

Grundy Bank Community Impact Scholarship

Official Rules, Terms & Conditions

2026–2027 Scholarship Program

Awards Distributed for the 2027–2028 Academic Year

1. Sponsor

The Grundy Bank Community Impact Scholarship ("Scholarship") is sponsored by Grundy Bank ("the Bank"). The purpose of this scholarship is to recognize graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated leadership, community involvement, and a commitment to making a positive impact in their schools and communities.

2. Scholarship Awards

Grundy Bank will award **two (2) Community Impact Scholarships**, each in the amount of **\$500.00**.

- One (1) scholarship will be awarded to an eligible graduating senior from **Morris Community High School**.
- One (1) scholarship will be awarded to an eligible graduating senior from **Wilmington High School**.

Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the recipient's accredited college, university, or trade school's Financial Aid Office and may only be applied toward qualified educational expenses as determined by the institution.

No cash payments will be made directly to the recipients.

3. Application Period

- **Applications Open:** September 1, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. CT
- **Application Deadline:** March 1, 2027, at 11:59 P.M. CT

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

4. Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be a graduating senior in the Class of 2027.
- Attend either Morris Community High School or Wilmington High School.
- Plan to enroll during the 2027–2028 academic year in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or trade school.
- Submit a completed application before the application deadline.

5. Ineligible Applicants

The following individuals are not eligible to apply:

- Immediate family members of current Grundy Bank employees.
- Members of the Scholarship Selection Committee and their immediate family members.

For purposes of these rules, "immediate family" includes a spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, stepparent, stepchild, stepsibling, or any individual residing in the employee's household.

6. Application Materials

Required Information

Applicants must submit a completed online application including:

- Full name
- School Email address
- High school
- Intended college, university, or trade school (if known)
- Intended field of study (if known)
- A list of extracurricular activities, leadership positions, employment, volunteer work, and community involvement
- Proof of acceptance to an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or trade school
- A 300–500-word essay
- Electronic acknowledgment that the applicant has read, understands, and agrees to the Grundy Bank Community Impact Scholarship Official Rules and Terms & Conditions

Optional Information

Applicants may also submit any of the following materials to provide additional information for consideration. Submission of these materials is **completely optional**, and applicants will **not be penalized** for choosing not to provide them.

- One letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, coach, employer, or another adult familiar with the applicant's qualifications

Applicants who choose to submit optional materials authorize Grundy Bank to review and consider those materials during the selection process.

Incomplete applications may not be considered.

7. Essay Requirement

Applicants must submit an original essay of **300–500 words** addressing the following prompt:

Grundy Bank is a community bank with branches in Morris and Wilmington, focused on serving our customers and supporting the growth of our local economy since 1864. We believe strong communities are built through individuals who demonstrate responsibility, involvement, and service to others. We value students who are committed to making a positive impact in their school, workplace, and community.

How have you strengthened your community? Provide 2-3 examples of how you have positively contributed through school organizations, employment, volunteer service, or other activities, and explain how those experiences have helped prepare you to achieve your future goals.

The essay must be the applicant's original work.

Grundy Bank reserves the right to disqualify any application containing plagiarized, fraudulent, or AI-generated content presented as the applicant's own work.

8. Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by a Scholarship Selection Committee appointed by Grundy Bank.

Applicants from Morris Community High School will be evaluated only against other eligible Morris Community High School applicants.

Applicants from Wilmington High School will be evaluated only against other eligible Wilmington High School applicants.

One (1) recipient will be selected from each participating high school.

Selection will be based upon the committee's evaluation of the applicant's overall merit, including:

- Essay quality
- Leadership
- Community involvement
- Volunteer service
- School involvement
- Overall strength and completeness of the application

The submission of optional materials does not guarantee selection.

9. Winner Notification

Recipients will be publicly announced and presented with the scholarship during their respective high school awards ceremony.

If a selected recipient:

- cannot be contacted,
- declines the scholarship,
- fails to provide requested documentation,
- becomes ineligible, or
- does not respond within the timeframe established by Grundy Bank,

The Bank reserves the right to select an alternate recipient or choose not to award the scholarship.

10. Verification Requirements

Prior to distribution of scholarship funds, recipients must provide documentation reasonably requested by Grundy Bank, including but not limited to:

- Proof of enrollment
- Name of the educational institution
- Financial Aid Office contact information
- Student identification number (if available)

Failure to provide the requested documentation may result in forfeiture of the scholarship.

11. Scholarship Payment

Scholarship funds will be issued directly to the recipient's accredited educational institution.

Funds may only be applied toward qualified educational expenses in accordance with the institution's policies.

Grundy Bank is not responsible for determining the recipient's tax obligations or the impact of the scholarship on financial aid eligibility.

12. Publicity Authorization

By submitting an application and accepting a scholarship if selected, the applicant grants Grundy Bank permission to use, publish, reproduce, and distribute the applicant's:

- Name
- Photograph
- Video or likeness
- Hometown
- High school
- College or university
- Intended field of study
- Scholarship essay (in whole or in part)
- Statements made during interviews
- Scholarship award information

for promotional, advertising, marketing, educational, public relations, website, social media, print publications, newspapers, magazines, television, radio, and other media purposes now known or later developed.

Applicants understand that such use may occur without additional notice, review, approval, or compensation and may continue indefinitely unless otherwise prohibited by law.

13. Privacy

Personal information collected through the scholarship application will be used solely to administer the scholarship program, verify eligibility, communicate with applicants, distribute scholarship funds, comply with legal obligations, and publicize scholarship recipients as described in these Official Rules.

Information will not be sold and will only be shared as necessary to administer the scholarship or as otherwise required by law.

14. Applicant Certifications

By submitting an application, each applicant certifies that:

- All information provided is true, accurate, and complete.
- The essay is the applicant's own original work.
- Any optional materials submitted are authentic.
- The applicant has read and agrees to these Official Rules.

Providing false or misleading information may result in disqualification or revocation of the scholarship.

15. Right to Verify Information

Grundy Bank reserves the right to verify any information contained in an application, including educational information, enrollment status, letters of recommendation, and other submitted materials.

If any information is found to be false or materially misleading, the Bank may disqualify the applicant or revoke the scholarship award.

16. Right to Modify or Cancel

Grundy Bank reserves the right to:

- Modify these Official Rules.
- Extend or shorten application deadlines.
- Cancel, suspend, or modify the scholarship program.
- Decline to award one or both scholarships if qualified applicants are not identified.
- Disqualify any applicant who violates these Official Rules or attempts to interfere with the administration of the scholarship.

17. Limitation of Liability

By participating, applicants agree to release and hold harmless Grundy Bank, its directors, officers, employees, and Scholarship Selection Committee members from any liability arising from participation in the scholarship program or acceptance and use of the scholarship award.

18. Taxes and Financial Aid

Recipients are solely responsible for understanding any tax consequences or financial aid implications associated with receiving this scholarship.

Applicants are encouraged to consult their financial aid office or a qualified tax professional if they have questions.

19. Final Decisions

All decisions of the Scholarship Selection Committee and Grundy Bank regarding eligibility, interpretation of these Official Rules, selection of recipients, and administration of the scholarship are final and not subject to appeal.

20. Applicant Agreement

By submitting the online application, the applicant acknowledges and agrees that:

- ☐ I have read and understand the Official Rules and Terms & Conditions.
- ☐ I certify that all information I have submitted is accurate and complete.
- ☐ I understand that letters of recommendation are optional and that choosing not to submit them will not disqualify my application.

☐ I certify that my essay is my own original work.

☐ I authorize Grundy Bank to verify information contained in my application if necessary.

☐ If selected, I authorize Grundy Bank to use my name, photograph, likeness, hometown, school, scholarship essay, and scholarship award information for promotional, advertising, marketing, website, social media, public relations, and other media purposes without additional compensation.

☐ I understand that all scholarship decisions are final.

☐ I agree to comply with these Official Rules and all scholarship requirements.

Submission of the online application constitutes the applicant's electronic acknowledgment and acceptance of these Official Rules and Terms & Conditions.