



Media Contact:
Kate Fuller
Marketing & Communications Specialist
FullerK@carefirstny.org
(607) 962-3100

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 27, 2026

Applications Open for CareFirstNY Compassion in Care Nursing Scholarship

PAINTED POST, NY — CareFirstNY, in partnership with WENY, has opened applications for the 2026 Compassion in Care Nursing Scholarship.

The scholarship supports individuals from the Twin Tiers region who plan to pursue a career in nursing and are committed to providing care with empathy, dignity, and integrity.

Students of any age who reside in the Twin Tiers and intend to enroll in an accredited nursing program, including LPN, associate, or bachelor's degree programs, for the 2026–27 academic year are encouraged to apply. Two recipients will each receive \$1,500 to support their nursing education.

Applicants will submit written responses reflecting on their personal journey toward nursing, their commitment to compassionate care, and examples of leadership and advocacy.

"At CareFirstNY, we witness every day the profound impact nurses have on patients and families," said Phoebe Reynolds, Chief Executive Officer of CareFirstNY. "Through this scholarship, we hope to encourage and support students who feel called to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others."

Completed applications must be submitted by 4:00 PM on Friday, May 15, 2026. Scholarship recipients will be announced in mid-June.

Applications and full eligibility details are available at [CareFirstNY.org](https://www.CareFirstNY.org).

For additional information, students and families may contact CareFirstNY's Community Engagement Team at (607) 962-3100.

###

About CareFirstNY

Since 1981, CareFirstNY is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to providing compassionate hospice care, grief support, and mental health counseling to individuals and families across the Southern Tier. By offering comprehensive, patient-centered services, CareFirstNY helps ensure comfort, dignity, and hope for those navigating serious illness, loss, or emotional challenges. To learn more about how we can support you and your loved ones, visit [CareFirstNY.org](https://www.CareFirstNY.org).



Presented by CareFirstNY & WENY

The Compassion in Care Nursing Scholarship

The Compassion in Care Nursing Scholarship, presented by CareFirstNY in partnership with WENY-TV, is awarded annually to two individuals who plan to pursue a career in nursing. This scholarship is open to students of any age residing in the Twin Tiers region who demonstrate academic readiness, a commitment to compassionate service, and a genuine desire to make a meaningful difference in the lives of patients and families.

Applicants must intend to enroll in an accredited nursing program (LPN, ASN, or BSN) in the upcoming 2026-27 academic year. Each recipient will receive \$1,500 to help support their nursing education.

Application materials are due by 4 PM on Friday, May 15, 2026.

Applicant Contact Information

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Contact Information

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Educational Plans

What level of nursing degree will you pursue? _____

What area or specialty of nursing are you most interested in? _____

Name of Nursing School you plan to attend: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Anticipated Start Date: _____



The Compassion in Care **Nursing Scholarship**

Personal Reflection & Essay Responses

The following questions are an opportunity for you to share your story, values, and motivation for pursuing a career in nursing. We encourage you to answer thoughtfully and authentically, using specific examples from your life and experiences when possible. There are no “right” answers—we are interested in learning more about who you are, what has shaped your interest in nursing, and how you hope to make a difference through compassionate care. Please attach additional sheets as needed.

Describe a specific moment or experience that influenced your decision to pursue nursing. What impact did it have on you?

What qualities or traits do you possess that would make you an excellent nurse, and how have you demonstrated them in your life?

Presented by CareFirstNY & WENY



The Compassion in Care
Nursing Scholarship

What does compassionate care mean to you? Describe a time when you witnessed or practiced compassionate care.

Tell us about a specific time when you had to advocate for someone else. What did you do, and what was the outcome?

In five sentences or fewer, summarize why you should be selected for The Compassion in Care Nursing Scholarship.

The Compassion in Care Nursing Scholarship

Supporting Recommendations

Applicants must submit **two letters of recommendation** to be considered for The Compassion in Care Nursing Scholarship.

Letters may be written by a teacher, school counselor, coach, employer, volunteer supervisor, or another adult who can speak to your character, work ethic, leadership, and readiness to pursue a career in nursing. Letters should not be written by family members.

Each letter should:

- Be signed and dated
- Include the recommender's title/relationship to the applicant
- Provide specific examples of the applicant's strengths and character

Letters must be submitted with your application. Applications will not be considered complete without both letters.

Certification & Authentication

By signing below, I certify that the information provided is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

If selected as a recipient of The Compassion in Care Nursing Scholarship, I grant permission for my name and photograph to be used by CareFirstNY and WENY for promotional and recognition purposes*.

I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that this application is complete, including all required attachments and supporting documentation. Incomplete applications or applications that do not meet eligibility requirements will not be considered.

**Recipients may request to waive photo use due to unusual or compelling circumstances*

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

All applications must be received by 4 PM on Friday, May 15, 2026.

Applications may be submitted in person or by mail to:

CareFirstNY

Attn: Community Engagement Dept.

3805 Meads Creek Road

Painted Post, NY 14870



Please direct all questions to the CareFirstNY Community Engagement Team at (607) 962-3100.