The Next Step program was developed to reward those individuals that have shown that they can accomplish what they set out to do and have overcome adverse circumstances that were thrust upon them or brought about through poor choices made in their past from which they have learned from and moved forward in their life. The Next Step program is unique and specifically designed to help break the cycle of poverty, low wages and low self-esteem by offering financial assistance, case management and mentoring to individuals wishing to improve their lives. Next Step scholarships will provide recipients with the necessary bridge funding so as to assure completion of their selected education or training programs. An important and critical component of this program will be matching the scholarship recipient with a mentor and case manager for guidance and accountability. In order to receive a scholarship candidates must:

1. Be enrolled into a college or a job training program
2. Demonstrate need
3. Exhaust all forms of financial aid and assistance prior to applying for assistance under this program
4. Demonstrate that they have been successful with the opportunities that they have been given in the past
5. They must identify a mentor/guide who will be available to them for support and guidance throughout the duration of the scholarship and open to follow-up by a case manager tracking the progress of the scholarship recipient
6. One letter of recommendation will be required

If the scholarship is for higher education, a C average in school must be maintained. If the scholarship is for job training, attendance in the class must be 90%.