

WESTERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL COUNCIL-COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
2017 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
Information Sheet
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 **traditional student** is defined 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 year or four year college or university, or occupational training program. A **non-traditional student** is defined as an individual 26 years of age or over or an individual with one or more dependents.

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 C. 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 on which you are claimed as a dependent. If your household is not required to file, you may submit a copy of your **FAFSA** (Federal Student Aid report) used for other educational financial assistance.
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).
4. A copy of the applicant's **high school grades and statement of GPA** based on a 4.0 scale which has been signed by the applicant's high school guidance counselor or other authorized school official, if applicant is a graduating senior. If applicant presently attends college, a copy of the **current college transcript** should be submitted in lieu of high school grades. GED recipients should contact Tina Lovejoy at the WIRC-CAA to discuss their special circumstances and the appropriate information to be submitted.

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. **Scholarship Potential:** A maximum of 15 points will be awarded for scholarship potential, which will be evaluated based on cumulative grade point average at the end of the fall/winter semester of the 2016-2017 school year. Applicants whose cumulative grade point average is between 4.0 and 3.5 will receive 15 points. Applicants whose cumulative grade point average is between 3.49 and 3.0 will receive 12 points. Applicants whose grade point average is between 2.99 and 2.5 will receive 8 points. Applicants whose grade point average is between 2.49 and 1.0 will receive 4 points. Applicants whose grade point average is below 2.0 will receive 0 points.
- C. **Civic Affairs and Career Goals:** A maximum of 25 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. The scholarship committee will award the maximum points to those applicants that have clear and well-defined career goals and that have demonstrated a firm commitment to civic affairs.

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 C 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 D of the following 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**.

- D. **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- Community Action Agency office in Macomb. Phase Two participants will be notified by mail of the May date and time.

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.

WESTERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL COUNCIL-COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
2017 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
Application Form: 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)

Father/Guardian Name: _____ Age: _____ Occupation: _____

Mother/Guardian Name: _____ Age: _____ Occupation: _____

Parent's marital status – Mother: Married___ Widowed___ Divorced___ Remarried___

Father: Married___ Widowed___ Divorced___ Remarried___

Father/Guardian annual income before taxes: \$ _____

Mother/Guardian annual income before taxes: \$ _____

All other taxable or non-taxable 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

*****IF YOU ARE CLAIMED AS A DEPENDANT ON YOUR PARENTS' FORM, SUBMIT THEIR FORM*****

Household size: _____

Number of dependents, **excluding** mother, father, guardian: _____

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 _____

SCHOLARSHIP POTENTIAL (15 point maximum)

Current cumulative high school/college grade point average (GPA) at the end of the fall **2016** semester: _____ (Note: if your school uses a 5.0 system, please convert to a 4.0 base.)

PLEASE SUBMIT A COPY OF YOUR OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE TRANSCRIPT THAT INCLUDES YOUR CUMULATIVE GPA THROUGH FALL SEMESTER, 2016-2017.

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**)

Name

What other scholarships have you received or applied for? _____

Are you currently receiving any scholarship aid or tuition assistance? ____Yes ____No

If so, please name: _____

Do you plan to work while attending college? _____

CIVIC AFFAIRS AND CAREER GOALS (25 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.

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

Signature of applicant

Date

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

WESTERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL COUNCIL-COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION: 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 Street
Macomb, IL 61455

LATE RECEIPT OF THIS DOCUMENT MAY DISQUALIFY APPLICANT.

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