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## **PhillySEEDS Awards a Record \$316,000 in College Scholarship Aid to 84 PHA Residents**

### *2021 Class of PHA Scholars Sets New Records*

**(Philadelphia, PA – July 19, 2021)** – PhillySEEDS, Inc., a Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) subsidiary, recently awarded funds to 84 PHA residents seeking or pursuing higher education - a record number of scholars. It also has provided \$316,000 in scholarship aid to these winners, which set another new record.

In 2020, PhillySEEDS awarded 77 scholars a total of \$291,000 in scholarship aid.

Scholarships were given to both graduating high school seniors and students already in college; recipients were celebrated during the PHA Board of Commissioners virtual meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Of the 84 college and high school students receiving scholarships:

- **48** with GPAs between 3.30 and 4.00 received \$5,000.
- **20** with GPAs between 3.00 and 3.29 received \$3,000.
- **16** with GPAs between 2.50 and 2.99 received \$1,000.

“We’re thrilled to recognize the incredible work being done by PHA residents to put themselves on a path to social and economic mobility. Education is a real game changer and a passport out of poverty. PHA stands by them on their journeys,” said PHA President & CEO Kelvin A. Jeremiah.

The scholarship recipients represent PHA developments around the City, as well as the Housing Choice Voucher Program (also known as Section 8).

- **48** out of the 84 awardees are first time PhillySEEDS awardees.
- **15** awardees just graduated high school and are entering into their first semester of college/university. One of these winners came from Vaux Big Picture High School, where PHA partners with the School District of Philadelphia and Big Picture Learning.
- **52** awardees are Housing Choice Voucher Residents
- **32** awardees are living in Public Housing/PAPMC sites

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More than \$2.21 million has been awarded to 574 residents since the program began in 2013. Money for the scholarships comes from PHA's budget and funds donated by program supporters and vendors.

The 2021 PhillySEEDS Scholarship Review Committee members received a total of 98 PhillySEEDS scholarship applications. The committee composed of PHA employees, student residents, and a resident leader reviewed those applications. The application, which included essays, community service, extracurricular activities, internships, recommendation letters, and academic transcripts, were considered by the committee.

Scholarship applications for next year will be made available in Spring 2022.

PhillySEEDS, Inc. is an award-winning, 501(c) (3), charitable, non-profit corporation founded by PHA to promote the social and economic advancement of PHA-assisted residents through philanthropic activities, community-based partnerships, and special initiatives.

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The Philadelphia Housing Authority is the nation's 4th largest housing authority, serving nearly 80,000 residents. PHA is also a major real estate developer. Learn more about PHA at [www.pha.phila.gov](http://www.pha.phila.gov)