**Parsons Family Scholarship for LGBTQ+ Youth and Allies**

*What is the scholarship’s purpose?*

* The Parsons Family Scholarship for LGBTQ+ Youth and Allies provides support for LGBTQ+ graduating seniors and their allies (also graduating seniors) at Maine high schools in their pursuit of post-secondary study at any accredited, not-for-profit, non-sectarian college or university in the United States. The scholarship fund guarantees one scholarship per year.
* This scholarship fund is inspired by the lives and work of Betsy Parsons and her parents and has been created by their family who staunchly support their ideals and share their deep love for and commitment to Maine and its people. To learn more about Betsy, visit [www.mainecf.org/parsons-scholarship-fund-for-lgbtq-youth-and-allies](http://www.mainecf.org/parsons-scholarship-fund-for-lgbtq-youth-and-allies).
* The Parsons Family welcomes and encourages Maine graduating high-school seniors of any gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, or socioeconomic background to apply for the scholarship.

*What are the terms of the award?*

* This application is for the Parsons Family Scholarship for LGBTQ+ Youth and Allies.
* The scholarship amount is $2,000.00.
* The application forms and guidelines are available at [www.mainecf.org](http://www.mainecf.org).
* Applicants should submit a complete application to *ParsonsFamilyScholarship@gmail.com* by May 1. We cannot consider incomplete applications.
* The selection committee will notify all applicants about whether they are the recipient after the decision is made in late May.
* Maine Community Foundation will issue a check to the recipient’s college or university in December to be applied to the spring semester’s cost of education.

*Is it possible that two or more $2,000 scholarships might be awarded in a given year?*

* Yes. The selection committee was thrilled to award three $2,000 scholarships in 2023 and two in 2024!
* The scholarship fund, however, guarantees only a single $2,000 award per year.
* Additional $2,000 scholarships may be awarded in a given year if sufficient additional fundraising and the applicant pool warrant it.

*Who is eligible to apply?*

To be eligible for the Parsons Family Scholarship, the applicant must:

* Self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer or questioning plus (LGBTQ+) or as an ally who directly supports the LGBTQ+ community and promotes equality for all;
* Be a Maine state resident who is graduating from high school;
* Plan to attend an accredited, not-for-profit, non-sectarian post-secondary educational institution in the United States during the coming academic year, including two- and four-year colleges and universities, community colleges, and vocational schools; and
* Submit a complete Parsons Family Scholarship application, including all required supplemental forms and information.

*What application and supporting materials must I provide?*

To be considered for the Parsons Family Scholarship, complete all the following application components by May 1:

* Application form
* Two (2) recommendation letters
* Unofficial copy of high school transcript

*When is the application due, and how do I submit it?*

* Submit all parts of the application by May 1.
* Applicants should email the application form and unofficial high school transcript to *ParsonsFamilyScholarship@gmail.com*.
* Recommenders should send their letter and cover sheet directly to *ParsonsFamilyScholarship@gmail.com*.
* All documents should be in pdf format.

*What happens if I win the Parsons Family Scholarship for LGBTQ+ Youth and Allies?*

* If you are chosen to receive the Parsons Family Scholarship, Maine Community Foundation will notify you by sending a letter to the mailing address you list on the application form.
* Maine Community Foundation will issue a check to your chosen college or university in December to be applied to your spring semester’s cost of education.
* All applications, supporting documents, and applicant information will be kept confidential and will not be shared with the public or anyone outside this scholarship committee and Maine Community Foundation (which processes the awards and issues the scholarship payments) without the applicant’s expressed approval.