



Patrick and Amelia Williams Opportunity Fund Guidelines

St. Croix Foundation for Community Development was founded in 1990 to improve the quality of life for St. Croix residents. The Foundation administers the Patrick and Amelia Williams Opportunity Fund, which awards scholarships to seniors/incoming freshmen desiring to further their studies at an institution of higher education.

The Fund was established in 2018, by Junior Gaspard in honor of his grandparents, Patrick and Amelia Williams, whose determination and expectation of excellence led to educational opportunities and generational resilience. The Williams Opportunity Scholarship's goal is to provide opportunities to youth who have met obstacles but persevere despite these challenges and see educational pursuit as a means to achieving personal/professional success that can then be shared. To date, the Patrick & Amelia Williams Opportunity Fund has awarded \$35,000 in scholarships.

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Award Cycle: The Patrick and Amelia Williams Opportunity Fund will award a minimum of two (2) scholarships per year at a maximum of \$5,000 per award. **Applications will be accepted beginning April 15; applications must be submitted by May 15.** Applicants will receive notice by June 15 as to the status of their application.

Qualifications: To qualify for a Patrick and Amelia Williams Opportunity Award, applicants must:

- ✓ Reside on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands
- ✓ Be a graduating senior at a St. Croix public high school during the current year or in the past four years
- ✓ Provide proof of acceptance to an accredited college/university
- ✓ Demonstrate specific, long-term goals and financial need
- ✓ Indicate and maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale

Review Process: All applications that satisfy the above requirements are reviewed by the Foundation's Grants Review Committee; priority will be given to those applicants that demonstrate:

- ✓ Community service/ volunteering/ work experience via letters of reference and essays
- ✓ Participation in extra-curricular activities or description of circumstances that prevented the ability to join
- ✓ Attendance at a public junior high school on St. Croix (evidenced by submissions of report card/transcript)

Note: Applicants may be asked to participate in a brief video/phone interview with the Committee.

Applicant Checklist: In addition to the application form, applicants **MUST INCLUDE** the below attachments with their submission. ******* In light of COVID-19, the Foundation recognizes that obtaining documentation may be challenging. As such, please read the below requirements carefully and reach out to lcx@stxfoundation.org with any questions. Once events have subsided, the Foundation reserves the right to request those omitted documents. Please provide the following:

- ___ Completed application form (begins on next page)
- ___ A copy of one of the following: birth/baptismal certificate, student I.D., Virgin Islands driver's license
- ___ High school transcript/report card; optional: junior high school transcript/report card
- ___ Acceptance letter to college/university
- ___ Two letters of reference (one must be an academic reference)
- ___ Two (2) 500-word essays: (1) describing a time the applicant showed perseverance and overcame adversity and how this experience shaped the person he/she is today; and one (1) describing the greatest impacts that obtaining a college/university degree will have on the applicant's life

Application Deadline: May 15

Submit your completed application and all documentation in the Foundation's online portal at:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=scf>

IMPORTANT: If there are challenges with online submission due to access or connection issues, please email Lilli Cox at lcx@stxfoundation.org for assistance and/or to make alternative arrangements to submit your application.