

Helen M. McLoraine Opportunity Scholarship Program

Program

The Helen M. McLoraine Opportunity Scholarship Program was created to provide educational scholarships for individuals who have had to face extraordinary or challenging circumstances, have actively taken steps to improve their lives, and are committed to advancing their education. This program is open to current and former clients of the nonprofit agencies listed here:

1. Boys and Girls Clubs (in CO):
 - a. Black Canyon – Montrose & Olathe Branch
 - b. Chaffee County – Buena Vista & Salida Branch
 - c. High Rockies – Platte Canyon & South Park Branch
 - d. La Plata County – Florida Mesa, Main, Needhama, Park, & Riverview Branch
 - e. Northwest Colorado – Craig & Steamboat Springs Branch
 - f. San Luis Valley – Alamosa Branch
 - g. Southern Ute Indian Tribe – Southern Ute Branch
2. Challenged Athletes Foundation, San Diego, CA
3. Emily Krzyzewski Center, Durham, NC
4. Escuela de Guadalupe, Denver, CO
5. Figure Skating in Harlem, New York, NY
6. National Kidney Foundation – Office Serving Colorado, New Mexico, Montana, and Wyoming, Denver, CO
7. Phamaly Theatre Company, Denver, CO
8. Ray of Hope Cancer Foundation, Denver, CO
9. The Gathering Place, Denver, CO
10. Urban Peak, Denver, CO
11. Warren Village, Denver, CO
12. WINGS Foundation, Lakewood, CO

General Eligibility

Students who meet ALL the following criteria, plus the requirements associated with the nonprofit organization they were/are a client of, are encouraged to apply.

1. Clients, or former clients, of one of the 12+ nonprofit organizations participating in the program. To be eligible to apply, former clients must have received services within fifteen years of the application deadline.
 - a. A letter from a current staff member/leader at the organization confirming participation is required
2. Completed the criteria listed for their organization by the application deadline (see section titled Eligibility Criteria – broken down by participating nonprofit).
3. Currently enrolled or plan to be enrolled at an accredited post-secondary institution in the United States for the upcoming academic year.
 - a. Can be enrolled for undergraduate or graduate studies
 - b. Can be enrolled for part-time or full-time study
 - c. Can be pursuing a post-secondary degree, certification, diploma, or license.

Please note that individuals who are related to a member of the scholarship selection committee or a Denver Foundation staff or board member are not eligible to apply.

Nonprofit Organization Eligibility

1. Boys and Girls Clubs (in CO):

We believe every kid has what it takes. The mission and core beliefs of [Boys & Girls Clubs](#) fuel our commitment to promoting safe, positive, and inclusive environments for all.

Applicants must:

- Have been involved with the Club for at least three years.
 - The three years do not have to be the three years prior to attending a post-secondary institution, but at least one year must have been completed during high school as either junior staff or as a member who participated fifty days of the year; AND
- Served as junior staff for a full year or have participated in at least three of the following small group programs during their three years: Smart Moves, Torch Club, Keystone Club, Youth of the Year, Sports Club, Healthy Habits, Tutoring, Goals for Graduation, or Goals for Growth; AND
- Have completed some service learning at the Club, in the community, or at their place of worship
- Have been involved in one of the following Boys and Girls Clubs branches:
 - Black Canyon – Montrose & Olathe Branch
 - Chaffee County – Buena Vista & Salida Branch
 - High Rockies – Platte Canyon & South Park Branch
 - La Plata County – Florida Mesa, Main, Needhama, Park, & Riverview Branch
 - Northwest Colorado – Craig & Steamboat Springs Branch

- San Luis Valley – Alamosa Branch
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe – Southern Ute Branch

2. Challenged Athletes Foundation, San Diego, CA

[Challenged Athletes Foundation](#) empowers athletes with physical disabilities by breaking down barriers—providing funding for adaptive sports equipment, training, and community support so they can thrive through fitness and competitive athletics.

Applicants must:

- Have qualified for and received a grant from The Challenged Athletes Foundation for equipment, training, and competition expenses; AND
- Reside in the state of Colorado

3. Emily Krzyzewski Center, Durham, NC

Quality educational experiences are essential to preparing students for the future, yet systemic barriers create pronounced disparities in educational opportunities and outcomes. [The Emily Krzyzewski Center](#) implements four distinct programs designed to build on the academic, career, and leadership potential of students who are traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

Applicants must:

- Be endorsed by a staff member or the student's adult leader; AND
- Meet one of the following:
 - Be a 12th grade student enrolled in a Scholars to College
 - Be a student currently enrolled in a Scholars on Campus
 - Be an Alumni of either program

4. Escuela de Guadalupe, Denver, CO

[Escuela de Guadalupe](#) is a private, dual-language, Catholic school of excellence for grades Pre-Kindergarten through 8th. We serve a diverse community of families from around the Denver metro area, with the goal of accepting all students who are committed to an excellent education, no matter their family's financial situation.

Applicants must:

- Have attended Escuela de Guadalupe for at least one full year; AND
- Have been an active member (student, volunteer, staff, etc.) of Escuela de Guadalupe community for at least two years

5. Figure Skating in Harlem (FSH), New York, NY

[Figure Skating in Harlem](#) helps girls transform their lives and grow in confidence, leadership, and academic achievement. We are the only organization in the world for

girls of color that combines the power of education with access to the artistic discipline of figure skating to build champions in life.

Applicants must:

- Have been involved with FSH for at least two years; AND
- Have an attendance rate of at least 85% at FSH programming; AND
- Have successfully completed FSH's "College Writing" workshop; AND
- Maintained a B average (in core subjects) or better in the year of their scholarship application

6. National Kidney Foundation (NKF) – Office Serving Colorado, New Mexico, Montana, and Wyoming, Denver, CO

[The National Kidney Foundation](#) is revolutionizing the fight to save lives by eliminating preventable kidney disease, accelerating innovation for the dignity of the patient experience, and dismantling structural inequalities in kidney care, dialysis, and transplantation.

Applicants must:

- Currently reside in CO; AND
- Have received kidney care, dialysis, or a kidney transplant with support from NKF (CO, NM, MT, WY office) within the last 15 years
- Additional considerations will be given to applicants who have participated in one or more NKF sponsored programs such as peer mentorship, Renal Roundtables, kidney support group meetings, and the Kidney Education Symposium

7. Phamaly Theatre Company (PTC), Denver, CO

[Phamaly Theatre Company](#) was founded on a dedication to serve disenfranchised individuals with disabilities from all racial, gender, and socioeconomic backgrounds. PTC gives actors a supportive space to explore and develop their craft, empowers artists within their disability identity, educates the community about access and inclusion, and entertains audiences with high-quality, award-winning theatre.

Applicant must:

- Have a physical, cognitive, or developmental disability as defined by the [ADA](#); AND
- Have been involved with PTC in some capacity (performing, production, outreach, volunteering, or a workshop participant) for at least one year; AND

If pursuing certification as an intimacy director, fight director, mental health coordinator, audio description programs, or similar certifications, it must be through an accredited post-secondary institution Please refer to the [U.S. Department of](#)

[Education website](#) or check with your post-secondary institution for accreditation information

8. Ray of Hope Cancer Foundation, Denver, CO

At [Ray of Hope](#), we believe that no one should have to choose between receiving cancer treatment or paying for their basic needs like housing, transportation, utilities, and food. Ray of Hope provides grants each month to qualified applicants, and all funds are unrestricted and go directly to the patient.

Applicants must:

- Have received a Cancer Related Financial Toxicity (CRFT) Grant, Mental Health Support Grant, or support items from The Uplift Project within the last 15 years

9. The Gathering Place (TGP), Denver, CO

[The Gathering Place](#) provides low-barrier, trauma-informed care to women, gender-diverse people, and children facing homelessness and instability. We address the root causes of poverty, marginalization, and oppression, offering comprehensive services that guide our members from crisis to stability.

Applicants must:

- Meet at least one of the following:
 - Have received Basic Needs services (meals, food pantry, family program, showers, laundry, etc.) at least once a month for 6 consecutive months **OR**
 - Have completed a Personal Growth services such as the High School Equivalency Class (currently unavailable), job readiness program, or a case management program **OR**
 - Have completed or are currently in compliance with an individualized recovery plan through TGP's Peer Recovery Program; AND
- Have earned, or be about to complete, a GED (or equivalent) or high school diploma – either through TGP or another agency/school

10. Urban Peak, Denver, CO

[Urban Peak](#) is a nonprofit organization in Denver that provides comprehensive services to youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability. The program offers a continuum of support, including shelter, case management, education and employment assistance, behavioral health services, street outreach, and housing programs. Urban Peak's mission is to help youth overcome real-life challenges and become self-sufficient adults through trauma-informed, youth-centered services.

Applicants must:

- Have earned, or be about to complete, a GED (or equivalent) or high school diploma – either through Urban Peak or another agency/school; AND
- Comply with education/work goals made in partnership with Urban Peak case manager; AND
- Have clear goals and direction for the future

11. Warren Village, Denver, CO

[Warren Village](#) is a family community helping motivated low-income, previously homeless single-parent families move from public assistance to personal and economic self-sufficiency through subsidized housing, on-site child care, intensive case management, educational guidance, and career development.

Applicants must:

- Have been a resident for at least 6 months at Warren Village Gilpin, Alameda, or First Step **or** is an Alumni of one of the programs; AND
- Have worked with a Family Advocate/Navigator at Warren Village and at least one meeting included discussion of educational goals and plans; AND
- Has participated in at least 3 workshops, enrichment programs, and/or community building initiatives

12. WINGS Foundation, Lakewood, CO

[WINGS Foundation's](#) mission is to build systems of support for adult survivors, combining in-depth health expertise with the healing power of community. We achieve this mission through ensuring everyone has access to the resources they need to speak about, heal from, and thrive beyond childhood sexual abuse trauma.

Applicants must:

- Be a current or former WINGS Foundation support group member who has completed membership application(s); AND
- Have utilized the WINGS support group program for a minimum of six months; AND
- Have attended a minimum of 25 WINGS support group sessions and documented this attendance through their group's sign-in sheet

Award Details

Scholarships of varying amounts will be awarded once each year through a competitive process based on academic achievement/potential, recommendation letters, financial need, and essay responses. Award amounts typically range from \$2,500 to \$10,000, but awards may be higher or lower depending on an individual's circumstances and available scholarship funds.



Individuals who have received an award from this program in the past and are still enrolled in post-secondary education are encouraged to reapply each year for additional funding.

All scholarships will be paid directly to a recipient's post-secondary institution. Award disbursement is contingent upon the outside scholarship policies of a recipient's post-secondary institution. Awards can be used toward tuition, fees, books, and required supplies. The award must be used for the upcoming academic year.

[Click here to apply for the Helen M. McLoraine Opportunity Scholarship.](#)