

**WESTERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL COUNCIL-COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY**  
**2021 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, 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 **non-traditional student** is defined as an individual 26 years of age or over or an individual with one or more dependents. 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 or four year college, 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 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 (CSBG) 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**.
2. A 500-800 word **essay** addressing the question below:
  - **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**.

## **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. **Essay:** The highest amount of points to be earned for the written essay is 40 points. Point will be awarded for:
- Grammar
  - Sentence Structure
  - Content within the word count (i.e., was the question answered thoroughly)

**REVIEW:**

Review of all applications 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  
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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**FINANCIAL INFORMATION** (25 point maximum)

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

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

Total 2020 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 2020 FEDERAL TAX FORM 1040**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**)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? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**WRITTEN ESSAY** (40 point maximum)

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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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  
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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., 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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