



# Affiliate *Link*

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## Developing Successful Scholarship Programs for Your Organization

# Services

Organizations often look for ways to give back to the community. Scholarship programs provide an opportunity to help deserving students, while reflecting positively on your organization. Students can find an abundance of information about scholarship programs. Not true when it comes to establishing such a program. If your organization has been thinking about starting a scholarship program, we offer the following guidelines.

**How much money does a scholarship program require?** Start simply. You can help many students with scholarships of \$500, \$750 or \$1,000. You'll also need to factor in costs for getting the word out about your program, such as special mailings or other expenses, if required.

**Should there be a theme for a scholarship program?** A clever theme attracts attention and makes a scholarship program memorable. It can unify a program by serving as the focus for slogans and graphic design of all promotional materials. Themes may be humorous, patriotic, inspiring—whatever best fits the mission and personality of your organization. Brainstorm a long list of theme possibilities, and then solicit input from

others in your organization to choose the theme that best expresses the aim of your scholarship program.

**When should the planning for a scholarship program begin?** During the fall. Since scholarships should be awarded in April or May, the announcements and information about the competition should be publicized by mid-January. By starting in the fall, you'll have time to properly develop and effectively promote your scholarship program.

**How should the scholarship selection criteria be established?** Common scholarship criteria are academic achievement or financial need. You may establish many types of selection criteria for your scholarship program. While there is room for creativity here, it's wise to keep selection criteria flexible. Some examples of selection criteria include:

- outstanding abilities, such as athletics, arts or creative writing
- fields of study
- attendance at a particular school or type of school
- place of residence
- personal qualities, such as leadership, citizenship or community involvement

**Why is it important to establish a selection committee?** A selection committee typically consists of three individuals qualified to select winners based on your specific selection criteria. By forming this special committee, your organization establishes fairness in the process of narrowing down the applications.

**Who should receive scholarship checks?** We recommend that scholarship checks be made payable to the school but mailed directly to the student. This streamlines the payment process and eliminates confusion for the student. This way, the student can review the information

### Did You Know?

Students will pay, on average, from \$371 to \$386 more than last year for this year's room and board. The average college costs, including room and board, for 2005-06:

- \$29,026 – 4-year private
- \$12,127 – 4-year public

Note: Cost and aid figures are from the College Board's *Trends in College Pricing 2005*, *Trends in Student Aid 2005*, and *Education Pays 2005*.

for correctness, and then hand deliver the check to the correct office and make sure the funds are credited appropriately.

**Does your group already have an established scholarship program?** To evaluate the success of your program, start with these questions:

- ✓ Does the scholarship program meet the group's goals?
- ✓ Are you able to help as many students as possible, given your resources?
- ✓ Did you offer the right kind and amount of help at the right time?
- ✓ Should you make changes to next year's program?

**How can the Affiliate Group Services Program help you?** Whether you are establishing a new scholarship program or already offer one, we can provide support for your scholarship program in a variety of ways, including:

- Consulting for a new or an existing program
- Distributing announcements and applications
- Assuming ongoing administration
- Issuing award checks
- Freeing you to focus on your core mission

**Start planning in September.** We can assist you in producing materials and sending your announcements on schedule. For further information, please contact Jeni Eldridge at [jeldridge@nhlgc.org](mailto:jeldridge@nhlgc.org).



### TIP:

The IRS allows non-501(c)(3) entities to set up a separate 501(c)(3) fund for scholarships, contributions to which are tax-deductible. The IRS regulation reads in part that such organizations may "establish a fund, separate and apart from its other funds, exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, education purposes, fostering national or international amateur sports competition, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals." Certain restrictions apply. Consult your tax advisor for advice.

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**Our Mission:** To provide programs and services that strengthen the quality of member governments and the ability of their officials and employees to serve the public by being a catalyst for dialogue and action, an advisor on problems, a provider of benefits and risk-management services, an educator/trainer in skills and a resource for information.

*Affiliate Link* is a quarterly publication of the New Hampshire Local Government Center (LGC) for board members and officers of LGC's affiliate groups. For more information about LGC's Affiliate Group Services Program, contact either Director of Communications Eleanor Baron by phone at 800.852.3358, ext. 137 (e-mail at [ebaron@nhlgc.org](mailto:ebaron@nhlgc.org)) or Communications Manager Jeni Eldridge at ext. 118 (e-mail at [jeldridge@nhlgc.org](mailto:jeldridge@nhlgc.org)). For more information about LGC, visit us online at [www.nhlgc.org](http://www.nhlgc.org).

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# Affiliate Groups Instrumental in Strides to Bring High-Speed Internet to All in New Hampshire

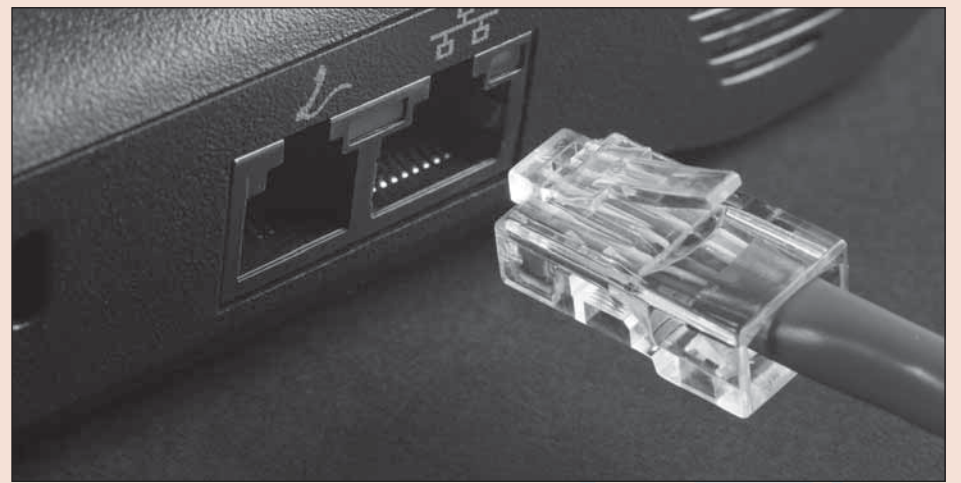
Many rural communities in New Hampshire are still without an option for high-speed Internet access. However, that may soon change with the recent passage of HB 653, the Bonding for Broadband bill. The bill will now enable municipalities to bond for the implementation of broadband, giving local governments the ability to install fiber optic and/or wireless technology throughout their communities. Under state law, municipalities can bond to support infrastructure; this bill will clarify the language in existing bonding statutes to include “broadband” in the definition of “infrastructure.”

Providing access to high-speed Internet is critical as a means of fostering health, safety and economic development in all regions of New Hampshire. In a true grassroots campaign waged earlier this year, the New Hampshire Municipal Management Association (NHMMA) and the New Hampshire Local Government Information Network (NHLoGIN) played key rolls in securing the passage of this important bill.

Julia Griffin, town manager for Hanover and president of NHMMA, rallied officials to contact their legislators and make them aware of the critical need for high-speed Internet service in all regions of the state. “It is about enabling communities to make their own decisions about bonding for broadband (local control) and about fostering economic development in rural New Hampshire, as well as about responding to the many, many citizens who are wondering why we have not done more to bring high speed internet service to them,” said Julia Griffin in a message urging officials to assist with the effort.

***“For all of you tired of limited or no high-speed Internet service in your communities, break out the bill and start thinking about whether or not bonding might work for your community. Most importantly, this is a victory for local government.”***

— Julia Griffin, Town Manager for Hanover and President of NHMMA. (Text of message following the bill’s successful passage in the Senate.)



The NHLoGIN listserv was instrumental in keeping everyone informed throughout the campaign. In periodic e-mail updates, NHLoGIN forwarded informational links, news articles, and sample letters and contact lists to assist in efforts to contact legislators. (Visit [www.nhlogin.org](http://www.nhlogin.org) to join the NHLoGIN listserv.)

“A vigorous grassroots campaign launched in early January succeeded in energizing a broad base of rural support for the bill, culminating in an intensive effort to contact Senators in early March,” said Julia Griffin. The bill passed the House (222-118) in January, and following intensive efforts by officials and citizens across the state, HB 653 overwhelmingly passed in the Senate on March 9, by a vote of 22 to 1. A victory not only for communities desiring high-speed Internet access, the passage of the bill by such margins speaks to the power of determined local officials working together to make New Hampshire stronger.

As of press time, the bill had not yet gone through the final stages of the process. For more information about the Bonding for Broadband bill, visit the LGC Web site at [www.nhlgc.org](http://www.nhlgc.org).

## New Hampshire Local Government Center Affiliate Groups

Fire Instructors and Officers Association of NH  
Livable, Walkable Communities  
Municipal and Governmental Law Section of the NH Bar Association  
NH Association of Assessing Officials  
NH Association of Conservation Commissions  
NH Association of Emergency Medical Technicians  
NH Association of Fire Chiefs  
NH Association of Housing Authorities  
NH Association of Regional Planning Commissions  
NH Association of School Business Officials  
NH Building Officials Association  
NH Cemetery Association  
NH City and Town Clerks’ Association  
NH Coalition for Community Media  
NH Economic Development Association  
NH Excellence in Education  
NH Fire Prevention Society  
NH Government Finance Officers Association  
NH Health Officers Association  
NH Library Association  
NH Library Trustees Association  
NH Local Government Information Network  
NH Local Welfare Administrators Association  
NH Municipal Management Association  
NH Municipal Secretaries Association  
NH Planners Association  
NH Public Works Association  
NH Public Works Mutual Aid Program  
NH Public Works Standards and Training Council  
NH Recreation and Park Association  
NH Road Agents Association  
NH State Firemen’s Association  
NH Tax Collectors’ Association  
NH Water Pollution Control Association  
Northeast Resource Recovery Association  
Tri-State Association of School Business Officials  
West Central New Hampshire Regional Homeland Security Communications Consortium  
Working Dog Foundation

Organizations listed in red indicate participation in the Affiliate Group Services Program.

## LGC Welcomes New Affiliate Group

New Hampshire Local Government Center (LGC) is pleased to welcome the West Central New Hampshire Regional Homeland Security Communications Consortium (WCNHRHSCC) as an LGC Affiliate Group. Communities in the west and central portions of the state have joined together to form the Consortium in an effort to guide the development of an advanced communications infrastructure to increase safety and security for the region. Goals include improving communication among public safety and security agencies, enhancing healthcare services, and fostering economic development. Members currently include the municipalities of Canaan, Enfield, Goshen, Hanover, Lebanon, Lyme, New London, Newbury, Newport, Orford, Springfield, Sunapee, and Warner. The Consortium plans to expand to include 40 communities within the region, and hopes to serve as a guide to create similar coalitions in other regions in the state. For more information, visit the organization Web site at [www.wcnhrhsc.org](http://www.wcnhrhsc.org).

## Agreement of Understanding—New Process Offers a Great Opportunity

The *Agreement of Understanding* is your group’s yearly “contract” with LGC. Director of Communications Eleanor Baron and Communications Manager Jeni Eldridge will be setting up meetings with the chairs of all affiliate groups over the next several weeks to review your current services and answer your questions. “Meeting with each of our affiliate group presidents will give us a better understanding of the group’s direction for the year,” said Jeni Eldridge. This is a great opportunity to discuss items that are working well and any issues you may want to discuss further. Eleanor or Jeni will be contacting you soon!



Jeni Eldridge



Eleanor Baron

***“As our services, as well as the needs of the groups grow in complexity, it’ll be great to go over the details to make sure things run smoothly in the coming year.”***

— Communications Director Eleanor Baron