



2026 – 2027 Becker Global Public Service Award

Applicant Guidelines

The Becker Global Public Service Award is a new opportunity for graduating college students, awarding up to \$70,000, to lead a one-year humanitarian project, conducted anywhere in the world, advancing Becker College's commitment to global human welfare.

The award supports student-driven solutions that advance global human welfare and address pressing social challenges across communities.

Timeline

Letter of Intent Opens	September 8 th
Letter of Intent Closes	December 4 th
Notification of Finalists	January 22 nd
Award Interviews	February 8 th – 19 th
Notification of Award(s)	March 10 th

Upon submission to Greater Worcester Community Foundation, applications from each college or university will be reviewed by a committee from that school, who will select one finalist. Then, the one finalist from each school will be interviewed by a committee comprised of community volunteers and Foundation staff who will make the decision.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet one of the following criteria at one of the eligible Worcester County institutions listed below:

- Be a graduating senior in a bachelor's degree program
- Be enrolled in or graduating from an approved 4+1 bachelor's/master's degree program

Institutions:

- Assumption University
- Clark University
- College of the Holy Cross
- Fitchburg State University
- Nichols College
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Worcester State University

Preference will be given in this order:

- Students with long-term residency in Worcester County (majority of their lives).
- Students with long-term residency in Massachusetts

Graduate students pursuing a standalone master's degree program outside of an approved 4+1 program are not eligible to apply.

Grant Amount & Support:

- Up to \$70,000 for project funding
- Faculty mentor stipend, as determined by your college/university
- Projects may be domestic or international
- Funding may be used for:
 - Project Costs
 - Supplies/Equipment
 - Personnel
 - Support Costs
 - Travel
 - Living Expenses

Project Duration: Projects are expected to last up to 12 months

Disbursement: Funding will be distributed in phases based on project milestones.

Application Requirements

(A) Narrative Questions

• Personal Statement:

A brief essay that introduces who you are, your academic and personal interests, and what motivates you. This is your opportunity to share your goals, experiences, and why you are interested in this opportunity. (2,500–4,500 characters)

• Project Proposal and Timeline (including goals and outcomes):

A detailed description of your proposed project. Explain what you plan to do, why it matters, and what you hope to achieve. Be sure to clearly outline your goals and the expected outcomes or impact of your work. (5,000–9,000 characters)

• Risk Evaluation:

An assessment of any potential challenges, risks, or obstacles related to your project. Describe how you plan to address or manage these risks to ensure your project can be completed successfully. (1,800–3,500 characters)

- **Deliverables:**

A clear outline of the tangible deliverables you expect to complete through this project and the timeline for completing them. Deliverables may include research papers, presentations, performances, creative works, community programs, data collection, reports, prototypes, exhibitions, or other measurable outcomes related to your project. Be specific about what will be produced, when major milestones will occur, and how the deliverables demonstrate progress toward your project goals and intended impact.
(1,800–3,600 characters)

(B) Document Uploads

- **Letter of Recommendation:**

A letter from a teacher, mentor, or advisor who can speak to your abilities, character, and readiness for this opportunity. Choose someone who knows you well and can provide specific examples of your strengths.

- **Resume:**

A summary of your academic background, extracurricular activities, work experience, skills, and accomplishments. This helps reviewers understand your experience and preparation.

- **Unofficial Transcript:**

A copy of your academic record showing courses taken and grades earned. This does not need to be an official document but should be accurate and up to date.

- **Budget Plan:**

A clear outline of how you intend to use the grant funds. Include estimated project and support costs and explain how each item supports your project.

- **Letter of Agreement from Faculty Mentor:**

A letter from a faculty member who agrees to support or mentor you during your project. This letter should confirm their role and how they will assist you throughout the process. Your (1,500–2,400 characters)

Please note: the Letter of Recommendation must come from an individual other than the Faculty Mentor providing the Letter of Agreement.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed first by a committee from your college or university and then finalists will be assessed by a committee comprised of community volunteers and Foundation staff based on the following criteria:

- **Feasibility:** The proposed work is achievable, and the budget is realistic within the award limit of up to \$70,000.
- **Humanitarian Impact:** The project should outline the effects on human well-being through public service, fostering societal stability, economic growth, and individual well-being by providing essential infrastructure, safety, and equity.

Projects may address a wide range of public service areas, including but not limited to:

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Saving Lives | 7. Supporting Vulnerable Populations |
| 2. Improving Quality of Life | 8. Crisis Management and Stability |
| 3. Reducing Inequality | 9. Providing Community Resources |
| 4. Driving Social Change and Equity | 10. Advancing Public Knowledge |
| 5. Economic Stability and Growth | |
| 6. Upholding Democratic Institutions | |

- **Safety and Risk Concerns:** Demonstrated awareness of an initial planning of mitigating potential hazardous situations that threaten harm while conducting project work. Applicants should demonstrate thoughtful planning and preparedness, particularly for projects involving travel, fieldwork, or vulnerable populations.
- **Applicant Experience:** Demonstrate past professional, academic, and/or volunteer-based activities that align with skills, responsibilities, and qualifications needed to complete the project.
- **Applicant Commitment:** Applicants should demonstrate motivation, drive, and dedication to the project's goals.

GWCF Support & Feedback

- **Before You Submit:** You may want to attend one of our info sessions to learn more about the Becker Public Service Award on the following dates:

Student Info Session Dates:

- Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 12:00 pm
- Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 4:00 pm

Faculty and Institution Info Session Dates:

- Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 3:00 pm

- Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 12:00 pm

We encourage applicants to schedule a conversation to discuss project ideas or ask questions.

Applicants are also encouraged to connect with their institution's designated contact.

Assumption University	Michael Matraia	mt.matraia@assumption.edu
Clark University	Dr. Minka Stoyanova	mstoyanova@clarku.edu
College of the Holy Cross	Sue Hunt	shunt@holycross.edu
Fitchburg State University	Stacey Luster	sluster@fitchburgstate.edu
Nichols College	Alexander Cross	Alexander.Cross@nichols.edu
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Sarah Stanlick	sstanlick@wpi.edu
Worcester State University	Julie Kazarian	jkazarian@worchester.edu

- **Applications Under Review:** Every application we receive undergoes a fair and thorough review. You will be notified each step of the way regardless of the outcome.
- **Decisions:** Program staff are happy to have follow-up conversations. We can share themes and feedback on how your application fared through the process.