

WESTERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL COUNCIL-COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
2008 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, McDonough and Warren counties, is offering \$1,500 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, McDonough and Warren counties. An individual may not receive a WIRC-CAA scholarship more than two times.

A **non-traditional student** is defined as individual 26 years of age or over or an individual with one or more dependents. A **traditional student** 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 or 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 March 28, 2008**.

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, McDonough or Warren county;
2. Member of an income eligible household (at or below 125% of the **2007** poverty guidelines – refer to the attached guideline matrix on page 2);
3. Possess a high school diploma, GED, or must graduate by **July 1, 2008** 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. Demonstrate a commitment to civic and public affairs (see B. under Evaluation Process); and
6. Demonstrate goals and purpose commitment

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested applicants must **submit all of the following items** to Tina Lovejoy, Program Coordinator, WIRC-CAA, 223 South Randolph Street, Macomb, IL 61455 by the **deadline of 4:00 p.m. on March 28, 2008.**

1. Completed copy of the **attached application** including **2007 federal tax form** 1040, 1040A or 1040 EZ.
2. A 500-word **essay** addressing involvement in civic affairs **and** future career goals.
3. **Three current letters of recommendation** (please utilize the attached forms and stress the deadline date to those who are recommending you).

EVALUATION PROCESS

Applications will be evaluated by a scholarship committee composed of representatives of area social service agencies, community representatives, high school and college financial aid and counseling offices. The scholarship committee will review all complete, written applications that are submitted by the **deadline of 4:00 p.m. on March 28, 2008.** 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 125% of the federal poverty guidelines will receive 20 points. **Applicants whose household income exceeds 125% of the federal poverty guidelines will not be considered.**

125% of the **2007** federal poverty guidelines for the western Illinois area are as follows:

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Annual Income</u>
1	\$ 12,763
2	\$ 17,113
3	\$ 21,463
4	\$ 25,813
5	\$ 30,163

For each additional household member, add \$4,350.

- B. Civic Affairs and Career Goals: A maximum of 40 points will be awarded for participation in civic affairs (community service/volunteer work) and a clear and defined statement of career goals and purpose. The scholarship committee will award points in this category based on the three **current** letters of personal recommendation and the 500-word essay to be submitted with each application. Applicants are encouraged to be specific in their statements of career goals and their participation (past, present, and/or future) in civic affairs. **You must address both topics in your essay.**
- C. Interview: A maximum of 35 points will be awarded based on a ten minute interview with the members of the scholarship committee. The interview will be conducted at the WIRC-CAA office in Macomb. Phase Two participants will be notified by mail of the date and time.

Evaluation of applications will be conducted in two phases. Phase One will consist of the scholarship committee selecting the top applicants based on Parts A through B of the aforementioned evaluation criteria. Top candidates will be notified by mail of their selection to participate in Phase Two no later than **May 9, 2008**. Phase Two will consist of Part C of the evaluation process. The final selection of the scholarship recipients will be based on scores from Phase One and the personal interview of Phase Two, with recipients notified no later than **June 1, 2008**.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Questions regarding the Region-wide Scholarship Program or possible consideration for eligibility should be directed to: Tina Lovejoy, Program Coordinator, WIRC-CAA, 223 South Randolph 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 _____

FINANCIAL INFORMATION (25 point maximum)

Marital status: Single _____ Married _____ Widowed _____ Divorced _____ Remarried _____

Spouse's name: _____ Age: _____ Occupation _____

Total 2007 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 2007 FEDERAL TAX FORM 1040, 1040A OR 1040EZ

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: _____

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

CIVIC AFFAIRS AND CAREER GOALS (40 point maximum)

Please attach a typed 500-word essay addressing your involvement in and commitment to civic affairs (refer to any school or community activities, awards, organizations, clubs, offices, or honors that you would like to bring to the attention of the scholarship committee). The essay should also address your career goal(s) and the reason(s) you are interested in that profession.

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 **March 28, 2008** to:

WIRC-CAA
c/o Tina Lovejoy
223 South Randolph Street
Macomb, IL 61455

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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., March 28, 2008 directly to:

WIRC-CAA
c/o Tina Lovejoy
223 South Randolph
Macomb, IL 61455

LATE RECEIPT OF THIS DOCUMENT MAY DISQUALIFY APPLICANT.

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