

# **Diocese of Western Massachusetts Bement/Waterfield Educational Grants Guidelines for Application**

## **The Bement/Waterfield Grants**

Grants in this program are made to help young people in parishes and worshipping communities of this diocese pursue post-grad secondary school education. Grants may be used at accredited two and four year undergraduate colleges, and at accredited training and technical institutions.

In making these grants, the committee of clergy and lay members of the diocese, appointed by the Bishop, considers (1) your journey in faith, (2) what role does education play in your life, and (3) your financial need.

The application process is in two stages: a written application and an interview.

**NOTE: You must have an interview and the SAR to be considered for the Grant.**

## **1. Written Application**

To apply for a Bement/Waterfield Grant, submit an application containing the following six items to: Bement/Waterfield Educational Grants Committee, 37 Chestnut Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

1. A completed **Application Form** provided.
2. An essay discussing the role of faith and education in your ongoing journey. We are interested in how your faith makes a difference in your life and not only a list of activities.
3. A reference from the rector or vicar of your home parish or worshipping community on the **Clergy Reference Form** provided. If your parish or worshipping community is currently without a rector, please ask the senior warden to complete the reference form or designate another parish member who is familiar with your parish involvement, past and present.
4. One reference, other than family or church, **Reference Form** is provided.
5. A copy of your **academic transcript** for the most recent term of study completed.
6. A copy of the **Student Aid Report (SAR)**.

To be considered for the funding for the academic year, the complete applications must be received no later than **March 1<sup>st</sup>**.

**We regret that we are unable to consider incomplete or late applications.**

## **2. Interview**

After your completed application has been received, a member of the committee will contact you about scheduling an interview at a mutually convenient time. If students are studying abroad or otherwise unable to be in Massachusetts, it may be necessary to arrange an interview by Skype or telephone, but the committee strongly prefers in-person interviews whenever possible. If any information has changed since completing your written application (e.g., for high school seniors, decision about what college to attend, change in your financial situation, or more recent academic transcript), the interviewer will ask you to bring copies of the update information to the interview.

## **Award Decisions**

The committee will meet in May after all interviews are complete. We will inform you of final award decisions as soon as possible after the last committee meeting.