



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 St. Croix youth desiring to further their studies at an institution of higher education.

The Patrick and Amelia Williams Opportunity 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. In the spirit of Patrick & Amelia, 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 and Amelia Williams Opportunity Fund has awarded a total of \$95,000 in scholarships to 17 young people.

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Award Cycle: The Patrick and Amelia Williams Opportunity Fund will award a minimum of three scholarships through this competitive cycle of up to \$4,000 each. **Applications will be accepted beginning April 15th; applications must be submitted by June 2nd.** Applicants will receive notice within 30 days of the due date about 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
- ✓ 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)

Applicant Checklist: In addition to the application form, applicants **MUST INCLUDE** the following attachments with their submission.

- ✓ Birth or baptismal certificate (copy permissible)
- ✓ High school and junior high school transcript/report card (copy permissible)
- ✓ Acceptance letter to college/university (copy permissible)
- ✓ Two (2) letters of reference (one must be an academic reference; a character reference is accepted for the second)
- ✓ One (1) 500-word essay describing a time the applicant showed perseverance and overcame adversity and how this experience shaped the person he/she/they is/are today.
- ✓ One (1) video submission describing the impact that obtaining a college/university degree will have on the applicant's life. Videos should be no more than 4 minutes in length.

Application Deadline: June 2

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

<https://stxfoundation.info/GrantsPortal>.

For any questions, please email Lilli Cox at lcx@stxfoundation.org for questions or assistance.