



Scholarship Application for School Year 2025-2026

Project Youth Educational Services (Y.E.S.) is dedicated to supporting high school graduates who have excelled academically and demonstrated outstanding commitment to extracurricular activities and community service. We achieve this by providing academic scholarships for their post-secondary education at accredited colleges, universities, or other educational institutions. These scholarships include the Kenneth McFarland Legacy Scholarship, the Project Y.E.S. Inc. Scholarship, the April Strong in Excellence Scholarship and the A Future and A Hope Scholarship. All scholarships are for one academic year, 2025-2026. Students can only apply for one scholarship.

Available Scholarships: (Only one Award per applicant per scholarship period):

Project Y.E.S., Inc.

The Project YES Scholarship seeks to empower and honor those students who exemplify a dedication to both their academic pursuits and their commitment to making a positive impact on their community or church. This scholarship is an opportunity for deserving students to receive financial support while furthering their education and continuing their meaningful contributions to their communities. Eligible applicants must have a minimum G.P.A. of 2.5 and a strong record of extracurricular involvement in their community or church activities. **Recipients of the Project YES Scholarship will be awarded \$500.00 per academic semester, with an annual limit of \$1,000.00.**

Kenneth McFarland Legacy Award

The Kenneth McFarland Community Service Scholarship was established to commemorate the enduring legacy of Reverend Kenneth McFarland, a distinguished figure known for his unwavering dedication to community service, civic engagement, Christian ministry, and youth empowerment. Eligibility for this scholarship requires applicants to have a minimum G.P.A. of 2.5 and a strong record of exceptional service to their community or church.

Recipients of the Kenneth McFarland Legacy Scholarship will be awarded \$500.00 per academic semester, with an annual limit of \$1,000.00.

April Strong in Excellence Legacy Award

The April M. Strong Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of Mrs. April Strong, a respected educator and community leader. This prestigious scholarship honors Mrs. Strong's legacy of encouraging personal growth and academic achievement, providing deserving students with financial support for their education. This scholarship requires a minimum G.P.A. requirement of 3.5 and rewards students who demonstrate excellence in academics and community involvement.

Recipients of the April Strong in Excellence Legacy Award will receive \$750.00 per semester, with an annual limit of \$1,500.00.

A Future and A Hope Scholarship

The "A Future and A Hope Scholarship" was established by Raymond and Cynthia Cornog to promote academic success and increase future opportunities for African American students to reach their highest potential. It is designed to invest in and help students by: a) reducing financial barriers to higher education and b) Increase African American representation in professional and technically skilled roles. Eligibility for this scholarship requires applicants to have a minimum G.P.A. of 3.8 and a strong record of exceptional service to their community or church.

Recipients of the "A Future and A Hope Scholarship" will be awarded \$2500.00 per year.

Application Guidelines

1. DEADLINE to submit the scholarship application online through the Project Y.E.S. website is Friday, January 31, 2025, 11:59 p.m. (no exceptions).
2. If any question/statement does not apply to you in this application, please put "N/A" in the space.
3. Type or print legibly. Illegible applications will not be considered. (no exceptions).
4. Submit application on the Project Y.E.S. website. www.projectyesatl.org.
5. This application will be used to determine eligibility for the selected scholarship. Applicants can only apply for one scholarship.
6. Applicants will be contacted no later than March 14, 2025 to schedule an interview with the Scholarship Interviewing Team.
7. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact projectyesinc4youth@gmail.com, (770) 474-8611 or (470) 588-2126.

Eligibility Required Criteria:

1. The applicant must be a graduating high school senior in the year of the award.
2. The applicant must demonstrate positive impact and involvement in school, community, and/or church as determined through this application process and with letters of recommendation.
3. The applicant must have a minimum unweighted G.P.A. of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) for the Kenneth McFarland and Project Y.E.S., Inc Scholarship awards; a minimum unweighted G.P.A. of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) for April Strong in Excellence Scholarship award and a minimum unweighted G.P.A. of 3.8 (on a 4.0 scale) for the A Future and A Hope Scholarship award.
4. The applicant must be accepted by or enrolled in an accredited college/university or other post-secondary educational institution. (Verification must be presented before any funds will be disbursed)
5. The applicant must complete the Informational Workshop, a workshop hosted by Project Y.E.S., Inc.
6. The scholarship recipients must maintain a G.P.A. of 2.5 for Kenneth McFarland Legacy or Project Y.E.S., Inc. Scholarships, a G.P.A. of 3.5 for the April Strong in Excellence Scholarship or a G.P.A. of 3.8 for the A Future and A Hope Scholarship during the first academic semester to receive the second installment of their scholarship.

Application Process - Incomplete applications will not be considered (no exceptions). Applicant must submit the following items to:

1. Submit Completed, typed or digital application form (if handwritten, please print legibly in blue or black ink)
2. Photo (black/white or color) – can be either a head shot or full body.
3. An official (signed) and current high school transcript showing G.P.A.
4. Essay. *(Please see Page 3 for essay prompts and requirements)*
5. Standardized Test Scores (SAT or ACT). (Based on the college application requirements)
6. Two (2) SIGNED letters of recommendation for the Project Y.E.S, Inc. or April Strong Scholarships or three (3) SIGNED letters of recommendation for the Kenneth McFarland Legacy or A Future and A Hope Scholarships from a combination of the following:
 - a) School - a high school teacher or counselor on school letterhead
 - b) Community - an employer, community member, club sponsor, coach, individual, etc. with significant knowledge of applicant's character, experience, and involvement. *(Please Note: Applicants must provide two Community letters if applying for the Kenneth McFarland Legacy or A Future and A Hope Scholarships with verification of the number of community service hours completed)*
 - c) Church - a pastor, deacon, youth leader, or another leader or member of your local church. *(Please Note: not required but could provide verification of extracurricular and community involvement.*
 - d) **Letters of Recommendation may NOT come from family members.**
7. Certificate of Completion from the Project Y.E.S. Scholarship Information Workshop

NOTE: Once eligibility is established, Scholarship funds will be awarded in two parts each academic year, at the beginning of each Fall and each Spring semesters of enrollment/attendance at an accredited college/university, technical school, or other post-secondary educational institution. (Verification must be presented before any funds will be disbursed)

Essay Prompts: (In 350-500 words essay format, answer the following questions):

Project Y.E.S., Inc.

Describe your personal journey with education. Your essay should include answers to the following questions/events:

- How has your educational experience shaped your perspective on life and your future goals?
- A significant moment or event in your educational history that had a profound impact on your understanding of the importance of education.

Kenneth McFarland Legacy Award

Describe a significant community service project you have been involved in and explain how your involvement in community service has contributed to your personal and academic growth. Your essay should include answers to the following questions:

- How did you identify the needs of the community, and what steps did you take to address them? Explain the impact your efforts had on the community and on yourself.
- In what ways have your experiences influenced your future goals and aspirations?

April Strong in Excellence Legacy Award

Describe what excellence means to you personally and share a specific instance where you faced challenges but ultimately achieved excellence. Your essay should include answers to the following questions:

- How do you define excellence in your academic, personal, and extracurricular pursuits?
- What did you learn from this experience, and how has it shaped your perspective on success?

A Future and A Hope Scholarship

Describe what academic success looks like and how this scholarship will help you achieve your future goals and encourage others to achieve success.

- How do you define success in your academic and personal life and what drives you to succeed?
- How can your pursuit of academic success encourage and inspire others to reach their potential?

Deadline to submit the electronic application is **Friday, January 31, 2025 (11:59 p.m.)**
Applications received after this date will not be considered (no exceptions)



Scholarship Letter of Recommendation Guidelines

*****ATTENTION STUDENTS*****

Please provide copies of this page to individuals who will write your letters of recommendation.

Dear: School Official/Community Representative/Church Member:

This student, _____, has applied for a Project Youth Educational Services [Y.E.S.], Inc. Scholarship for the school year 2025-2026.

To fairly consider and evaluate this applicant, please submit a letter of recommendation. Your comments must be detailed and specifically address, but need not be limited to, the following items:

1. Does the applicant perform up to his/her academic ability? Provide your observations of the applicant's actions in the academic environment.
2. What leadership qualities does the applicant demonstrate? Please give specific examples.
3. Comment on the applicant's involvement in extracurricular school activities, including any offices held.
4. Comment on the applicant's involvement in community and/or church activities.
5. Comment on the applicant's plans to achieve his/her career goals.

Please address all five areas listed above to the best of your ability based on your personal experience with the student. For employers and/or church members, please comment on the student's work ethic, dependability, spiritual development, and anything else that you believe would be beneficial to accurately paint a positive portrait of the applicant.

Place your letter of recommendation in an envelope, then seal and SIGN sealed portion of envelope, and return to the applicant who will submit it with his/her application. Please write your recommendation on an official letterhead if you are a school and/or elected official & community representative.

All letters of recommendation must accompany the applicant's application packet.

Very truly yours,
Scholarship Programs
Project Youth Educational Services [Y.E.S.], Inc.



Application for School Year 2025-2026

Select one Scholarship to apply for:

- Project Y.E.S., Inc. Kenneth McFarland Legacy Award A Future and A Hope April Strong in Excellence Legacy Award

Last Name:		First Name:	
Mailing Address: Street: _____			
City:		State:	Zip:
Daytime Telephone Number: ()		Date of Birth:	
E-mail Address:			
List Colleges/Institutions to which you have already applied (you may submit your list on a separate sheet):			
I have been accepted by the following schools in the <u>Fall of 2025</u> :			
I will be attending the following school in the <u>Fall of 2025</u> :			
Proof of acceptance or current student enrollment from the above school is required prior to disbursement of ALL funds.			
Grade Point Average (GPA): <input type="text"/> (4.0 scale) Attach proof of GPA; your most recent official school transcript is required.			
ACT Score: <input type="text"/> Or SAT Score: <input type="text"/>			
Mother's /Guardian's Name: <input type="text"/>			
Address: <input type="text"/> City: <input type="text"/> State: <input type="text"/> ZIP: <input type="text"/>			
Cell/Work/Home Phone: <input type="text"/>			
Father's /Guardian's Name: <input type="text"/>			
Address: <input type="text"/> City: <input type="text"/> State: <input type="text"/> ZIP: <input type="text"/>			
Cell/Work/Home Phone: <input type="text"/>			
What area/specialty do you plan to major in as you continue your education?			
<input type="text"/>			



Application for School Year 2025-2026

Briefly share your educational and professional goals and objectives. (Use a separate page if more space is needed.)

List awards, honors, and special recognitions you received while in high school. (Use a separate page if more space is needed.)

Please describe any of your community and church involvement. (Use a separate page if more space is needed.)

Please describe any of your academic and school involvement. (Use a separate page if more space is needed.)

STATEMENT OF ACCURACY

I hereby affirm that all the above stated information provided by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also consent that my photo may be taken and used for any purpose deemed necessary to promote the Project Youth Educational [Y.E.S.], Inc. Scholarship Programs.

I hereby understand that (1) if chosen as a scholarship recipient and (2) to remain eligible, I must provide evidence outlined/articulated in the eligibility requirements and the application process connected to my enrollment/registration at the post-secondary institution of my choice before scholarship funds will be disbursed.

Signature of Scholarship Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Before You SUBMIT Your Application, Remember to Check EVERY BOX and Submit Every Item on the Checklist



Application for School Year 2025-2026

APPLICATION PACKET CHECKLIST

(You must submit every item on this Checklist unless designated as optional)

- Application
- Resume
- Photo
- High School Transcript (Official)
- Essay (Based on appropriate scholarship prompts)
- Standardized Test Scores (SAT or ACT) (Option)
- Letter of Recommendation from High School Teacher or Counselor (as applicable)
- Letter of Recommendation from Community Member/Employer/Coach/ Club Sponsor (as applicable)
- Letter of Recommendation from Active member of Grace Baptist (or affiliated) Church Sponsor (as applicable)
- Certificate of Completion from the informational workshop hosted by Project Y.E.S., Inc. (Due before funds are dispersed)

Deadline to submit electronic application is **January 31, 2025, 11:59 p.m.** (no exceptions)
Applications received after this date will **not** be considered.

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact projectyesinc4youth@gmail.com, (770) 474-8611 or (470) 588-2126.

Each qualifying applicant will be scheduled for the Workshop and to meet with the Scholarship Interviewing Panel for a personal interview. Failure to appear for the scheduled interview will result in disqualification of the applicant. **In order to receive the subsequent disbursement of funds, the applicant must continue to meet all eligibility criteria requirements contained in this application process.**



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