2026 LILLY ENDOWMENT COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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Lake County's Community Foundation



STRATEGIC PLAN 2024 -> 2028



Strengthening Organizations

Establish
opportunities for
nonprofit
organizations to
engage in meaningful
capacity building that
seeks to build
infrastructure within
organizations of all
sizes.



Enhance opportunities for residents to become more connected with their communities, advocate for change, and provide local leadership support to advance community causes and issues.



Offer access to comprehensive community information to empower and inspire donors to support the local community by making a lasting and meaningful impact.



Mobilizing Philanthropy

Expand the impact, equity, and reach of grants and scholarships by becoming a data informed organization, fostering long-term growth and positive transformation within the community.



Aurture a thriving and innovative entrepreneurial ecosystem that provides equal opportunities for aspiring small business owners.

LEGACY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Lilly Scholarship: July 1 September 25
- Universal Scholarship: November 1 January 15
 - See next page
- Unique Scholarships: as available
 - Vocational scholarships, law school scholarships, medical school scholarships
 - Check website for details



LEGACY FOUNDATION UNIVERSAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

- ** Northwest Indiana or Lake County students
 - Opens November 1
 - High school seniors and current college students
 - Varied criteria
 - Over \$1.5 million awarded last year
 - Universal Application One application for over 45 scholarships
 - Scholarship Information Booklet 2025 2026
 - Awards are paid to the school and cover tuition, expenses, and room & board OR can be used for book reimbursement.



LILLY ENDOWMENT COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (LECSP)

Administered by Legacy Foundation







WHAT IS THE LECSP "THE LILLY"

The Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship (LECSP) was established in 1998 to help raise the level of educational attainment in Indiana. LECSP encourages Indiana's most talented students to attend one of Indiana's fine colleges or universities and after graduation consider pursuing occupations in Indiana.

Each county in Indiana participates in the LECSP through their local community foundation. Since the program's inception, Legacy Foundation has been able to award over 200 full tuition scholarships to Lake County students through the LECSP.

Award Details

- Six (6) students from Lake county will receive the scholarship.
- Covers four (4) years of FULL tuition to ANY accredited 4-year private or public college in Indiana.
- The students will also receive a \$900 per year stipend for books.
- This is NOT a FULL RIDE scholarship.
- Room & board is NOT covered although students MAY receive other scholarship awards from their institution to cover at least part of these expenses.



ELIGIBILITY

- Must be resident of Lake County, Indiana
- Must be graduating senior from an accredited school in Lake County
- 3.25 GPA (unweighted) cumulative through Junior year
- Meet Financial Eligibility requirements
- Citizenship is NOT required

CRITERIA

- Academics
- Demonstrated leadership skills
- Service to others
- Character
- Essay
- Interview



FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- The family must fall below 150% of HUD FY 2025 Income Limits for low/moderate income to apply.
- This is based on family's Adjusted Gross Income as documented on tax returns.
- If family's 2024 AGI is equal to or lower than the AGI specified for that number in household, they are eligible.
- If the AGI is higher, they are not eligible.

Income Guidelines*

Number in Family = AGI

1 person \geq \$100,406

2 people ≥ \$114,750

3 people \geq \$129,094

4 people ≥ \$143,438

5 people ≥ \$154,969

6 people ≥ \$166,406

7 people \geq \$177,938

8 people \geq \$189,375



FINANCIAL INFORMATION FLOWCHART

Which parent's financial information do I use?

- Are your parents married to each other?
 - If yes, provide information about both parents (even if they file taxes separately)
 - If no, go to the next question.
- Do your parents live together?
 - If yes, provide information about both parents.
 - If no, go to the next question.
- Did one parent provide more financial support than the other over the past 12 months (even if you lived with one more then the other)?
 - o If yes, use the parent that provided the most financial support.
 - o If the parents provided the exact equal amount of financial support, select the parent that has the greater income or assets.
- Has the parent you identified in the previous question remarried?
 - If yes, you must provide information for both the parent and the stepparent.
 - If they are not remarried, provide information for just this parent.
- What if I am emancipated or a ward of the state?
 - You would use your sole income (if any)





PROCESS & TIMELINE

- July 1, 2025: Application Opens Estimated time to complete is 3 hours (minus short answers).
- September 25, 2025 at 5pm: Deadline to apply
- September 30, 2025: Each school will receive completed applications from their school.
 - School Administrators will be reviewing these applications to determine the school's one (1) Finalist.
- October 15, 2025: Legacy will notify students if they are selected as their school's Finalist
- October 22, 2025: Finalists will need to turn in their Financial Verification Documents.
 - This is ONLY if you are selected by your school to be a finalist.
 - Legacy Lilly Review Committee scores all Finalists' applications. Highest scoring 16 18 finalists will be interviewed.
- October 30, 2025: Finalists will be notified if they will be interviewed.
- November 6 -7, 2025: Student Interviews *student MUST be available to interview on one of these days.
- Mid-December: Recipients announced.
 - There are 6 recipients. These must be approved by the Lilly Endowment.
 - 6 additional scholarships will be awarded through this process.
 - Awards range from \$10,000 (\$2,500 renewable) to \$1,000 (one time).



APPLY ONLINE

Legacyfdn.org



PRESS: Join Us At An Upcoming Event!

→ FUND ADVISOR PORTAL → GRANT LOGIN → SCHOLARSHIP LOGIN



■ legacy@legacyfdn.org Email us today!

2 219.736.1880 Call us for more details!



PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS ▼ DONORS ▼

NONPROFITS ▼

SCHOLARSHIPS ▼

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ▼

ABOUT ▼



LOGON PAGE LINK:

https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=lfs



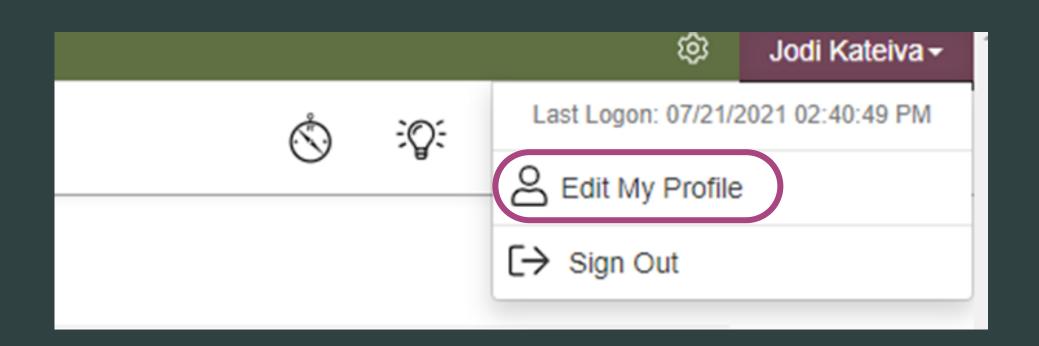
CREATING YOUR PROFILE

| User Information | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Prefix (Mr, Mrs, Ms, etc.)* | First Name* |
| | |
| Middle Name | Last Name* |
| | |
| Suffix (Sr, Jr, III, etc.) | Email / Username* |
| | |
| Email / Username Confirmation* | Telephone Number (###-#### x###)* |
| | |
| Mobile Number (###-####) | Address 1* |
| | |
| | |
| Address 2 | City* |
| Address 2 | City* |
| Address 2 State* | City* Postal Code* |
| | |
| | |
| State* | |

Please note - this is the information that will be attached to all future applications. Make sure everything is spelled & capitalized correctly.

This application must be completed by STUDENTS – NOT PARENTS!

UPDATING YOUR PROFILE



If you move, get a new phone number, or email, please update this!

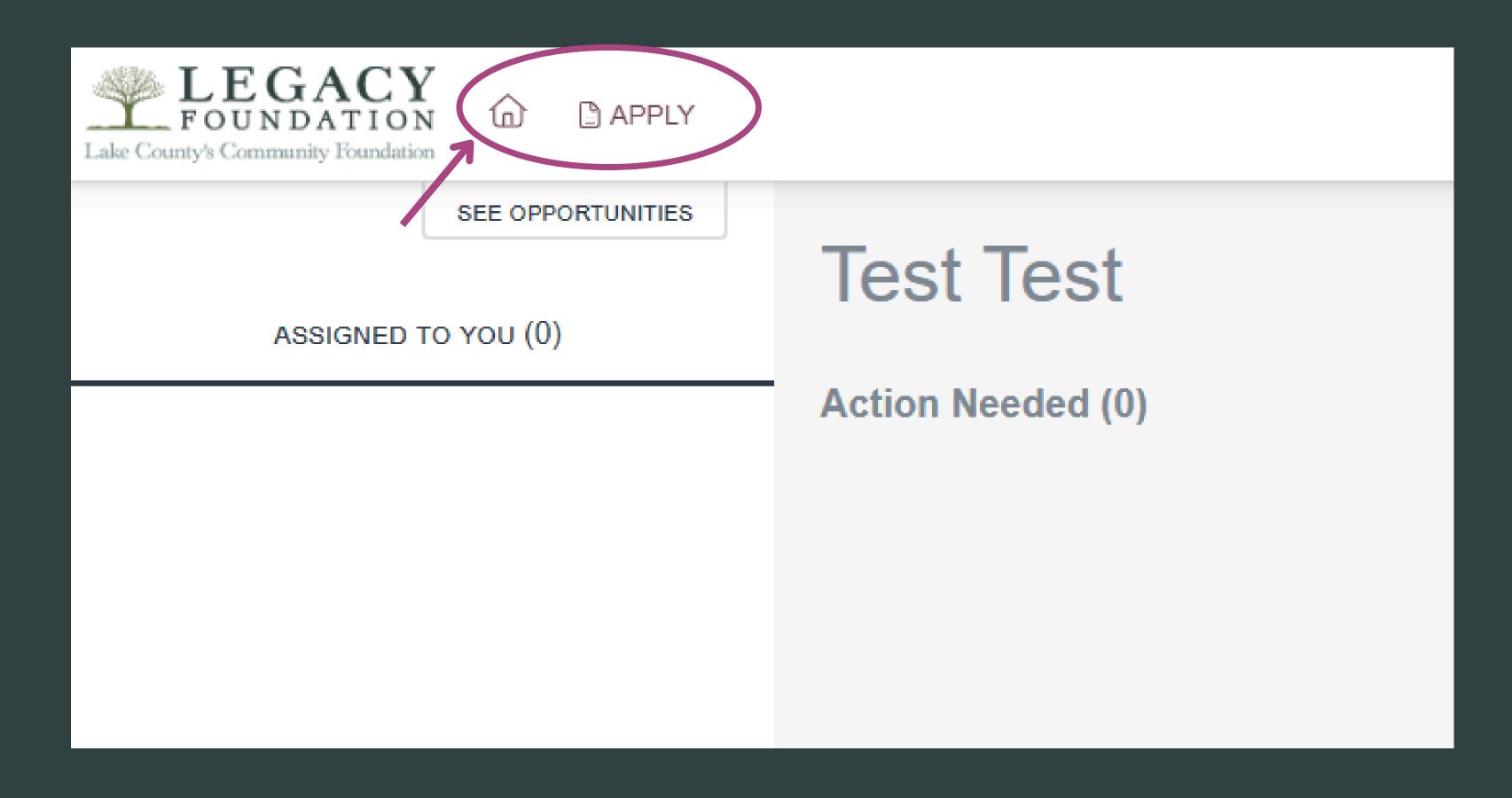
To change/update your information on your profile:

- Click Your Name in top right corner
- Click Edit My Profile

Please make sure this includes your most current contact information.



HOW DO I APPLY?



ANSWER ELIGIBILITY QUIZ

Eligibility Quiz

Eligibility - Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program 2026

Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program (LECSP)

The Legacy Foundation in conjunction with Independent Colleges of Indiana has the privilege of administering the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program (LECSP) in Lake County. This program awards 6 scholarships to

individuals who are committed to nursuing a full time haccalaureate course of See More



ANSWER ELIGIBILITY QUIZ

| Lake County Residency* |
|---|
| Are you a resident of Lake County, Indiana as of January 1, 2024? Yes No |
| High School* |
| Are you a current senior at an accredited high school in Lake County, Indiana who will graduate by the end of June 2026? O Yes No |
| GPA* |
| Is your UNweighted GPA above 3.25? Yes No |
| |
| Indiana College Plans* Are you planning to attend a full time baccalaureate course of study in the fall of 2026 at an accredited public or private college or university in Indiana? |
| Are you planning to attend a full time baccalaureate course of study in the fall of 2026 at an accredited public or private college or university in Indiana? O Yes No |

ELIGIBILITY QUIZ - PART 2

Income Guidelines

In order to apply for the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship your family must fall below a certain income threshold based on your family's AGI (Adjusted Gross Income as reported on your taxes) and the number of people reported in your household for 2024.

Please review the chart below. Look for the number of people in your household, then look at the corresponding AGI.

- If your family's 2024 AGI (income as reported on your taxes) is equal to or lower than the AGI specified for that number in household, select "yes".
- If your AGI is higher, then select "no".

The AGI is on line 11 of your 1040 IRS tax forms. Click here for an example.

Income Guidelines*

Number in Family = AGI

1 person ≥ \$100,406

2 people ≥ \$114,750

3 people ≥ \$129,094

4 people ≥ \$143,438

5 people ≥ \$154,969

6 people ≥ \$166,406

7 people ≥ \$177,938

8 people ≥ \$189,375

My family income is less than the required maximum AGI.

Yes

○ No

Each school finalist WILL be asked to provide tax & income documentation for verification purposes by October 22, 2025.

For divorced or separated parents, use the income for the parent who provided the most financial support over the 2024 year even if you do not live with that parent.

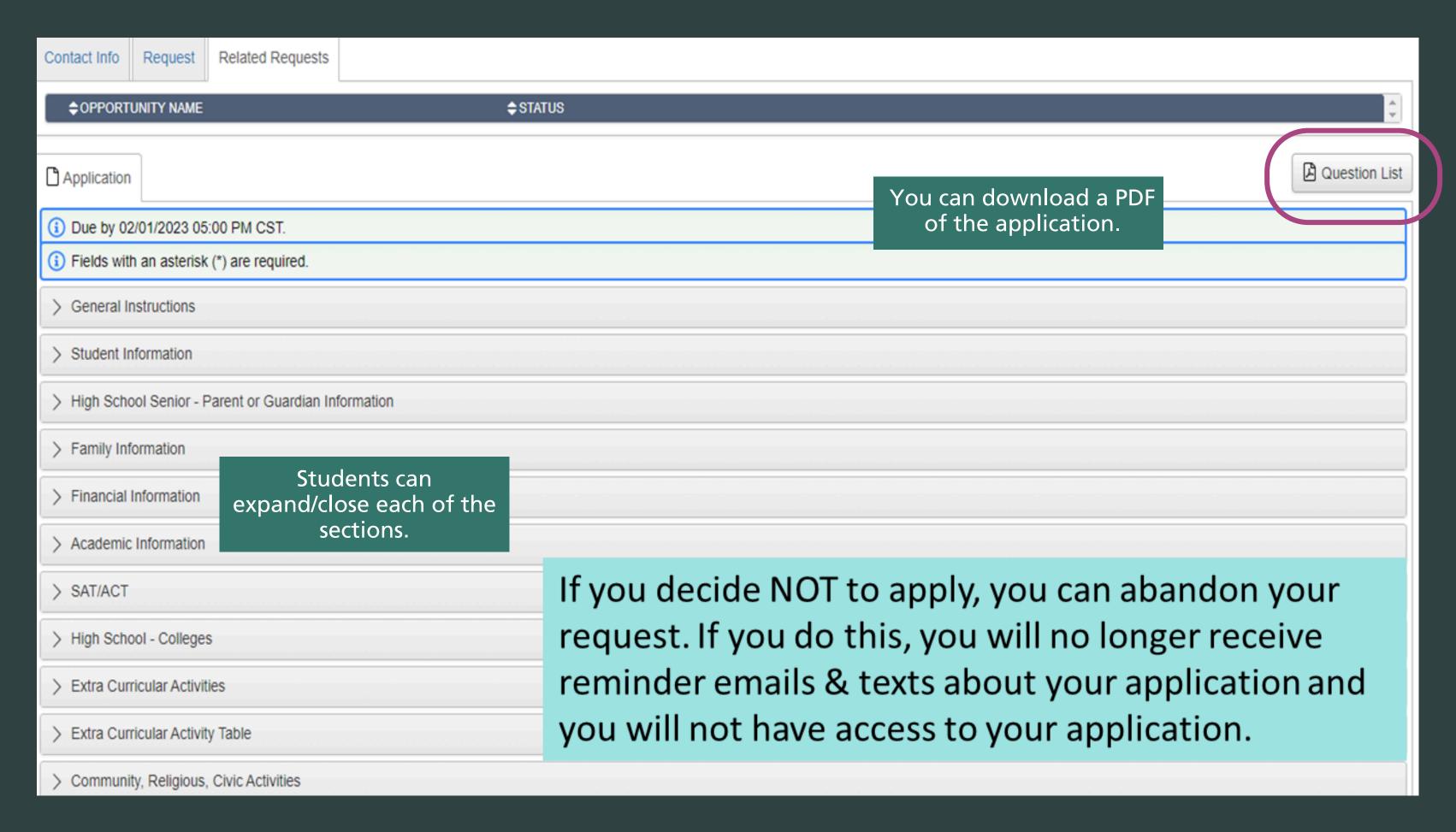
If you have ANY questions, call Legacy at 219-736-1880.

Lilly Scholarship Process*

I understand that:

- Each high school in Lake County will select one student to become the school's finalist. Student will be notified if they are the school's finalist by October 4.
- · Finalist applications will reviewed by Legacy Foundation's scholarship committee.
- Financial documentation from finalists MUST be provided to Legacy Foundation by October 9, 2025.
- . 18 (approx.) students will be selected to interview.
- You will be notified of your interview status by October 30. Interviews will take place in person at Legacy Foundation on November 6 & 7...

STUDENT VIEW: APPLICATION



WHAT QUESTIONS ARE ASKED?

- Demographic information
- Scholastic Information (GPA, ACT/SAT)
- Major/Minor (current or intended)
- College choice (applied to, intended or current)
- Extra Curricular activities (school-affiliated activities)
- Volunteer Activities (church, political, nonprofit work, etc.)
- Special Events, Conferences, and Camps
- Employment history
- Short Answers
- Recommendation Contacts



STUDENT VIEW: STUDENT INFORMATION

| ಿದ್ದ Do you identify with any of the following?* | |
|--|---|
| Please select all that apply. | |
| | We ask these questions for tracking |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | purposes. |
| Asian | |
| ☐ Black or African American | We want to ensure that we are |
| ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | reaching a diverse community of students reflective of |
| ☐ White | Northwest Indiana. |
| ☐ Other ☐ Person with disabilities | Northwest maiana. |
| ☐ LGBTQ | |
| ☐ Prefer not to answer | |
| | |
| ి<్రి Are you from a Hispanic, Latino or Spanish-speaking background?* | |
| ○ Yes | |
| ○ No | |
| 8.0 | |
| ∘ೆಭ Gender* | |
| *Please note, some scholarships are intended for individuals with a certain gender. In order | to qualify for these, please be sure to provide an accurate response. |
| ○ Male | |
| ○ Female | |
| Non-binary Drefer to colf, describe | |
| Prefer to self- describe Prefer not to answer. | |
| Prefer not to answer | |

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: AGI

| AGI* | |
|------|--|
| | |
| | |

The AGI is on line 11 of your 1040 IRS tax forms. Click here for an example.

Your AGI should NOT be 0.

If your family did not report taxes, indicate the amount of money earned by the family for the year of 2024 (including child support, state or federal aid, disability or social security income, etc.)

What was your family's AGI (adjusted gross income) as reported on their 2024 taxes?



Number in Household*

How many people were indicated as part of your household on your 2024 taxes?

For Number in Household definition. Click here. This should NOT be 0.



Tax Returns Not Available

If your family did not file a tax return, please explain.

Financial Statement

Please provide information that may help us understand your financial need. How do you intend to pay for college? Advise of any unusual circumstances that could be taken into consideration while reviewing your financial information. Examples include: recent changes in job status, medical bills, caring for relatives in the home, educational expenses beyond your own, etc.

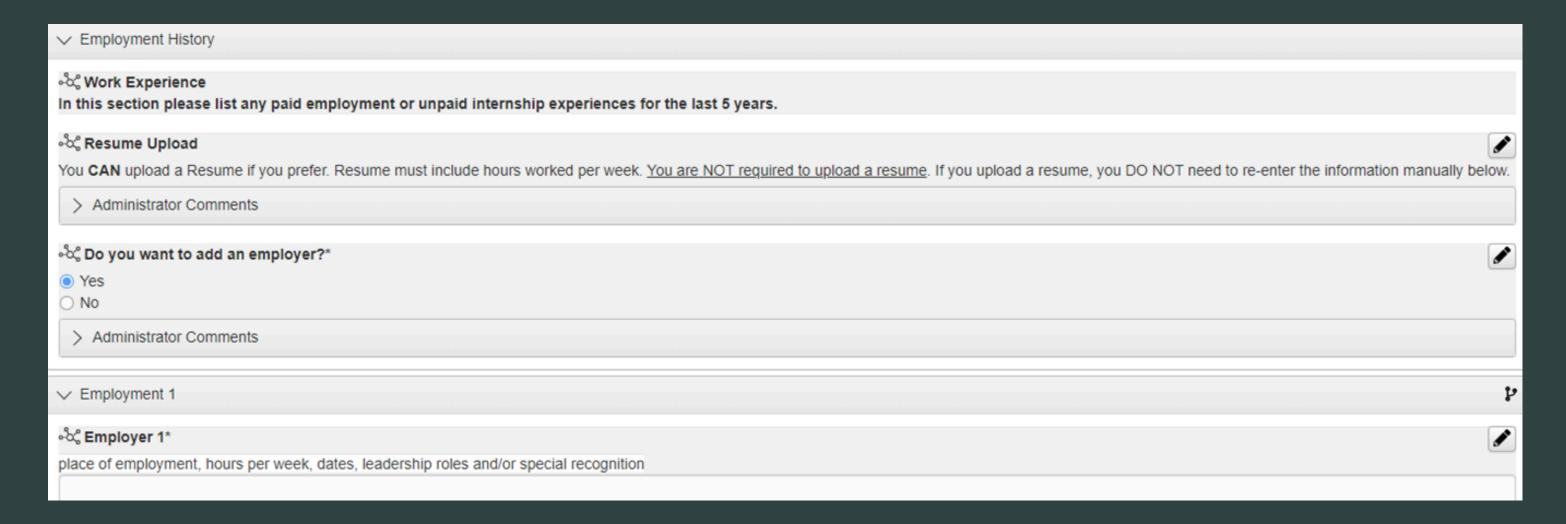
EXTRA CURRICULAR & COMMUNITY SERVICE, RELIGIOUS, CIVIC ACTIVITIES TABLES

| Extracurricular Activities | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| | Name of Activity | Which grades did you participate: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, or Senior (if planned) | Number of months per academic year | Number of hours per week | Leadership Roles/Special Recognition |
| Activity 1 | A | A | A | A | A |
| Activity 2 | A | A | A | A | A |
| Activity 3 | A | A | A | A | A |
| Activity 4 | A | A | A | A | A |
| Activity 5 | A | A | A | A | A |

| Other | inf | orma | ation: |
|-------|-----|------|--------|
|-------|-----|------|--------|

If there is something from above that you wanted to elaborate on, you may do so here. This is optional.

EMPLOYMENT



- You may upload a resume instead of entering the information separately.
 - There is NO need to do both.
 - If you are uploading a resume, make sure you include hours per week.



SHORT ANSWERS



You will need to complete the following four short answers. Each should be approximately 200 - 300 words.

- 1. Explain your future educational and professional goals. Why have you chosen this? How might these goals contribute to improving the quality of life in Northwest Indiana?
- 2. How have you taken advantage of networks or opportunities in your school, work or community to enhance your learning journey and cultivate your leadership potential?
- 3. Discuss an accomplishment, event, challenge, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
- 4. Please write a short autobiography including information about your family, hobbies, spare time activities and what inspires you. You may elaborate on work, community or school activities you didn't get to address in your application.

RECOMMENDATION CONTACTS

| ∨ Recommendation Contacts |
|--|
| Please include the names of 2 school staff (teachers, guidance counselor, coaches, etc.) that can speak on your behalf. |
| You DO NOT need to get Letters of Recommendation from them. These individuals may be contacted during your school's nomination process. You DO NOT need to do anything further with this section. |
| Recommendation Contact 1* |
| |
| Recommendation Contact 2* |
| |

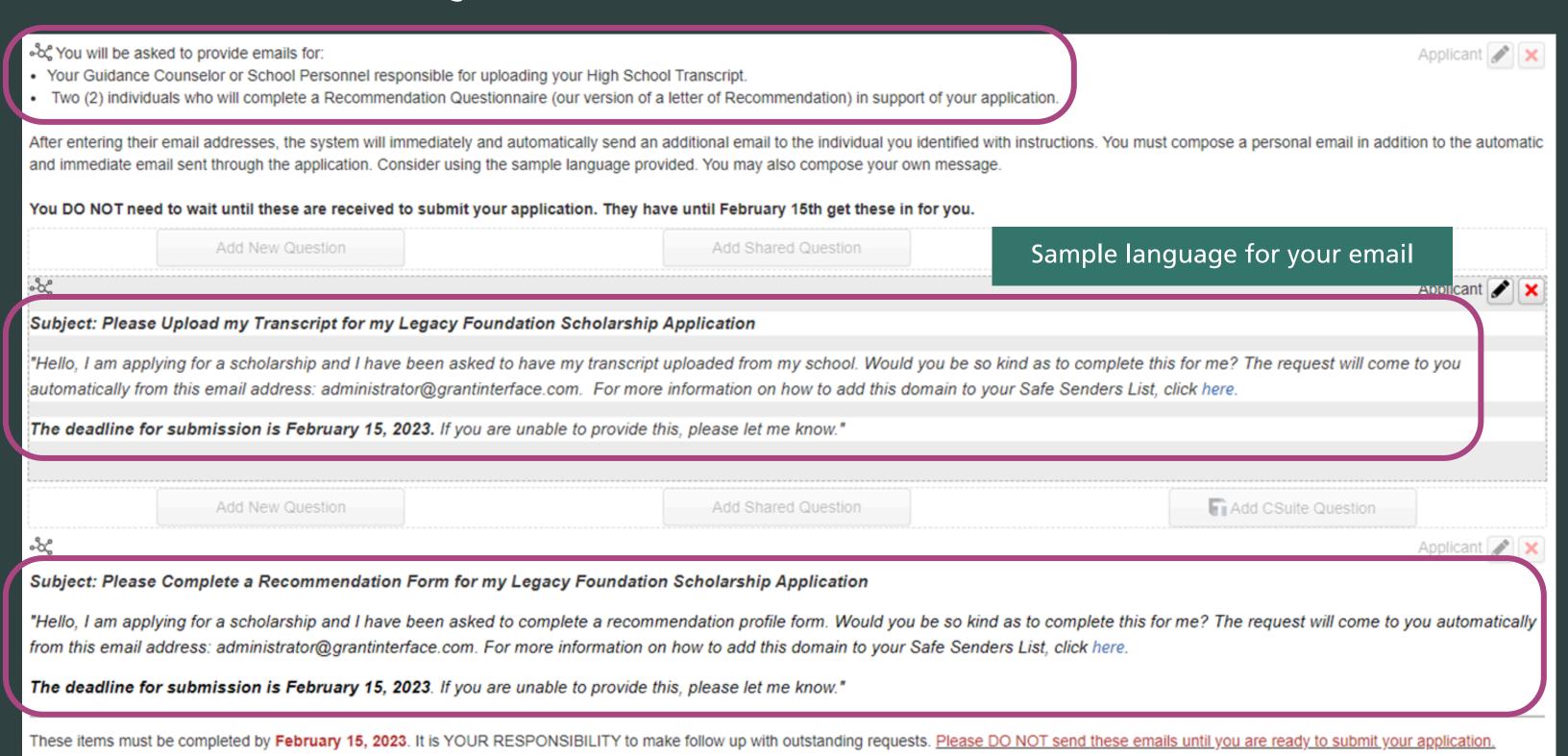
Students DO NOT need to get Recommendation Letters for this application.

The school will use these to get more information about applicants when selecting their nominee.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR

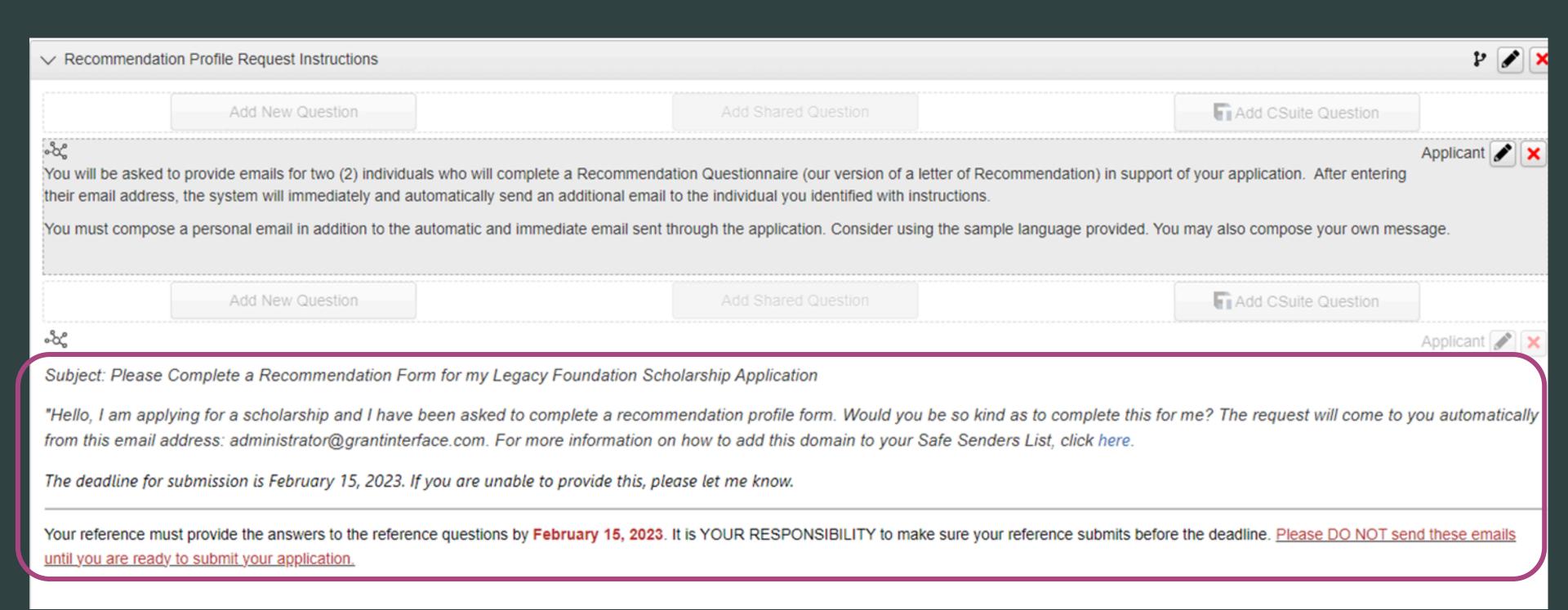
Add New Question

TRANSCRIPTS & RECOMMENDATION PROFILE REQUESTS

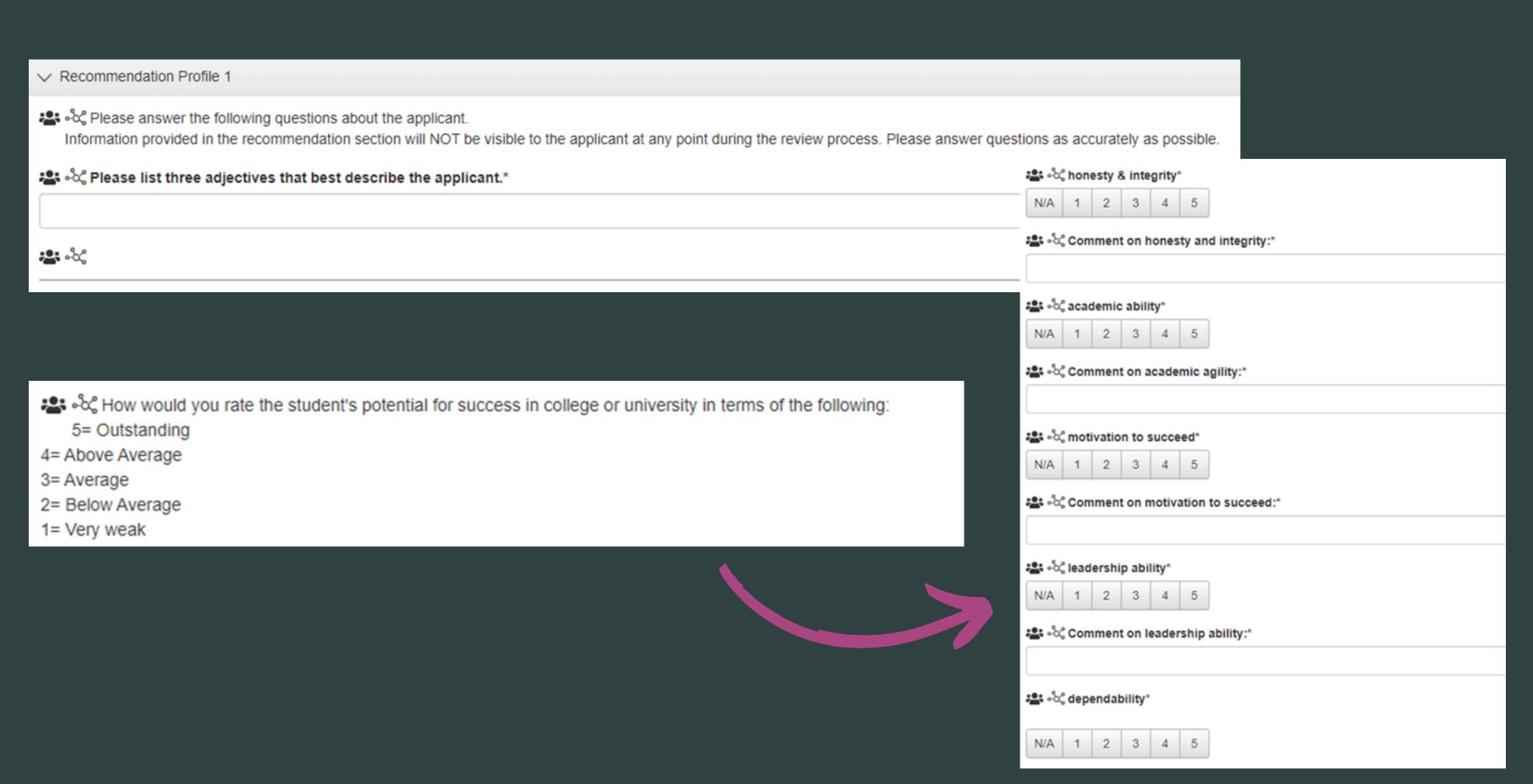


Add CSuite Question

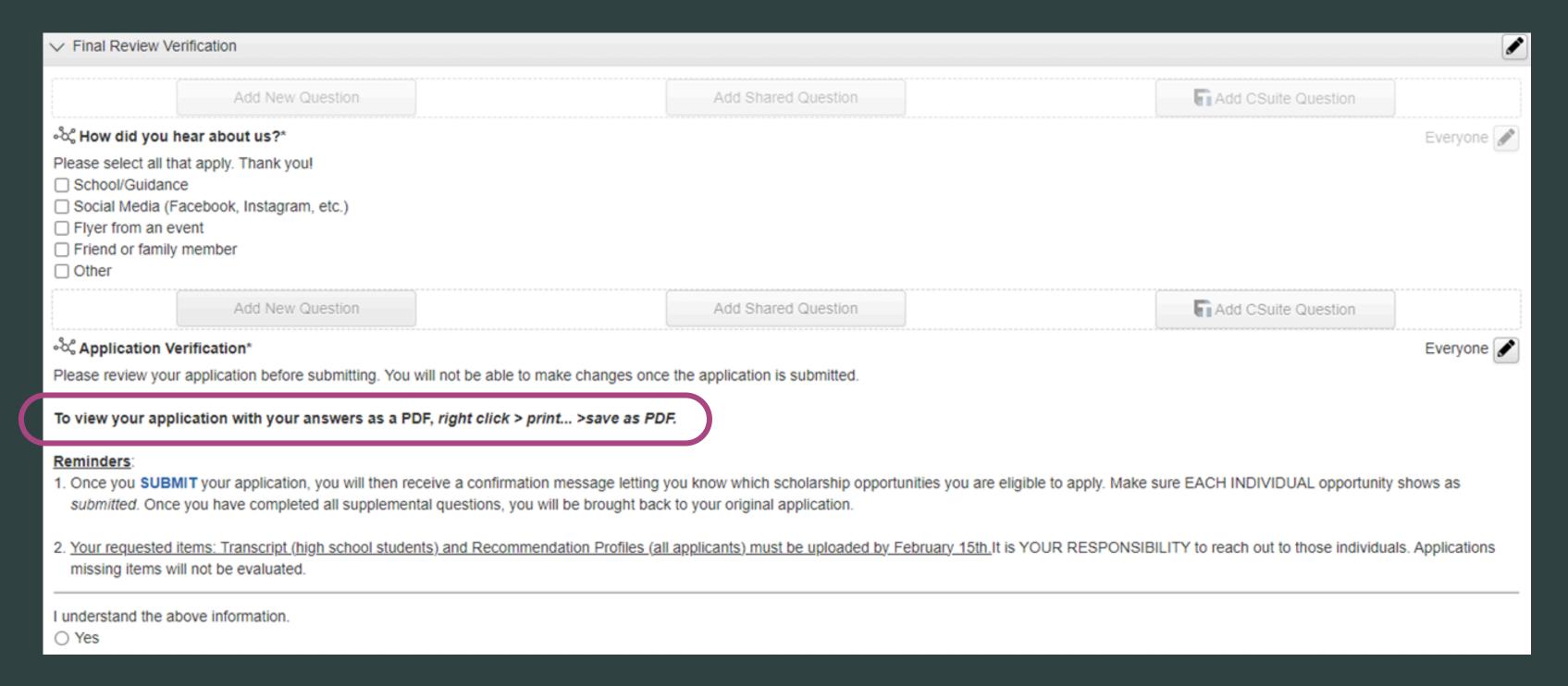
OTHER APPLICANTS



RECOMMENDATION PROFILE



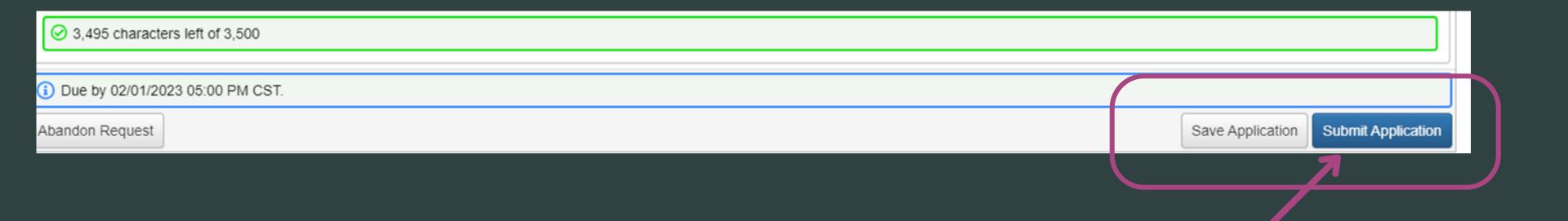
SUBMITTING - FINAL REVIEW



You will NOT be able to make changes to your application after you submit. You may print your application to review beforehand.

• Open ALL TABS, right click > print > save as PDF.

Do NOT forget to submit when you have completed the application.



SCHOLARSHIP TIPS

- Brag about yourself!
- Take time to write down all of your activities, goals, and what sets you apart. This information can be used for college applications & all of the scholarships you will apply for.
- Capitalization & spelling counts.
- Answer all of the questions completely.
- Type the essay in Word first, then paste into the online application.
 - Make sure you address the question the essay is asking.
- Print your application out and read it aloud. This will help you hear errors that you don't always see.
 - Find a reviewer. They catch things you might miss.
- Give your references ample time to complete forms.
- Verify Make sure you have uploaded the correct documents.
- Take your time.
- Do not wait until the last minute to complete or submit! Computers have glitches. Don't let a computer issue ruin your day- or your chances of getting an awesome scholarship!



ESSAY TIPS:

Read the instructions!

- Are there any limits on the essay? (i.e. words, spacing, pages, etc.)
- Answer the question(s) asked.

• Plan in advance:

- Develop a list of your school & community activities.
- Write down the three accomplishments of which you are the most proud.
- Write down your career goals, or your reason for wanting to attend college.

• Write in a clear, "plain" style.

Avoid "flowery" language. Throw out your Thesaurus. Readers are more impressed by the quality of your ideas than your use of multi-syllabic terms. Especially if they are used incorrectly!

Choose proper type, style, and format.

A good essay is not about style and formatting, but style influences the first impression your paper makes.

Make it personal and passionate:

- Help <u>US</u> get to know <u>YOU</u>. Spend some time going below the surface and share something about who you are.
 - If you are writing about your desire to become a biologist, explain that your passion began when your father bought you a microscope when you were five years old.
 - Don't just mention that you work with disadvantage kids; tell them how your love of art got you into working with those kids.
 - Focusing on specific examples of your life will help readers relate to your experiences and ensure that you are memorable.
- Use specific statements instead of generalizing. Don't just write, "Education is the key to success." Instead, show how education has impacted your life.

Find an editor:

- Family members, teachers, or advisors all make great editors. Some editors catch grammar and spelling mistakes; others give advice on making the substance of your essay better. Find both types of editors. Be careful that they don't alter your work so much that your voice is lost. Editing is essential, but your work should always be your own.
- Read your essay aloud to yourself so you can hear how it flows.

CONTACT US FOR QUESTIONS!

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