request an electronic version of the application.

**Home Forward Attention:
Shaun Cox 135 SW Ash St.
Portland, OR 97204**

**Fax: 503-802-8497
Email: shaun.cox@homeforward.org
Phone: (503) 802-8362**

APPLICANT PROFILE

APPLICANT INFORMATION

First & last name:

Date of birth:

Email:

Street address:

City, state, zip:

Home phone:

Cell phone:

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN INFORMATION

First & last name:

Email:

Street address:

City, state, zip:

Home phone:

Cell phone:

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION INFORMATION

Applicant first & last name:

Name of college/university or vocational/technical school you hope to attend or are attending:

Declared major or future major or certificate program:

Year you will be entering in fall 2025:

POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL COST INFORMATION

List schools you have applied to or plan to apply. Use additional sheets for more schools, please include a print out from each school verifying the amounts below, If you are already in a post-secondary education program fill out the information for your school.

Costs per year	School 1	School 2	School 3
School name			
City and state			
Tuition	\$	\$	\$
Fees	\$	\$	\$
Room and board	\$	\$	\$
Incidental expenses (books and supplies)	\$	\$	\$
Total	\$	\$	\$

ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

Note: If needed, you may use additional sheets of paper for your answers in this section.

Applicant first & last name:

HELPING ACTIVITIES

(Examples: babysitting, volunteer work, participation in community organizations)

Organization	Start/end dates	Role/responsibilities

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

(Examples: school government, clubs, sports, newspaper)

Organization	Start/end dates	Role/responsibilities

ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

Applicant first & last name:

SPECIAL CLASSES/PROGRAMS, HONORS/AWARDS

OTHER

(please feel free to tell us about any other activities that don't fall into the categories above)

ESSAY

Please complete an essay based on the question below:

- Your essay must be a minimum of 250 words
- All essays must be typed
- Put your name on each page of the essay
- Feel free to use separate sheets of paper for your essay and attach them to your application

ESSAY QUESTION

Future plans and goals:

Pick an experience from your own life and describe how it has influenced your chosen field of study and/or your future goals.

STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNICATIONS

Applicant first & last name:

STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN HOME FORWARD COMMUNICATIONS

I _____ (fill in applicant name) agree that if I receive a Steve Rudman Opportunity Scholarship, Home Forward has my permission to use my story and photo in their communications activities, including social media and the internet. I also agree to participate in presentations of the award, including but not limited to a meeting of the Home Forward Board of Commissioners.

Signature of applicant:

Date:

Signature of parent/legal guardian:

Date:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

I hereby apply for the Steve Rudman Opportunity Scholarship for the academic year beginning September 2025. I understand that eligibility to receive scholarship funds requires that my family has a current lease or rent assistance contract in good standing with Home Forward at the time of the scholarship award. I affirm that all information presented in this application is complete and accurate and that any false information may be cause for disqualification.

Signature of applicant:

Date:

Signature of parent/legal guardian:

Date:

STEVE RUDMAN OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

FACT AND TIP SHEET

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

- Youth between 17-24 may apply if their family participates in or has graduated from the agency's GOALS self-sufficiency program and is in good standing with Home Forward.
- The \$2,500 award is for the school year or term that begins in September 2025. The recipient may renew the scholarship for a second year for up to the same amount, if eligibility requirements are maintained.
- The scholarship can be used for post-secondary education at accredited two- and four-year colleges and universities and trade and vocational schools.
- Home Forward staff are not eligible for the scholarship.

SELECTION PROCESS

- The recipient will be chosen by a committee comprised of Steve Rudman, a post-secondary academic leader, two Home Forward commissioners, and the Home Forward staff person responsible for education initiatives.
- The committee will consider academic achievement, leadership, participation in activities helpful to others, and post-secondary education goals.

TIPS

- 1** After submitting all the pieces of your application, check in with Home Forward to make sure that all of your documents have arrived.
Contact Shaun Cox at shaun.cox@homeforward.org
- 2** If you complete your application online, do not forget to attach 2 recommendation letters and school transcripts.
- 3** Ask for your transcripts right away. It can take some schools a month to be able to get your transcripts in the mail, so give yourself plenty of time.
- 4** Utilize your family's GOALS case manager for support as needed.
- 5** If your GPA is lower than the criteria threshold (3.0 for high school students and 2.75 for college students), you can obtain a letter from a school counselor or your GOALS coordinator explaining why your application should be considered.



LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION (TEMPLATE)

Wendy Johansson / 212-123-1234 / WendyJohansson@mail.com /
LinkedIn.com/CareerReload City name, NY, 33407

August 15, 20XX

Recipient's Name
Recipient's Title
Company Name
Address
City, State ZIP Code7

Dear Members of the Scholarship Committee,

I am writing to wholeheartedly endorse (Student's Name) for the (Name of Scholarship). As (his/her/their) (teacher/mentor/supervisor) for (duration or subject), I have had the pleasure of witnessing (his/her/their) exceptional qualities and achievements firsthand.

Throughout (his/her/their) time in (mention context, e.g., my English class), (Student's Name) has consistently demonstrated outstanding academic performance, intellectual curiosity, and a strong work ethic. (He/She/They) consistently goes above and beyond in (his/her/their) pursuit of knowledge, displaying a remarkable aptitude for (mention specific subjects or areas of interest).

Beyond (his/her/their) academic prowess, (Student's Name) exhibits remarkable leadership skills and a genuine commitment to serving (his/her/their) community. (He/She/They) have actively participated in (mention extracurricular activities, community service, or leadership roles), making meaningful contributions and inspiring (his/her/their) peers along the way.

One of (Student's Name)'s most commendable qualities is (his/her/their) unwavering determination to overcome challenges and pursue (his/her/their) goals with resilience and perseverance. (He/She/They) approach every task with enthusiasm and dedication, and (his/her/their) positive attitude is truly infectious.

In addition to (his/her/their) academic and extracurricular achievements, (Student's Name) possesses (mention any specific skills or qualities relevant to the scholarship criteria, e.g., strong communication skills, critical thinking abilities, etc.). (He/She/They) have demonstrated (his/her/their) ability to (mention specific accomplishments or experiences that showcase these qualities).

I have no doubt that (Student's Name) will continue to excel in (his/her/their) academic and personal endeavors, and I am confident that (he/she/they) will make a significant contribution to any community or institution fortunate enough to have (him/her/them) as a member.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information or clarification regarding (Student's Name)'s qualifications. Thank you for considering (him/her/them) for this scholarship opportunity.

Sincerely,

Signature

English Teacher at New Heights High School