

The Charles Cooper Educational Fund Charles and Elizabeth Kelley

P. O. Box 1566
Bennington, Vermont 05201
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The Cooper Kelley Educational Fund began in 1913 through the generosity and foresight of Charles Cooper and Elizabeth Kelley. It was established to help local Bennington County male & female students achieve their education goals through college and/or specialized training programs.

Money is loaned yearly throughout their college life and is interest free, if payments are made on a monthly basis once the repayment process begins. Payment begins six months after graduation or six months after the student leaves school. The loan coordinator must be notified of the students' standing each year. Students are expected to pay back in a time frame equal to the number of years borrowed. Therefore, a student taking a loan for four years of his/her four years of college would have four years to pay back the total borrowed. In order to receive the loan, the student and two co-signers must sign a promissory note—very similar to a VSAC obligation.

References are very important: they must be written and either attached to the application or sent separately. Just because you ask a person to write a reference doesn't mean they will do it. It is the student's obligation to follow up and make sure they are received by Cooper Kelley. If the student has references for the college applications, they may certainly be copied for this application process. Also, a transcript of grades must be attached to the application or sent to this office. Students must have and maintain a 2.0 to qualify.

The last important part is the personal interview. After the application is received in its entirety, an appointment needs to be set up with the student, and the two co-signers. Again, this is the student's responsibility.

This past year we granted 31 student loans of \$1600, for a total of \$49,600. The amount awarded each year is decided by the Board of Directors at a meeting in July. That amount depends upon how much was received from students who are in their repayment process. The repayment process is essential to the continuity of the fund.

As you can see, funding is limited, so early applications are critical.

Any questions contact:

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