



Dream Big! Scholarship

The Dream Big! Scholarship Fund was established in 2004 by the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) Higher Education Project to provide scholarship support for qualified students living in SHA subsidized housing. At least two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in 2026.

Eligibility (applicants must meet all of the criteria below):

- Living in Seattle in Seattle Housing Authority subsidized housing.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 from most recent school attended (high school or college).
- Age 21 or under on April 4th, 2026.
- Will have graduated from high school or obtained a GED by September 1, 2026.
- Will attend college full time in the 2026-2027 academic year.
- College is defined as: a community college, technical/vocational school, or a four-year institution of higher education.
- Previous Dream Big! Scholarship recipients are not eligible to apply (previous applicants who were not selected for a scholarship may reapply).

Distribution of scholarship funds:

- Scholarships shall be awarded in the amount of \$1,000.

Scholarship selection process:

- Scholarship recipients are selected by a committee from the Seattle Housing Authority Higher Education Project through review of completed application materials.

Criteria for selection include:

- Personal statement or project: applicant writes in their own voice, clearly demonstrates why they wish to attend college (including any future plans they may have) and describes qualities and/or experiences that demonstrate their ability to succeed.
- Letters of recommendation: writers of letters of recommendation have personal relationships with applicants and provide clear insight into the applicant's present successes and future ability to achieve.
- Transcript: applicant demonstrates achievement, rigor, persistence and/or improvement in their academic career.

Deadline to apply: Applications must be submitted to the Dream Big! Scholarship Committee (instructions included on the application form) by April 4th, 2026.

Questions? Email Elemo Mussa (Elemo.Mussa@seattlehousing.org)

The Dream Big! Application Must Include

1. **Your full name on every document submitted.**
2. **A personal statement OR a project (see below)**
 - a. **Submit a typed personal statement of not more than 1,000 words answering all of the following questions:**
 - i. Why do you want to pursue post-secondary education?
 - ii. What motivates you?
 - iii. What are your future plans, which relate to earning your degree or certificate?
 - iv. What qualities or experiences have you had that relate to your future success as a student?
 - b. **Submit a project (examples include: video, photos, works of art, music, science project, film etc.):**
 - i. Project must demonstrate your creativity, talent or a visible achievement.
 - ii. Include a typed 300 – 350 word explanation of the project that explains how the project answers the questions asked in the personal statement, above.
3. **Two letters of recommendation**
 - a. **The letters must be written by adults who know you well, and who are not related to you. Letters can be written by a teacher, counselor, religious leader, coach, extra-curricular instructor, or another person who knows you well. Letters may be submitted in languages other than English. Letters can be included with your application packet. Letters should include:**
 - i. Description of the author's relationship to you.
 - ii. Examples that highlight qualities that will help you be a successful student.Other information about you they feel would be helpful to the scholarship committee.
4. **Most up-to-date high school and/or college transcript (if in college, please also include your high school transcript).**
5. **A completed scholarship application form (page 2 of this packet).**

Checklist for a complete Dream Big! Application

My full name is on each document I am submitting.

I have enclosed my personal statement or project.

I have enclosed two letters of recommendation (or otherwise ensured they will reach SHA by the application deadline).

I have enclosed my most up-to-date high school and/or college transcript.

I have enclosed my completed scholarship application form.

DREAM BIG! SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Deadline: April 4th, 2026

Applicants to the Dream Big! Scholarship must be a resident of Seattle Housing Authority subsidized housing in the city of Seattle. Others will not be considered.

Name:

Address

Phone: _____ (can we text this number?) Yes No

Email:

Housing Program - My family participates in (check the one that applies):

Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)

Low-Income Public Housing

Education - Select all that apply:

I will/have graduate(d):

I will/have attain(ed) a GED from:

I am applying to

I am currently enrolled in higher education at:

Age - As of April 4, 2026 I will be age 21 or younger.

My date of birth is

Submit completed application materials, addressed to Dream Big! Scholarship Committee

Email: Elemo.Mussa@Seattlehousing.org

Mail Attn:

Elemo Mussa
Dream Big! Scholarship Committee
Seattle Housing Authority
4570 Martin Luther King Jr. Way S
Seattle, WA 98108