2023 NAHRO Merit College Scholarship Application

In 2017, The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) established the NAHRO Merit College Scholarship Program. Eight scholarships are awarded nationwide to candidates, one from each NAHRO region, who are pursuing a post-secondary degree. The scholarships will be judged by the NAHRO Scholarship Committee, which is comprised of Housing America Task Force members who accept and review the scholarship applications. Additionally, the Pacific Northwest Regional Chapter of NAHRO is sponsoring an additional scholarship of $500.

The winning applicant from the PNRC region will win an additional $500 scholarship on behalf of the region, with the opportunity to reapply for the scholarship from year to year for up to four (4) years.

Please submit a photo of the candidate as a separate email attachment when submitting the application.

Scholarship Applicant:
Please return the completed scholarship application to the appropriate staff member before their designated deadline.
DEADLINE: JUNE 12, 2023

NAHRO Member Agencies:
Eligible NAHRO member agencies must submit all of their applications to a regional scholarship representative, who will then conduct a regional judging. One candidate per region will be submitted to NAHRO for additional award consideration.

The final regional applications will be emailed to NAHRO by the current years due date. The PNRC Service Office and the winners will be notified once selected each year. The NAHRO Scholarship Committee awards scholarships directly to the accredited institution of higher education once proof of registration at the college or university is received.

All applications for the PNRC and national NAHRO scholarships with their supporting documentation must be received by the current years due date. PNRC Service Office at pnrc@nahro.org with the subject: Pacific Northwest Regional Scholarship Candidate.

The rules, procedures, and application are below. Please review this material very carefully. If you have any questions, please contact the PNRC Service Office at pnrc@nahro.org.

Application Process

For Scholarship Applicant:
1. Fill out and gather all required documents for the application (see checklist on page 4). These are:
   a. **Information form** (page 4). This form will be reviewed and evaluated by a scholarship representative selected by the region. **To be considered complete, all sections of the application must be completed. If a section is not applicable, write N/A (not applicable) in the section; do not leave any sections blank.** Any application that has blank sections, or that is missing appropriate submittals or signatures may be disqualified,
   b. **Two letters of character recommendation**. These can be recommendations from the local housing authority, community or religious organization, employer or an academic reference. Letters of recommendation may not come from family members.
   c. **An unofficial transcript from high school and/or the academic institution the applicant is currently attending** (transcript may be forwarded separate from application but must postmarked by deadline).
   d. **Verification of acceptance/attendance** at an accredited institution of higher education.
   e. **An essay (750-1,000 words) written by the applicant** that details their educational plans and goals and focuses on outstanding community service or engagement activities. Essays showcasing outstanding community engagement may be selected for additional financial awards.
   f. **A clear, high-resolution headshot photo of the applicant.** This photo will be used in the announcement of the scholarship winner.

2. Submit these materials to your housing authority, who will then forward them to the PNRC Service Office for judging.

Eligible NAHRO member agencies must submit all of their applications to PNRC Service Office at pnrc@nahro.org, who will then conduct a regional judging. One candidate per region will be submitted to NAHRO for consideration.

Rules and Procedures

Eligibility

1. Scholarship applications are only available to eligible member agencies. An eligible agency is a member agency in good standing with both NAHRO and PNRC.
2. Eligible individuals are provided a service or live in a household managed by an eligible member agency.
3. Eligible individuals must be a graduating high school senior or already possess a high school diploma or GED, and must be applying to or attending an accredited institution of higher education. If currently attending college, applicants must be registered for at least two (2) classes.

Authorized regional representatives, please include all documentation in one PDF, **except for the applicant's photograph. Please send the photograph as a separate email attachment.**

All regional applications and supporting documentation must be received no later than the current years due date of JUNE 12, 2023. PNRC Service Office at pnrc@nahro.org with the subject: 2023 Pacific Northwest Regional Scholarship Candidates.

Scholarship Awards:

1. One scholarship applicant to the PNRC will receive a $500 award.
2. The winner of the PNRC scholarship, will receive another $1,000 award from NAHRO.
3. From the recipients from all the regional scholarship contest, three NAHRO Merit Scholarship program winners will be selected by the NAHRO Scholarship Committee to become a part of the NAHRO-LDG Scholars program.

NAHRO-LDG Scholars Program:

The NAHRO-LDG Scholars Program is a 10-year venture that will provide $1 million in scholarships and internship opportunities to low-income students from around the country and is funded by the award-winning multi-family housing developer, LDG Development. In addition to the one-time scholarship provided through the NAHRO Merit College Scholarship, NAHRO-LDG Scholars will receive:

- A $12,000 scholarship distributed over four years to assist with tuition and university affiliated housing expenses
- An opportunity to earn up to $9,000 in stipends for summer internships and other approved activities that support the student's academic matriculation
- Networking opportunities with business and community leaders

All scholarship awards will be paid directly to the accredited institution of higher education.

Requirements Checklist:

- [ ] Information Form (Page 5)
- [ ] Unofficial Transcript or GED Certificate
- [ ] Educational History (Page 5)
- [ ] Educational Plan (Page 6)
- [ ] Honors and Awards (Please list award and date e.g. MM/YYYY) (Page 5)
- [ ] Financial Requirement
- [ ] Two (2) Letters of Recommendation
- [ ] Essay with 750-1000 words answering the following questions:
    a. Where do you see yourself in the next four years and how will this scholarship help you to achieve those goals?
    b. What are you doing now to achieve those goals? Essays showcasing outstanding community service will be considered for the additional scholarship awards.
- [ ] Certification Signature (Page 6)
- [ ] Photo of Applicant

Information FORM

APPLICANT'S NAME: _____

LOCAL ADDRESS: _____
                 (NUMBER & STREET)   (CITY)   (STATE/ZIP)

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

Which housing and or community development agency are you affiliated with?

_____

EDUCATION HISTORY

(Check one) High School Graduate/GED Recipient☐   High School Senior☐

SCHOOLS ATTENDED / DATES ATTENDED/ FINAL GPA/ CREDITS COMPLETED / DEGREES RECEIVED:

_____

_____

EDUCATION PLANS

What college, university, vocational, or post-secondary school do you plan to attend/ are attending?
 (include city & state): _____

ENROLLMENT STATUS:

Plan to apply ☐

Applied but not yet accepted ☐

Applied and accepted ☐

Anticipated major or vocational goal: _____

_____

Average length of program (2 years/4 years, etc.): _____

Estimated cost for entire school year (include tuition, student fees, books, and school

supplies only): _____

HONORS, AWARDS, & COMMUNITY/SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Please list all honors or awards received and any community/school activities in which you have actively
participated within the past 5 years (attach extra sheet if needed): _____

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT

Please provide a statement of estimated cost of education: _____

_____

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Please attach two letters of recommendation from **non-relatives**. Eligible recommendation-writers include a representative from the local housing authority or community organization, an employer or a school professional such as a teacher or a guidance counselor. **No recommendations from family members will be considered.**

List the contact information for these people below. Please include their name, address, phone number, and relationship to you, and length of time you have known them.

_____

_____

ESSAY

Please write an essay using 750 – 1,000 words to answer the following questions:
- Where do you see yourself in the next four years and how will this scholarship help you to achieve those goals?
- What are you doing now to achieve those goals?

Essays showcasing outstanding community service will be considered for additional scholarship awards. If you have any unusual circumstances that you would like the scholarship committee to consider, please include them in your essay.

CERTIFICATION

 BY MY SIGNATURE, I AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING:

- That the information I have given is true to the best of my knowledge.
- To maintain satisfactory educational progress.
- To keep NAHRO informed of any changes in schools or enrollment status.
- To provide, or respond to NAHRO requests for, periodic updates on academic progress for the duration of the candidate's receipt of scholarship funds.
- To consent to the use of my profile, progress, and testimonial, by NAHRO and its subsidiaries, for marketing and fundraising purposes.
- To authorize the office of financial aid to release my grades and pertinent information to NAHRO.
- To authorize the release of my contact information to contractor for the college program (if funded).

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____