

Waller-Hempstead Community Scholarship Guidelines

Introduction

The Life Assistance Ministries “Waller-Hempstead Community Scholarship” was established in 2008 with a donation by a Cypress couple who desired to help hard working people to gain job and education skills so that they may be a productive part of the community.

Purpose

The purpose of this scholarship is to provide financial assistance for tuition and/or books to those individuals attending an accredited vocational school, community college, junior college, or university in pursuit of a certificate, Associate Degree or Bachelors Degree who might not otherwise be able to attend a higher education program.

Overview

Who Can Apply

Any resident of or graduate of Waller Independent School District (WISD) or Hempstead Independent School District (HISD) who is pursuing an Associates or Bachelor’s Degree at a Community College or University; or who is pursuing a Job Certification Program/License at a Technical School on a full time basis. This scholarship is not for students who are in the top 10% of their graduating class.

Award

Up to three (3) equal dollar scholarships, based on funds available, not to exceed \$2,500, will be awarded annually. Students who are awarded a scholarship are eligible to reapply each year. Scholarship monies must be used in the school year in which they are awarded. If a student who receives a scholarship takes time off from school, they forfeit the scholarship and must reapply in the next application cycle for an additional award. The forfeited scholarship will count toward the maximum number of scholarships a student can receive.

Maximum number of Awards One (1) Student is eligible for:

Degree	# of Awards	Other Restrictions
Job Certification Program	2	Not to exceed the actual duration of the program
Associates Degree	2	
Bachelors Degree	4	
Associates Degree transferring to Bachelors Degree	4	

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Application Process

The application for the Waller-Hempstead Community Scholarship shall consist of two phases. Phase 1 is Document Submission and Review. Phase one will consist of the applicant completing and submitting the following documents in this order:

- Waller-Hempstead Community Scholarship Checklist
- FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR)
- Waller-Hempstead Community Scholarship Application
- Transcripts
- Essay
- Three (3) Reference Letters

Phase 1 results will be determined by the scholarship committee using a weighted checklist. This will be a blind review. Scholarship Committee reviewers will not know the name or identity of the applicant. Applicants, who successfully complete Phase 1, will enter Phase 2. Phase 2 consists of:

- Personal Interview

The personal interview will be a group interview with the entire Scholarship Committee. The top three applicants with a combined score from Phase 1 and Phase 2 will be awarded a one (1) year scholarship.

Waller-Hempstead Community Scholarship Checklist

The Waller-Hempstead Community Scholarship Checklist is the cover sheet for the application package and is to be used as a checklist by the applicant to ensure completion and submission of all required documents. Please print or type.

FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR)

FAFSA is short for Free Application for Federal Student Aid and is the first step of the financial aid process. It is used to apply for federal financial aid. In addition, many states and schools use the information from the FAFSA SAR to award financial aid. SAR is short for Student Aid Report. The SAR will list the information that you entered into the FAFSA and will provide you with the EFC (Expected Family Contribution). For more information on and to complete the FAFSA go to <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> or to your high school guidance counselor.

Waller-Hempstead Community Scholarship Application

The Waller-Hempstead Community Scholarship Application asks for additional information about applicant goals and experiences that is not on the FAFSA. Additional sheets may be added if more space is needed. Please print or type.

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Transcripts

Provide a copy of your High School transcripts with your application process. Copies will be accepted.

Essay

The essay is to be typed single spaced using a 12 point Times New Roman or Arial font and should be 500 – 1000 words in length. Do not include your name or any identifying information in the essay. Topics should include your educational and career goals; and why the scholarship should be awarded to you. You may also include any personal hardships or financial challenges you have experienced or are experiencing.

Three (3) Reference Letters

A minimum of three reference letters are required. One letter must be from a teacher, counselor or school administrator. One letter must be from pastor, DRE, Youth Minister or other Church Staff; or from a community service organization leader. The third letter can be from any person of your choice, other than a family member. Reference letters can be submitted with the application or can be mailed by the author to:

Waller-Hempstead Community Scholarship
Life Assistance Ministries
800 FM 1488
Hempstead, TX 77445

Personal Interview

Personal interviews will be scheduled at the completion of the document review phase and will include a group interview with members of the Scholarship Committee.

Submission

The submission deadline is March 15. One copy of the application package should be mailed to: Life Assistance Ministries or may be dropped off at Saint Katharine Drexel Church. The address is:

Life Assistance Ministries
800 FM 1488
Hempstead, Texas 77445

Application packages must be bound with a medium binder clip and placed in a manila envelope. Application packages should not be stapled, or bound any other way.

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Post Award Actions

Requirements

- A school issued grade report must be submitted at the end of each semester showing at least a 2.5 grade point average.
- Student must be active in their local Church. (may be a service club if not a church member)
- Acknowledgement letter to scholarship committee

Recommendations

- Attend Financial Peace University. This is a 13-week program that teaches people to manage their money no matter where they are in life and is available in many cities. (www.daveramsey.com)
- Present to Waller-Hempstead area high school groups on your college experience and what it takes to go through the college application and financial aid process.
- Present to donors at fund raising events on how receiving this scholarship has made a difference in your life and future.

Requests

- Provide financial support to the Waller-Hempstead Community Scholarship once you have completed your education and are working.
- Act as a mentor for a student who receives a Waller-Hempstead Community Scholarship once the mentor program is put into place.

Funds Disbursement

To activate funds disbursement students must complete and submit the funds release form and submit the school's fee bill as proof of enrollment. Payment will be issued directly to the school. One half of the scholarship will be used for tuition and books the first semester; the remaining half will be applied to tuition and books the second semester. Any remaining funds will be returned to the Waller-Hempstead Community Scholarship.

Funds Loss

If a student drops or fails a class paid for with scholarship funds, that class will not be paid for a second time. If a student who receives a scholarship takes time off from school, they forfeit the scholarship.

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Reapplying for remaining years
Future Program - Requirements TBD

Mentoring Program
Future Program - Requirements TBD

Privacy/Disclosure

All information will remain confidential. By accepting the scholarship award, applicants give the Waller-Hempstead Community Scholarship and Life Assistance Ministries permission to use their name, photo and accomplishments in printed literature, public presentations and on their website.

Process and guidelines are subject to revision.

Life Assistance Ministries
800 FM 1488
Hempstead, TX 77484

936-697-5289

www.LifeAssistanceMinistires.org
scholarship@lifeassitanceministries.org