



The Lavelle - Brother Kearney Scholarship Program Lavelle Fund for the Blind, Inc.

OVERVIEW

The Program's Purpose:

The Lavelle – Brother Kearney Scholarship Program aims to help make quality undergraduate and graduate education affordable for U.S. residents who are legally blind, financially needy, and attending any of 12 selected private colleges in the Tri-State New York area. The program is currently authorized to admit new students through June 30, 2024.

Program Eligibility.

To be eligible for The Lavelle - Brother Kearney Scholarship Program, a student must be:

- **A legal resident of the United States.**
- **Legally blind** - or so severely visually impaired that a Lavelle-sponsored vision assessment expert confirms that the student would need special support services to succeed in college. Examples of such supports include: adaptive technology, books in alternate formats, help from volunteer readers, and/or orientation and mobility training. Otherwise-qualified students who are visually impaired but not “legally blind” should contact the Lavelle Fund’s office.
- **Financially needy**, as defined by the student’s college. Colleges use data from students’ FAFSA form to make the financial need calculations outlined below.

- **Studying at one of 12 participating colleges and universities** in the Tri-State New York area. These institutions are:

- Canisius College
- Dominican College
- Fairfield University
- Fordham University
- Le Moyne College
- Manhattanville College
- Marist College
- Marymount Manhattan College
- Molloy College
- St. John's University*
- St. Thomas Aquinas College
- Seton Hall University

- The program is generally open to both undergraduate and graduate students.* Students must be studying full-time and in good standing (not suspended or on probation). To obtain the relevant contact data for each college, please see the attached list or visit the Participating Colleges and Departmental Contacts tab on The Lavelle Fund's website, www.lavellefund.org.)
- Additional components of The Lavelle – Brother Kearney Scholarship Program include:
 1. being mentored by a successful college graduate who is blind or visually impaired through Learning Ally's College Success Program.
 2. receiving job readiness services, career related internships, and assistance with seeking post-college jobs from VISIONS Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

* At St. John's University, eligibility is open only to graduate students.

How to Apply:

After completing the federal FAFSA form and their college's own financial aid application form, students should contact their colleges' financial aid offices for more information –and complete The Lavelle - Brother Kearney Scholarship Program's mandatory Release of Information Form authorizing the release of certain student education and employment outcome data to the student's college and to the Lavelle Fund.

Determining the Lavelle - Brother Kearney Scholarship amount:

Scholarships are awarded on a last-dollar-of-need basis, at a rate of up to \$15,000/student per academic year for up to four years.

In consultation with the Lavelle Fund, the participating colleges determine the appropriate Lavelle – Brother Kearney Scholarship amount based on the following calculation:

TOTAL COLLEGE COST (defined to include tuition, fees, room and board, and books)

MINUS two things:

- (1) NON-LAVELLE FINANCIAL AID from all public and private sources
- (2) the EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION – that is, what the college determines the family can afford to pay without borrowing.

Non-Lavelle resources available to financially needy students may include: (a) the college's own student aid funds, (b) federal Pell Grants, (c) in the case of New York State residents, NYS Tuition Assistance Program awards, and (d) aid from the students' home state commissions for the blind. In the case of the New York State Commission for the Blind, for example maximum annual award amounts have historically been approximately the same

as the cost of a year's tuition at a SUNY college – plus additional support for room and board, when applicable.

To be eligible for The Lavelle - Brother Kearney Scholarship support, students must first seek non-Lavelle support for which they may qualify. Since legally blind students who are registered with their home state commission for the blind usually qualify for some commission aid, the Fund does not honor scholarship vouchers that fail to indicate either: (1) how much the student's home state commission has awarded the student or (2) the reason the commission denied such aid.

Paying the scholarships:

Each semester, the Fund will pay the needed scholarship dollars directly to the participating colleges' Financial Aid or Bursar's offices. The colleges will then ensure that the funds are used exclusively for the agreed student support purposes.

Administration of the Scholarship:

- Ms. Kate Morris, Coordinator of the Brother James Kearney Scholarship for the Blind (kmorris@lavellefund.org). Ms. Morris is usually available in the Lavelle Fund's office on Mondays and Tuesdays. Her office phone number is 212-668-9801 ext. 101.

In Ms. Morris's absence, other Lavelle staff will be happy to help.