# A logo with white text Description automatically generated The Gracie Fund Scholarship Application

## Guidelines

### History and Purpose

*“When I came to Maine, I wished I had been born here. There is an integrity in Maine’s communities that is worth preserving. It is a dynamic way of life with generations of valu*e.”- *Donor of the Gracie Fund*

The Gracie Fund offers tuition-reimbursement incentives to encourage natives of Washington County, or those who consider Washington County their “home,” to establish new and deeper roots in their communities following completion of their post-secondary education.

The Gracie Fund fosters community development by helping recipients connect to Washington County through their commitment to a career and community service.

### Eligibility

The Gracie Fund invites applications from natives of Washington County, or those who consider Washington County their “home,” who have graduated from college within five years of the date of application and are building a professional and personal life in Washington County.

Preference will be given to applicants moving back to Washington County, and for applicants who intend to work and live in Washington County for a minimum of two years. Applicants must commit to fulfill their community service obligation by volunteering with a Washington County organization (i.e. social services agency, library, school, church, sports team, etc.).

Applicants must commit to active participation in the Gracie program (i.e. action plan, attend semi-annual meetings of Gracie participants). **Applicants may not be in default on a loan or have deferred loans. Students who are currently on income-based repayment plans are welcome to apply**

### Awards

School loan repayment awards of up to $5,000 will be awarded to three individuals each year. Awards may be renewed for up to three years. The IRS considers these awards taxable income. Award consideration will be based on:

1. Evidence of a strong commitment to establishing new and deeper roots in Washington County.
2. Evidence of prior community service.
3. Evidence of financial need.

### Administration

The Maine Community Foundation and the Sunrise County Economic Council, located in Washington County, jointly administer the Gracie Fund. Applications may be obtained from [www.mainecf.org](http://www.mainecf.org) and [www.sunrisecounty.org](http://www.sunrisecounty.org)

**All applications must be postmarked by July 15.** Incomplete applications or those postmarked after this date will not be processed. All information received from applicants will be treated as confidential.

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| **Submission Deadline:** | **Submission Address:** |
| **July 15** | **Gracie Fund**  Maine Community Foundation  245 Main St. Ellsworth, ME 04605 |

### Scholarship-Specific Information

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| **The Gracie Fund invites students who have completed their post-secondary education within 5-years of the date of application. Please detail your degree history.** | **College or University:**  **Date of Completion:**  **Degree:** |
| **Current Employment** | **Address:**  **Monthly Gross Income:**  **Monthly Net Income:**  **No. of Dependents:**  **Monthly Net Household Income:** |
| **Student Loan Information** | **Total of Student Loan Balances:**  **No. of Outstanding Loans:**  **Total Monthly Loan Payment:** |
| **Please explain why Washington County is your home.** |  |
| **Letter of Recommendation** | Please ask a current professor or employer to submit a letter of recommendation in support of your application to the Gracie Fund. The letter must be current (dated after January 1), on official letterhead, contain your first and last name, and be signed by the writer who must identify his/her relationship to you. Please attach as a separate sheet. |

### Personal Statement

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| **The Gracie Fund expects recipients to make a commitment to Washington County through their career and community service. Please explain why it is important to you to live and work in Washington County. Tell us about the skills and strengths you bring to the community. What are your personal goals and your goals for Washington County? Do you have a support system in place in Washington County to help you attain them? If not, how do you anticipate developing a network? How can the Gracie Fund help you?**  **Please respond in two pages or less. Attach as a separate sheet.** |

### Certifications

I certify that I am a legal resident of the State of Maine and that all information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that I may be asked to provide proof of information stated on this form, including a copy of my parent's and/or my prior year's U.S. Income Tax return.

In addition, I hereby authorize the college I will attend in the school year to release information on financial aid awarded to me by the college and other sources to the Maine Community Foundation.

**Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  
*(if applicant is under age 18)*

### Application Checklist

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| **Please review this list and make sure you have taken care of all required parts, including attachments listed.** | ☐ **Maine Community Foundation scholarship application** *(attach)*  **☐ Scholarship-specific information** *(complete above)*  **☐ Personal statement** *(attach)*  ☐ **Most recent resume** *(attach)*  ☐ **Documentation of student loan(s) from financial institution(s) managing your account(s)** *(attach)*  ☐ **Letter of recommendation as outlined above** *(attach)*  **☐ Copy of your most recent federal tax return** *(Please blank out your SSN on all pages)* |