

Alray Scholars Program

Giving Boston's students a second chance at college

Herb and Sara Drower Next Step Fund Rubric

At Alray, we believe in second chances, personal growth, and the power of potential. The rubric below helps us assess each Next Step Fund applicant, focusing on their ability to describe their career plan and how the awarded funds would support their next steps. Even with a hard-earned college degree, we know navigating continued education and career development can be stressful. We hope access to this new fund will help alleviate financial strains for our Alray graduates. We know the road to success can be long and bumpy, so we do not expect perfect answers - just honesty, strategic thinking, and a commitment to moving forward. The rubric below guides our review process and ensures we evaluate each application fairly and consistently:

Criteria	0 – No Evidence	1 – Some Evidence	2 – Strong Evidence
Clear Career Goal	Unrealistic or unclear long-term career goals	Some mention of career goals with limited planning	Realistic, detailed plan with clear steps toward long-term career goals
Strategic Financial Plan	Vague or absent plan for use of funds	Description of a general plan with limited elaboration for use of funds	Clear plan addressing use of funds and realistic payment plan for additional costs
Description of How Funds will Support Career Goal	Little to no mention of how fund supports long-term career goal	Limited reflection shown for how funds will support long-term career goals	Specific and thoughtful reflection on how payment supports long-term career goals