

James A. Gilmartin Paramedic Scholarship Fund
of Berks County Community Foundation
SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS

Scholarship description

The **James A. Gilmartin Paramedic Scholarship Fund** was established in 2017 to support residents of Berks County who are enrolled in the Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences Paramedic Program. Recipients must have been an EMT or volunteered as an EMT for at least one year before entering the Paramedic Program.

The fund will provide two annual scholarships.

One scholarship in the amount of \$2,500 will be awarded to an in-coming student who is a resident of Berks County who has a financial need and demonstrates the ability to succeed in the Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences Paramedic Program. In addition to completing a scholarship application, applicants must write an essay which addresses the following topic: Why I want to be a Paramedic. The recipient will be selected based on his/her financial need, written essay, and the results of his/her TEAS Test (Test of Essential Academic Skills). Financial need will be based on the cost of the program vs any other scholarships or grants the applicant is receiving. The first scholarship will be awarded in 2019. A scholarship application will be available on-line at www.bccf.org from May 1st through June 8th. The recipient will be selected in June. This scholarship will be paid jointly to the school and the student as follows: \$900 in August, \$900 in January, and \$700 in April. The second and third payments will be paid if the student remains enrolled in the program. If the second or third payment is not paid, that money will be held for distribution to applicants in future years.

A second scholarship will be awarded at the end of each trimester to the Berks County resident who achieved the highest GPA in the Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences Paramedic Program for that trimester. The award amounts are \$900 for the fall trimester, \$900 for the spring trimester, and \$700 for the summer trimester. This scholarship does not require an application to be completed by the candidates. The first scholarship will be awarded in December 2019. The recipient will be selected at the end of each of the trimesters in the year-long program. This scholarship will be paid directly to the student. Prior to payment, the student will be required to complete a W-9 for tax purposes. The student will receive a Form 1099 for this payment.

Scholarship selection and notification process

Berks County Community Foundation (“BCCF”) will notify the Guidance Departments at each of the 19 Berks County school districts, members of the Berks County Ambulance Associations, and healthcare institutions in Berks County of this scholarship opportunity.

BCCF will remind the Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences Paramedic Program administrators of this opportunity so that can notify their in-coming students. They will place a link to the application on their site.

Both scholarships will be selected by the EMT and Paramedic teachers in the program. The first scholarship will be reviewed on-line from June 11 – 21 (or around that time period). Leta will send scores to Russ around June 22, for committee to select by end of June.

The school’s program administrator will notify BCCF of the name and address of the recipient of the “incoming student” scholarship in June.

The school’s program administrator will notify BCCF of the name of the students who will receive the “highest GPA” scholarship at the conclusion of each trimester.

BCCF will send an award letter to the recipients. BCCF will send regret letters to each of the non-recipients who applied for the “incoming student” scholarship.

The 2019-2020 program runs as follows:
Fall trimester: August 21 – December 17
Spring trimester: January 2 – April 20
Summer trimester: April 30 – August 3

Berks County Community Foundation employees, board members and/or committee members are not eligible to apply for or be nominated for a scholarship offered by Berks County Community Foundation, nor are their immediate family members. However, immediate family members are eligible to be nominated and recognized as the recipient of a scholarship, but without the financial award of the scholarship. Immediate families include spouses; children, stepchildren, grandchildren, stepgrandchildren, and their respective spouses; siblings and their spouses; and ancestors. The ineligibility period for Berks County Community Foundation board members or employees and their family members extends five years after board service or employment terminates. The ineligibility period for committee members who are not Berks County Community Foundation staff or board is in effect only during their term of service and is only related to the committee on which they make decisions.