

WESTERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL COUNCIL-COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
2021 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, Knox, 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, Knox, 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, 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 Friday, May 7, 2021.**

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, Knox, McDonough or Warren county;
2. Member of an income eligible household (at or below 200% of the **2020** poverty guidelines – refer to the attached guideline matrix on page 2);
3. Possess a high school diploma, GED, or must graduate by **July 1, 2021** 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. Address the **impact/influence** COVID-19 has had on your academic progress via the form of a written essay consisting of 500-800 words.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested applicants must **submit all of the following items** to Katerina Dawson, Community Service Block Grant Program Coordinator, WIRC-CAA, 133 W. Jackson Street, Macomb, IL 61455 by the **deadline of 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 7, 2021.**

1. Completed copy of the **attached application** including **2020 federal tax form 1040 on which you are claimed as a dependent (or indicate date of submittal if not yet completed).** 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 500-800 word **essay** addressing the question:
 - **How has COVID-19 impacted and/or influenced your academic progress?**
3. **Three current letters of recommendation** from academic (school) or professional (employment) sources **ONLY.**
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 registrar's office official for graduating seniors. Seniors applicants with college coursework credit must submit current college transcripts, in addition to their high school transcripts. GED recipients should contact Katerina Dawson at WIRC-CAA to discuss their academic circumstances for information about the application process.

EVALUATION PROCESS

The scholarship committee will review all complete, written applications that are submitted by the **deadline of 4:00 p.m. on May 7, 2021.** 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 200% of the federal poverty guidelines will receive 20 points. Applicants whose household income exceeds 200% of the federal poverty guidelines will **not** be considered.

200% of the **2020** federal poverty guidelines for the western Illinois area are as follows:

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Annual Income</u>
1	\$ 25,760
2	\$ 34,840
3	\$ 43,920
4	\$ 53,000
5	\$ 62,080

For each additional household member, add \$4,540

- 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 2019-2020 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 2.0 will receive 4 points.
 - Applicants whose grade point average is below **2.0 will receive 0 points.**
- C. **Essay:** The highest amount of points to be earned for the written essay is 50 points. Points will be awarded for:
- Grammar
 - Sentence structure
 - Content within the total word count (i.e., was the question answered thoroughly)

REVIEW:

Review of all applicants will begin **after the Friday, May 7, 2021 deadline**. All applicants will be notified of their status no later than the week of **June 7, 2021** via a Letter of Decision. PLEASE DO NOT CALL TO CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR APPLICATION.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Questions regarding the Region-wide Scholarship Program or possible consideration for eligibility should be directed to:

Katerina Dawson, CSBG Program Coordinator
WIRC - CAA
133 W. Jackson Street
Macomb, IL 61455
(309) 837-2997

WESTERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL COUNCIL-COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
2021 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 **2020** FEDERAL TAX FORM 1040

*****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 **2020** 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 2020 FALL SEMESTER.

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

Date of application: _____ Accepted: _____ Major: _____

Attach proof of acceptance/attendance. Projected graduation date: _____

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 (50 point maximum)

Please attach a typed 500-800 word essay addressing the question:

How has COVID-19 impacted and/or influenced your academic progress?

**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 **Friday, May 7, 2021** to:

WIRC-CAA
c/o Katerina Dawson
133 W. Jackson Street
Macomb, IL 61455

WESTERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL COUNCIL-COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
2021 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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., Friday, May 7, 2021 directly to:

WIRC-CAA
c/o Katerina Dawson
133 W. Jackson Street
Macomb, IL 61455

LATE RECEIPT OF THIS DOCUMENT MAY DISQUALIFY APPLICANT.

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