



# Fact Sheet

## MISSION

To provide tuition assistance to individuals active in a 12-step recovery program from alcohol or substance use disorder who demonstrate financial need and are pursuing an academic or vocational education.

## FOUNDED

The Next Step was founded in 2005 by a group of friends who saw a need to help individuals in recovery achieve their educational goals.

## ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

The Next Step has 17 volunteer board members and two staff members. The 2023 operating budget is \$410,000. Funds are typically raised through private donations, grants, and two fundraising events: the annual golf raffle and the annual scholarship celebration. The Next Step has earned a 4-star rating on Charity Navigator and achieved Candid Platinum transparency status.

## ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

Our recipients have a broad spectrum of educational goals which may include seeking an undergraduate or graduate degree or pursuing technical or vocational training. The maximum scholarship for undergraduate, technical, or vocational programs is \$5,000, and \$3,000 for graduate programs. Scholarships fund tuition and book expenses and are paid directly to the educational institution.

Individuals applying for a scholarship have to meet a strict set of requirements and attend an interview with two board members. Applicants must be active in a 12-step recovery program, have one year of recovery by the April 1 application deadline, live in the St. Louis bi-state metropolitan area, show financial responsibility and need, and meet all deadlines and requirements. Recipients are required to submit schedules and transcripts each semester, and must volunteer at one of the organization's fundraising events.

## OUR IMPACT

2023-24 Academic Year

**73**  
scholarship recipients

**\$247,450**  
scholarships awarded

Since 2005

**832**  
scholarships awarded

**\$1,941,752**  
scholarship funding



## OUR VISION

We want to help all individuals in the St. Louis metropolitan area, who are in a 12-step recovery program and meet defined scholarship criteria, achieve all of their educational goals.

## OUR VALUES

We believe education is one of the best ways to rise above addiction. We have respect for diversity: individuals of all backgrounds, ages, and educational interests are welcome to apply for a scholarship. We help individuals who are already helping themselves.

[www.thenextstepstl.org](http://www.thenextstepstl.org)

 10097 Manchester Rd., Suite 207, St. Louis, MO 63122

 314.719.2880

 [info@thenextstepstl.org](mailto:info@thenextstepstl.org)