

BURLINGTON PUBLIC HOUSING ASSISTANCE CORPORATION

Board

Peter Blaetz, Chair
Richard Parker, Vice Chair
Billie J. Jones, Resident Representative
Eloise Turner Jones
Jennings Chandler
Grover Moore, Jr.
James Reid, III

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

I. Funding Start

- Possible to utilize some funds from the Burlington Public Housing Assistance FAF Account.
- Organize an Advisory Board/Committee of representation from local community organizations, public and private sector agencies/businesses.
- Name Program.
- Set rules, process, and criteria.
- Assign Staff.

II. Set Committees

- Fundraising/Program
- Mentorship
- Finance/Budget
- Awards Committee

III. Set Budget for the Year (Advisory Board recommends to BPHAC Board).

- Operating
- Donation Goals
- Administrative - BHA Finance Department

IV. Set Scholarship Award Day/Program - Scholarship Advisory Board Recognition.

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Premise

The vast majority of Burlington Housing Authority's 368 families living in public housing have a strong desire to enhance opportunities for success for themselves and their children. Through education they can visualize a better life. Unfortunately, this very strong desire is often made very difficult, if not impossible for many families due to financial hardship.

Application Process

All residents of BHA Public Housing who have been accepted to attend a higher education institution beyond high school are eligible to receive a scholarship. Other requirements include the following:

- Student application.
- Certified copy of high school transcript.
- A recommendation from school principal, guidance counselor or teacher.
- Recommendation from a minister or employer, other.
- Essay in 300 words or less on, "*Why I Wish To Continue My Education*".
- Financial aid requirements.

Awarding of Scholarship

Scholarship Awards will be approved by the Scholarship Advisory Board and distributed to eligible students at the start of each semester. The scholarship amount will be determined by the amount of annual funds received from public and private sector as well as individual donations. Awards will be a maximum of \$1,500 per year. These funds can be used to assist tuition, books and other school related costs. Scholarships will be forwarded to the school, university or bookstore. Any additional school related costs such as laundry or special home visit will be addressed on an individual basis. These additional non-scholarship funds may be made available based on individual needs as determined by the Scholarship Advisory Board.

Financial Assistance

All of our scholarship recipients will be eligible for financial aid, i.e., Pell Grant, Student Incentive Grant, Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant and College Work Study, etc. However, few recipients will receive more than the Pell Grant or Work Study and too many times this assistance will be insufficient to cover cost of tuition and books. For instance, within the UNC System, one year of college costs approximately \$7,000. The maximum amount one can receive from the Pell Grant loan is \$3000.00 per year. The only alternative for students is to seek other aid, often student loans.

Student Needs

Many of the needs of students may extend beyond the cost of tuition and books. One very important need may be for personal allowances (desk lamps, sheets, alarm clocks, toiletries, fans, bedding, etc.). While these things may seem small to us, they are real needs that may have to be addressed if the student is to enroll or continue his/her education.

Scholarship Advisory Committee

The committee's purpose is to assist with fund raising, evaluate and approve applications, and serve as mentors to the scholarship recipients. The committee will be made up of representatives from the public and private sector, parents, students and Burlington Housing Authority staff. Each committee member will eventually mentor a scholarship student. Their responsibility will be to stay in touch with the scholarship recipient through out the year via letters, telephone, personal visits, etc., thereby providing assistance necessary to remove barriers that may hinder a student from completing school.

Fundraising

Public and private organizations, resident councils, Burlington Housing Authority staff and donations from the local community will fund the Scholarship Program. The major fundraising activity will be an annual recognition program in which recipients, donors and community volunteers are recognized. Our program will start with a budget of \$12,000.

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GENERAL CONDITIONS

Note to Applicants: Listed Below are the “General Conditions” of Scholarship Recipients.

- Applicant must reside in public housing communities of Burlington Housing Authority’s developments.
- Applicant must enroll in approved school of higher learning (college, university, or trade-school) to qualify for payment of scholarship.
- Scholarship cannot be deferred.
- Annual scholarship renewal with satisfactory progress as determined by the university, college, etc.
- Community Service Requirement – each scholarship recipient must complete one project per year satisfactorily in order to maintain eligibility. The project chosen will involve both the Scholarship Advisory Board and the recipient with particulars agreed upon at the beginning.

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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Must be resident of BHA Public Housing.

High school graduate or have an adult high school diploma.

An acceptance letter from a college, university, or an approved trade school.

GUIDELINES

Must enroll in an approved college, university, or trade school.

Must participate in a minimum of two BHA sponsored program activities, Annual Recognition Banquet, Advisory Committee and/or Student Meeting.

Scholarship can be used for tuition, books, room and board, and/or other school related necessities.

Scholarship cannot be deferred.

Annual scholarship renewal with satisfactory progress as determined by the university, college, or approved trade school.

Must submit a school certified copy of grades at the end of each semester.

Must submit receipts of requested funds given directly to recipient.

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SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

- Must be a BHA resident of public housing and at least eighteen years of age.
- Must be enrolled in a college, university, or trade school.
Checks made payable to the school of choice on behalf of the resident will be made on the basis of registration/enrollment.
- Must enroll in a minimum of six hours except when fewer hours are required to graduate in a specific semester or in a program of licensure or certification.
- The scholarship may continue to assist a student up to one year after moving out of public housing.
- Scholarships will be prioritized as follows:
 - *First*, students currently enrolled in college who are residents.
 - *Second*, students graduating from high school this year who are residents.
 - *Third*, residents participating in or having completed a Burlington Housing Authority sponsored program i.e., resident council, community service, family self-sufficiency, leadership training, resident services project, (ABE/GED, beautification, etc.).
 - *Fourth*, all other residents in public housing.