



Diabetes Hope Scholarship Application 2025 Guidelines

Diabetes Hope Scholarship Program is a combined merit- and needs-based scholarship that celebrates the resiliency of youth with type 1 diabetes. The Scholarship is awarded to students who exhibit excellence in balancing the many responsibilities associated with diabetes management while also overcoming personal challenges, maintaining strong academic standing, enriching their lives through community involvement and extra-curricular activities, and maintaining their health. Each year, Diabetes Hope Foundation strives to award a minimum of 35 scholarships across Canada, dependent on funding.

Scholarship Value: \$3,000 each

Eligibility:

The Diabetes Hope Scholarship Program is open to applicants who:

- Are in their final year at a Canadian secondary school or CEGEP and will be entering an accredited post-secondary institution in the fall of 2025.
- Live in Canada as a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident.
- Hold a valid SIN number (for scholarship distribution purposes).
- Have received care for type 1 diabetes by a Canadian pediatric health care team or physician for a minimum of 1 year preceding this application.

Application Deadline: March 2nd, 2026 @ 11:59 pm PST

Application Process:

The application for Diabetes Hope Foundation's scholarship program is ONLY available as an online application. All application submissions must be completed online as instructed below:

Step 1 – Review Application Guidelines

Download a copy of the scholarship program requirements and application questions before you begin your online application. If you meet the scholarship eligibility requirements, please go to “Step 2” to register for an applicant account in the online application system.

Step 2 – Register for an Applicant Account

Go to <https://dhfscholarship.smapply.io> to set up an applicant account to complete your scholarship application. You will have the option to register through your Facebook, Google or Twitter account, or set up a new account directly through Survey Monkey. Once you have successfully logged in, fill out the eligibility form and save to your profile, and click on 'Apply' to begin the scholarship application submission process.

Step 3 – DHF Scholarship Application Tasks

The following tasks have to be completed through the online portal to complete your scholarship submission (please note that these steps do not have to be completed in sequence and you can edit/make changes to your application until the application closes):

- ☐ **Applicant Information Form** - complete this form to provide us with your contact information, school/career interests and current diabetes care information. Once you have completed this form, click submit to complete this task.
- ☐ **Letters of Reference** – you may request up to four (4) references as part of your application. To complete this step, click on each task in the online portal and click on the “Get a Recommendation” button to request for a referral from your endorser.

Your references will receive an email invitation with a link to complete the online recommendation process. Once complete, you will receive an email from the online system to confirm that the letters of reference have been completed. Mark this step as *COMPLETE* in the online portal to check off these tasks.
- ☐ **Scholarship Application Form** – it is recommended that you prepare your application form ahead of time with the Fillable Word File available on the DHF website before you complete the online form.
- ☐ **Secondary School Transcript** – Upload official school transcript (with watermark) including your grades from Grade 9 up to your current year records (February 2026) and mark the task *COMPLETE* when you have successfully uploaded your file.
- ☐ **Photo Identification**– Upload a photo identity document that will confirm your proof of residency in Canada and your birth date (e.g. driver’s license, health or identity card) and mark the tasks *COMPLETE* when you have successfully uploaded your file.

Step 4: Submitting Your Application:

When all the tasks in the application portal have been marked as *COMPLETE*, you will be eligible to submit your application. Once you submit your application, an email will be sent to confirm that you have successfully completed all application requirements.

NOTES:

1. The email and name used to create the applicant account **MUST** belong to the applicant. Accounts using email addresses and/or names that do not match that of the applicant will not be considered.
2. Reference forms must be completed by the application deadline of March 2nd, 2026.
3. References from immediate family, friends or partners will **NOT** be accepted.

Scholarship Selection Process:

Applications undergo an initial review to ensure that all the requirements have been met and that all the attachments (per the completed checklist) have been provided by the applicant.

If additional documents are required, you will receive an email from staff at DHF to upload the missing information and complete your submission. DHF will make three (3) attempts to contact you before closing your application. Please ensure you check your email (including your Junk Folder) the week of March 2nd, 2026 for any correspondence from DHF.

Each 'complete' application undergoes a 'blinding process' that removes the applicant's name and identifying information..

Blinded applications are forwarded to the Diabetes Hope Foundation Scholarship Advisory Committee members for review and scoring.

The following application sections will be scored:

Application Sections	Score
Academic Achievement	10
Achievements/Awards	5
Leadership and Community Impact	5
Transition Preparedness	15
Essay	20
References	4
TOTAL	59

Personal Statement:

Applicants who have experienced any of the following extenuating circumstances are invited to complete a personal statement detailing how they have impacted their diabetes management, their academics and/or their community involvement. ***Personal statements will be read by the Scholarship Advisory Committee and taken into consideration when scoring applications.***

- Financial Need (you are in need of financial support based on family income and/or extenuating circumstances beyond living with diabetes)
- Multiple Diagnoses (you have more than one medical condition and/or there is more than one member of your family living with type 1 diabetes)
- Recent Immigrant or Refugee Status (you have moved to Canada within the last 5 years)
- Family Structure (sole-support parent, multi-generational household and/or extenuating circumstances related to a change in your family structure)
- Learning Disability and/or Mental Health Diagnosis
- Other (you face a socio-economic barrier that is not listed above)

Award Announcements:

2025 Scholarship Recipients will be contacted by email in late April and announced online on DHF's website and social media channels to confirm their scholarship award. A formal invitation to the Scholarship Ceremony will follow. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by email in late April.

Requirements to Receive Your Scholarship:

The \$3,000 scholarship will be disbursed in two (2) instalments of \$1500 each (see table below for disbursement dates). The following information must be uploaded to your Survey Monkey account by the dates indicated for your scholarship to be disbursed:

1. **Supporting documentation** (including SIN, post-secondary institution, mailing address and program of study) must be uploaded to your Survey Monkey account by May 15th, 2026.
2. **Donor Thank You Letter** form must be completed in your Survey Monkey account by May 15th, 2026.
3. **Proof of Enrollment** from your chosen institution must be uploaded to your Survey Monkey account by the dates listed below. Proof of enrollment can include a copy of your timetable (including school logo), proof of tuition payment, or a formal letter confirming your enrollment. *Acceptance letters are not admissible.*

	Proof of Enrollment Deadline	Disbursement Dates
Fall Term	August 15 th , 2026	Late August, 2026
Winter Term	December 15 th , 2026	Late December, 2027

NOTE: Successful recipients are eligible to defer their scholarship up to one (1) academic year. This must be communicated to DHF in writing *before* the scholarship disbursement period.

AI Acceptable Use Policy

Scope and Purpose of Allowed AI Use

Applicants may use AI tools for grammar, style and writing improvement purposes **only**.

Applicants **must not** use AI to:

- Produce full drafts or large chunks of text;
- Generate original arguments, analyses, research content, or narrative that becomes a large portion of the submission;
- Paraphrase AI output wholesale and present it as original.

The applicant must ensure **at least 80%** of the final submitted content is verifiable as human, meaning it is written and composed by the applicant. It may have been refined or polished with AI help.

2. Disclosure and Attribution

If AI is used, applicants must declare in their application that AI has been used when prompted.

3. Review & Verification Process

All scholarship applications will undergo **AI detection/authenticity checks** during the initial eligibility screening.

4. Consequences of Breach

If a submission exceeds the allowed AI proportion, it will be disqualified from consideration.

Collection of Data and Privacy Policy:

Diabetes Hope Foundation is committed to safeguarding the personal information entrusted to us through our Scholarship Program. We manage your personal information in accordance with Ontario's Personal Information Protection Act and other applicable laws. Your personal information includes your contact information, social security number, academic transcripts, diabetes related health records and personal identification documents.

For the purposes of administering the Scholarship Program, we collect only the information we need to contact successful recipients, complete the disbursement of scholarship funds, and send out associated program information to applicants. Diabetes Hope Foundation does not collect, use, or disclose any personal information for the use of commercial activities.

We ask for consent to collect the applicant's personal contact information, academic transcripts and healthcare information. Only the applicant's name, geographic location (city, province) and photo will be publicly disclosed and used on our website and promotional materials for the purpose of promoting the Scholarship Program.

All healthcare information collected through our Scholarship Program is deleted from our records after the selection of our Scholarship Winners. All other personal and academic information collected will be safeguarded on our password protected servers, and we will make every reasonable effort to ensure that personal information is safeguarded. We retain personal information only as long as it is reasonable for us to deliver our programs and services.

If you would like to receive copies of the personal information collected through our Scholarship Program, you may request for access to your personal information by writing to us via email at info@diabeteshopefoundation.com.

Need Technical Support to Complete Your Application?

<https://dhfscholarship.smapply.io/helpdesk/>

Questions about Application Process?

Contact info@diabeteshopefoundation.com.