

WESTERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL COUNCIL-COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY  
2017 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM  
Information Sheet

**NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Western Illinois Regional Council-Community Action Agency (WIRC-CAA), serving low income residents of Hancock, Henderson, McDonough and Warren counties, is offering \$2,000 scholarships to assist lower income individuals continue their education in areas of study with high employability potential. All scholarships will be available on a region-wide basis to individuals in Hancock, Henderson, McDonough and Warren counties. An individual may not receive a WIRC-CAA scholarship more than two times.

A **non-traditional student** is defined as individual 26 years of age or over or an individual with one or more dependents. A **traditional student** as a high school graduating senior, a student presently attending a two or four year college or university, or an individual 25 years of age and under without dependents and who is planning on attending a two or four year college or university, or occupational training program.

Scholarships may be used for tuition and fees, textbooks and supplies, or room and board if living in campus housing. Scholarship awards will be made directly to the college or university financial aid office for use by the students as needed.

The WIRC-CAA's scholarship program is funded by the federal Community Service Block Grant, which is administered statewide by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply by the **deadline of 4:00 p.m. on March 24, 2017**.

**ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES**

Successful scholarship recipients **must meet all of the following eligibility criteria** or the application will **not** be considered:

1. Resident of Hancock, Henderson, McDonough or Warren county;
2. Member of an income eligible household (at or below 125% of the **2016** poverty guidelines – refer to the attached guideline matrix on page 2);
3. Possess a high school diploma, GED, or must graduate by **July 1, 2017** from an accredited high school or GED administering institution;
4. Must be accepted into an **Illinois** college or university, community college, or occupational training program on at least a half-time basis;
5. Demonstrate a commitment to civic and public affairs (see B. under Evaluation Process); and
6. Demonstrate goals and purpose commitment

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Interested applicants must **submit all of the following items** to Tina Lovejoy, Program Coordinator, WIRC-CAA, 223 South Randolph Street, Macomb, IL 61455 by the **deadline of 4:00 p.m. on March 24, 2017.**

1. Completed copy of the **attached application** including **2016 federal tax form** 1040, 1040A or 1040 EZ.
2. A 500-word **essay** addressing involvement in civic affairs **and** future career goals.
3. **Three current letters of recommendation** (please utilize the attached forms and stress the deadline date to those who are recommending you).

## **EVALUATION PROCESS**

Applications will be evaluated by a scholarship committee composed of representatives of area social service agencies, community representatives, high school and college financial aid and counseling offices. The scholarship committee will review all complete, written applications that are submitted by the **deadline of 4:00 p.m. on March 24, 2017.** Late or incomplete applications will **not** be considered. Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria and points system.

- A. **Financial Need:** A maximum of 25 points will be awarded based on financial need. Applicants whose household income is at or below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines will receive 25 points. Applicants whose household income is between 101% and 125% of the federal poverty guidelines will receive 20 points. **Applicants whose household income exceeds 125% of the federal poverty guidelines will not be considered.**

125% of the **2016** federal poverty guidelines for the western Illinois area are as follows:

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Annual Income</u>
1	\$ 14,850
2	\$ 20,025
3	\$ 25,200
4	\$ 30,375
5	\$ 35,550

For each additional household member, add \$5,200.

- B. **Civic Affairs and Career Goals:** A maximum of 40 points will be awarded for participation in civic affairs (community service/volunteer work such as assisting with a blood drive, a summer reading program for youth, a food drive, a community clean-up day, or participating in Big Brothers/Big Sisters, a hospital volunteer program, etc.) and a clear and defined statement of career goals and purpose. The scholarship committee will award points in this category based on the three **current** letters of personal recommendation and the 500-word essay to be submitted with each application.

Applicants are encouraged to be specific in their statements of career goals and their participation (past, present, and/or future) in civic affairs. **You must address both topics in your essay.**

- C. **Interview:** A maximum of 35 points will be awarded based on a ten minute interview with the members of the scholarship committee. The interview will be conducted at the WIRC-CAA office in Macomb. Phase Two participants will be notified by mail of the date and time.

Evaluation of applications will be conducted in two phases. Phase One will consist of the scholarship committee selecting the top applicants based on Parts A through B of the aforementioned evaluation criteria. Top candidates will be notified by mail of their selection to participate in Phase Two no later than **May 5, 2017**. Phase Two will consist of Part C of the evaluation process. The final selection of the scholarship recipients will be based on scores from Phase One and the personal interview of Phase Two, with recipients notified no later than **June 1, 2017**.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Questions regarding the Region-wide Scholarship Program or possible consideration for eligibility should be directed to: Tina Lovejoy, Program Coordinator, WIRC-CAA, 223 South Randolph Street, Macomb, IL 61455, 309/837-2997.

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**Application Form: NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT**

**PERSONAL DATA (Please print)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_ City and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_ County of residence \_\_\_\_\_

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION (25 point maximum)**

Marital status: Single \_\_\_\_\_ Married \_\_\_\_\_ Widowed \_\_\_\_\_ Divorced \_\_\_\_\_ Remarried \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Total 2015 household annual income before taxes: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All other taxable or non-taxable income not included above  
(includes pensions, social security, child support, interest, etc.): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Gross income (total of above): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SUBMIT A COPY OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD'S 2016 FEDERAL TAX FORM 1040, 1040A OR 1040EZ**

Household size: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of household members, excluding you and your spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of dependents attending college: \_\_\_\_\_

Value of bank accounts: Checking \_\_\_\_\_ Savings \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Value of other investments: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount reserved for college education of applicant: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

Please explain any unusual circumstances:\_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

High School:\_\_\_\_\_

- years attended \_\_\_\_\_
- date of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

College:\_\_\_\_\_

- years attended \_\_\_\_\_
- date of graduation \_\_\_\_\_
- major (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOLARSHIP POTENTIAL**

Which college, university, community college or vocational school do you plan to attend?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of application:\_\_\_\_\_ Accepted:\_\_\_\_\_ Major:\_\_\_\_\_

Full-time:\_\_\_\_\_ (12 or more semester hours)

Part-time:\_\_\_\_\_ (Less than 12 semester hours but **at least 6 hours**)

What other scholarships have you received or applied for?\_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently receiving any scholarship or tuition assistance? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If yes, please name:\_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to work while attending college?\_\_\_\_\_

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Name

**CIVIC AFFAIRS AND CAREER GOALS** (40 point maximum)

Please attach a typed 500-word essay addressing your involvement in and commitment to civic affairs (refer to any school or community activities, awards, organizations, clubs, offices, or honors that you would like to bring to the attention of the scholarship committee). The essay should also address your career goal(s) and the reason(s) you are interested in that profession.

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**I certify and declare that the information I have provided is an accurate and complete disclosure of the requested information.**

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Signature of applicant

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Date

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Completed applications should be submitted by **4:00 p.m.** on **March 24, 2017** to:

WIRC-CAA  
c/o Tina Lovejoy  
223 South Randolph Street  
Macomb, IL 61455

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**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION: NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT**

\*Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*This information must be completed.*

1. How long have you know the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months
2. Under what circumstances have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Evaluation of the applicant's ability to carry on advanced study as it would relate to the award of this scholarship. This would take into account the candidate's strong and weak characteristics, academic ability, organizational skills, relations with others, and effectiveness in speaking and writing. (Please use the back of this form if necessary.)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form by 4:00 p.m., March 24, 2017 directly to:**

WIRC-CAA  
c/o Tina Lovejoy  
223 South Randolph  
Macomb, IL 61455

**LATE RECEIPT OF THIS DOCUMENT MAY DISQUALIFY APPLICANT.**

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