

Andrew Cray Higher Education Fund



The Andrew Cray Higher Education Fund was founded in memory of Andy, a 2004 Chi Hi alumni, in 2016. A transgender man who transitioned during college, he found his calling as an advocate in Washington D.C. for the LGBTQ+ community, where he fought healthcare discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation until his death of cancer in 2014 at the age of 28. Shortly after Andy died, President Barack Obama posthumously gave him the award of "Champion of Change" for his contributions to LGBTQ health. The scholarship fund in Wisconsin was started in October 2016 by his family, with the first scholarship awarded the following May.

The goal of the HEF is to assist the LGBTQ+ youth of Northwestern Wisconsin in receiving secondary education to help them achieve greatness, follow their dreams, and help this world become more accepting of all its children, just as Andy's work did.

Scholarship Eligibility

- The Andrew Cray Higher Education Fund is available to graduating high school seniors who openly identify as LGBTQ+, who are planning to enroll in an institution of higher education such as a university, college, or technical school.
- Applicants should have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale, be in good academic standing for graduation, and demonstrate leadership through extracurricular activities and involvement in LGBTQ+ advocacy.
- Applicants must live in Northwestern Wisconsin.
- Applicants must have enrolled in, or plan to enroll in and attend, an institution of higher education after graduation from high school.

Award Amount

- The number and dollar amount of scholarships to be given annually will depend on number of applicants and funds available.

Application Process & Deadlines

- Students will be able to apply for the Higher Education Fund by filling out and submitting a google form, with a high school transcript and letters of recommendation.
- Interviews with potential recipients may be scheduled after submission of the application if the HEF selection committee deems it necessary
- The 2021–2022 academic year scholarship form will be open for completion beginning Monday, October 11 2021; the link to which can be found at: cvgbt.org/andrew-cray-memorial.
- The deadline for submissions will be Sunday, April 3, 2022; recipients will be informed by Saturday, April 30, 2022.
- Applicants requiring a paper form, additional accommodations to complete their HEF application, or with any questions can email scholarship@cvgbt.org.