

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

1. What is CSF Dollars for Scholars?

CSF of Bedford is a volunteer community organization which provides scholarships to deserving high school graduates who plan to continue their education. It is the local chapter of Dollars for Scholars, a national program sponsored by Scholarship America. Active since 1965, the Bedford Chapter has awarded almost 1.8 million dollars in scholarship awards to nearly 2,250 students.

2. Who may apply for CSF Scholarships?

Any senior graduating from Bedford High School or any Bedford or Hanscom Air Force Base resident graduating from another secondary school, completing home-schooling, or completing GED requirements may apply, provided the student will be attending a four-year college, two-year college, or technical or vocational school.

3. What are the sources of funds for CSF Scholarship Awards?

A major source of funding is the annual phone-a-thon fund drive organized by CSF and conducted by student volunteers. Local merchants, industries and professionals also donate directly to the Chapter's annual awards pool. A significant source of funds is the growing number of local scholarships that have been established to honor, or in memory of, an individual. Many of these are endowments that fund permanent scholarships. Money is also raised through a variety of other community activities, such as Bedford Day.

4. Who decides on CSF Scholarship recipients?

A broad based selections committee of local citizens, teachers, and past and present board members meets in the spring to review CSF Scholarship applications.

5. What criteria are used for selection?

The Selection Committee follows the guidelines of the national organization and any specific scholarship requirements. CSF grants awards on the basis of merit with the amount determined by need. Financial need is calculated by Scholarship America's national office in Minnesota. All application material is protected with strict confidentiality.

6. Does "merit" mean only top-ranked students need apply?

CSF seeks to provide financial aid for and recognition to, as large a range of deserving students as possible. "Merit" includes academic, athletic, civic, and community achievements. In past years, many students have been in a good position to receive an award.

More information is available at www.csfbedfordma.org or by email csf_bedford@yahoo.com