Pillar Community Development

C O R P O R A T I O N

Education Aid Award Application Packet Checklist

Open to students from the Greater Hartford County Area

All fully completed application packets submitted for The Pillar Community Development Corporation Educational Aid Awards **must** include the documents listed below and must be received *no later than* ***June 30, 2026*** at PCDC P.O. Box 731, Bloomfield, CT 06002.

- ✓ Checklist Cover Page attached to the completed application packet
- ✓ Application Form
- ✓ Letter of acceptance from an institution of higher learning*
- ✓ Two (2) Current Letters of Recommendation, for example, from a teacher, minister, guidance counselor, community or civic leader
- ✓ A typed and double spaced 5 paragraph essay on one of the topics listed on the next page
- ✓ Copy of final official high school transcript* or official transcript of last completed semester at current institution of higher education
- ✓ A signed Media Release Form with a current photograph

Applicant's Name (Printed):
Applicant's Signature:
Date Submitted:

Only completed application packets received by The Pillar Community Development Corporation (PCDC) at P.O. Box 731, Bloomfield, CT 06002 no later than June 30, 2026 will be considered.

Award notifications will be made no later than August 15, 2026.

*Distribution of funds contingent upon proof of enrollment in an institution of higher learning

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All applications must be mailed to The Pillar Community Development Corporation, P.O. Box 731, Bloomfield, CT 06002 and received **no later than June 30, 2026.**

EDUCATION AID AWARD APPLICATION FORM

Please print clearly.

Status: (check one): _____High School Graduate _____ Undergraduate

Previous Pillar Community Education Aid Award Recipient? ____ Yes ____No

How did you learn about PCDC Educational Aid Awards? _____

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Home Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Cell Phone #: (____) _____ Home Phone #: (____) _____

Email Address: _____

Name of High School: _____ Graduation Date: _____

Overall Grade Point Average: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name of Institution of Higher Learning: _____

Address of Institution: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

If undergraduate, Overall Grade Point Average: _____ (Official transcript required)

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Provide examples of your leadership activities in your community, church, and/or school.
(Please include church, school, and/or community activities and/or organizations. You may attach additional pages or use the back of this application form.)

Organization or Activity	Position Held	Describe what you accomplished

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

For Scholarship Committee Use Only *Date Received:* _____ *Verified by:* _____

PCDC Educational Awards are merit based. The amount of the individual awards may vary from year to year based on the amount of available funds and the quality of individual applicant applications.

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Dear Applicant:

The Pillar Community Development Corporation (PCDC) will provide educational aid awards to eligible **high school graduates** accepted to an institution of higher education and **undergraduate** college students in good standing who reside in the Greater Hartford County Area.

Eligibility requirements:

- Accepted by or already attending an undergraduate institution of higher learning
- Demonstrated service and dedication to school, church, and/or the greater community
- Participates in school, church, volunteer or leadership development activities

Guidance for a Successful Essay Submission

- **Select a topic of your choosing**
- **Analyze the question and define your argument, evidence and reasoning**
- **Give your essay a title**
- **Organize your essay and any supporting data**
- **Use the standard formatting requirements**
- **Check your grammar and proofread, proofread, proofread**

Choose one of the Three Essay Topics Below

1. ***What role has your community played in shaping who you are today? Your community can be your church, neighborhood, school, extended family. Provide specific examples.***
2. ***If you have been a previous recipient of the PCDC Educational Aid Award, how has it impacted your educational or professional goals?***
3. ***What's the best advice you have received? From whom? How did you apply it? How has it affected you and your life?***
4. ***A related topic of your choosing.***

Please make sure to provide all the required information prior to submission. Incomplete packets will not be considered.

Pillar Community Development Corporation (PCDC) Education Aid Rubric

This rubric is designed to clearly show what criteria must be met to demonstrate the quality of the PCDC Education Aid Award submissions. Each applicant may receive up to a total of 100 points from five (5) categories: On-Time Application Packets (10); Grade Point Average (GPA (25); Community Service Activities (25); Essay Quality (25); and two References (15). This evaluation tool has both objective and subjective criteria. The essay has a separate rubric to arrive at a total score of up to 25 points.

Name of Applicant	Criteria	Expectations	# Points Earned	Explanation
	On-Time Applications (10)	-*Completed* packet received on or before deadline 6/30 (10) 1 pt. each deducted for missing requirements	10	
	GPA (25)	-Higher than 3.5 (25) -3.4 to 3.0 (20) -2.9 to 2.5 (15) -2.4 and below (10)		
	Community Service and Activities (25)	-Leadership role in organization; multiple activities in community and church; college major community focused (25) -Active in diversity of organizations (20) -Participates in at least one organization or activity (15)		
	Essay (25)	See Separate Rubric		See Attached Rubric
	References (15)	-Submitted 2 references (15) -Submitted 1 reference (8) -No references (0)		

TOTAL POINTS _____

Pillar Community Development Corporation (PCDC) Education Aid Rubric

This rubric is created to evaluate the quality of the Education Aid Applicant's essay as one of the five (5) evaluation components. The evaluation process is based on the basic 5-paragraph essay criteria. The applicant may receive up to a total of 25 points.

APPLICANT'S NAME: _____ **ESSAY TOPIC:** _____

CRITERIA	EXPECTATIONS	# Pts EARNED	EXPLANATION
Clarity (5)	-Coherent thesis statement; supports the topic -Good sentence structure -Good paragraph structure -Clearly understands writer's topic		
Organization (10)	-Logical flow from idea to idea -Thesis identifies each topic is essay -Paragraphs have topic sentences -Each paragraph conveys an original idea		
Effectiveness (5)	-Informative -Engages the reader in the topic -Thoughts clearly expressed -Responded appropriately to the essay topic		
Presentation (5)	-Essay is typed or neatly written; any errors have been corrected appropriately		

TOTAL POINTS _____