

2024 BCMW COMMUNITY SERVICES  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM  
Information Sheet

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

BCMw Community Services is offering 5 (five) \$1,000 scholarships for the 2024-2025 academic year to low-income students desiring to further their education at a two- year community college, vocational school, or four- year college or university. The scholarships are made possible through the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program which is funded by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Award recipients may use their scholarships for education expenses, and payments will be sent directly to the schools. BCMw Community Services encourages all potentially eligible applicants to enter this scholarship competition. All applications must be returned to BCMw, 909 E. Rexford, P.O. Box 729, Centralia, IL 62801 by March 29, 2024.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

1. Must be a permanent resident of Bond, Clinton, Marion, or Washington County.
2. Must have a high school diploma or GED.
3. Must be enrolled as full-time student (12 or more credit hours) at an accredited two (2) year or four (4) year college, university, or vocational training program.
4. Must maintain at least a C average: 2.0 if on a 4-point scale, 3.0 if on a 5-point scale.
5. Must demonstrate a commitment to career goals.
6. Must have financial need whereby total household income before taxes for the past 30 days is not greater than:

<u>FAMILY SIZE</u>	<u>INCOME GUIDELINES</u>
1	\$2,510
2	3,407
3	4,303
4	5,200
5	6,097
6	6,993
7	7,890
8	8,787

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

Interested applicants should submit all the following items to: BCMW Community Services, 909 E. Rexford, P.O. Box 729, Centralia, IL 62801; Attn: Liz Garner by the deadline date of March 29, 2024.

1. The application forms completed in full which includes a Community Services Block Grant STARS Intake to be completed before funds will be disbursed.
2. **Proof of total household income for the past 30 days.** If income is from other than employment, please contact me if you have questions on what documentation to provide.
3. Your career goals statement.
4. Three letters of recommendation (may utilize the forms enclosed) attesting to the applicant's commitment to his/her career goals. No letters of recommendation will be accepted from relatives or applicants.
5. A copy of the applicant's most current grades (transcript) or GED test score. Please request from the school that they be sent to BCMW Community Services, P.O. Box 729, Centralia, IL 62801, and Attn: Liz Garner.

## **JUDGING CRITERIA**

Applicants will be judged by a scholarship committee composed of members of the BCMW Board of Directors and Staff. This committee will review all written applications submitted by the deadline date of March 29, 2024. Applications will be judged according to the following criteria and percentages:

1. Financial Need – 30% as evidenced by the applicant residing in a household which falls at or below the income guidelines.
2. Scholarship Potential – 30% as evidenced by the applicant's most current grade point average or GED test score.
3. Career Goals – 25% as evidenced by three letters of recommendation and the applicant's own career goals statement.
4. Interview/Discussion – 15%

The judging will be conducted in two phases. Phase I will consist of the Scholarship Committee selecting the top candidates based on judging criteria 1-3 above. Phase II consists of these applicants being notified by mail, requesting them to participate in a personal interview/discussion with the Scholarship Committee. The final selection of award recipients will be based on this interview/discussion and winners will be notified.

### **SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENT**

The scholarship awards will be paid directly to the two-year community college, vocational school, or four-year college or university. The scholarship awards may be utilized for education expenses.

If for some reason the award recipient cannot accept the award, the scholarship will automatically be awarded to the Alternate and Runner-Up in successive order. . Please contact Liz Garner at 618-532-7388, ext. 146 or [liz.garner@bcmw-il.org](mailto:liz.garner@bcmw-il.org) if you have any questions regarding the BCMW Community Services Scholarship Program.

**Note: Please retain these first three pages for your information**