NAHRO IOWA
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS

Iowa NAHRO Merit College Scholarship Program

The Iowa NAHRO Scholarship Committee, comprised of members from the Iowa NAHRO Board, will accept and review the scholarship applications and determine the scholarship amount awarded. All applications must be submitted by February 1st, 2027 and the winners will be selected at the February Board Meeting with notices going out in the month of March. The Scholarship Committee awards scholarship money directly to the accredited institution of higher education, or directly to the candidate at the Board's discretion.

The rules, procedures, and application are below. Please read the rules and application very carefully. If you have any questions, please contact the Scholarship Committee Chair.

Rules and Procedures

Eligibility

1. Scholarship applications are made available to eligible agencies. An eligible agency is a member agency in good standing with Iowa NAHRO.
2. Eligible individuals must be a graduating high school senior, or possess a high school diploma or GED, applying to or attending an accredited institution of higher education. If currently attending college, applicant must be registered for at least two (2) classes.
3. **Category One**: Eligible individuals are residents living in a household or being provided a service managed by an eligible agency:
    a. A household member of the immediate household that has been the recipient of rental housing assistance (funded under an executed rent assistance contract) for at least one year of the last two years, from a local housing authority (PHA) or other agency in good standing and having an Agency or Individual Membership to Iowa NAHRO;
    b. OR, any immediate household member of a recipient of HOME or CDBG funds assistance (as evidenced by recipient signature and dated work contract or completion inspection sign off) within the most recent two years, from a Community Development Agency or not-for-profit CHODO providing housing assistance, that is in good standing and having an Agency or Individual Membership to Iowa NAHRO
    c. Public Housing, Section 8, and federally assisted residents as outlined above will be eligible to have their application submitted to the region: NCRC NAHRO. One scholarship from each region may be eligible to receive an additional $1,000 and two exemplary applications receiving an additional $2,000 and $5,000 respectively.

4. **Category Two:** Any immediate **family member** of an employee, or an employee of, a Local or Regional Housing Agency (PHA), Community Development Agency, or not-for-profit CHODO, providing housing assistance, that is in good standing and has an Agency or Individual Membership to Iowa NAHRO.
    a. This scholarship category is only offered by the Iowa Chapter of NAHRO, therefore, this category is not eligible to have their application submitted to Regional NAHRO for consideration of additional scholarship monies.
5. Anyone who has previously received an Iowa NAHRO-sponsored scholarship will not be eligible to reapply for additional funding.

Application Process

1. The application must be reviewed and evaluated by a representative selected by the Iowa NAHRO Board. To be considered complete **all sections of the application must be filled out**. If a section is not applicable, put N/A (not applicable) in the area; **do not leave any areas blank**. An application that is blank or missing appropriate information or signatures will be disqualified.
2. The application must include letters of recommendation from an Executive of the local housing authority and an academic reference (i.e. teachers and/or guidance counselors).
3. The application must include an unofficial transcript of grades from a high school or academic institution presently attending (the transcript may be forwarded separately from the application, but must be postmarked by the deadline).
4. The application must include verification of acceptance/attendance at a specific school.
5. The application must include an essay written by the student 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.
6. Screening, evaluation, and selection will be conducted by the Scholarship Committee.

Scholarship

Two scholarships, receiving $1,500 each, will be awarded and paid directly to the accredited institution of higher education, or directly to the candidate at the Board's discretion.

1. **Eligible applicants will be selected from Category 1: Resident, and Category 2: Employee of PHA.**

All applications and documentation must be sent no later than February 1st, 2027
to: **Laura Shaw**
Iowa NAHRO Scholarship Committee Chair
Community Development Division
City of Cedar Rapids, 101 First St SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Office: 319-286-5872
Direct line: 319-286-5184
Fax: 319-286-5870
Email: L.Shaw@cedar-rapids.org

Please review this checklist to be sure you have included all the required paperwork and fill out all sections of the application with either an answer or N/A if it does not apply. Your application may not be reviewed if requirements are missing!

Requirements Checklist

- ☐ Information Form
- ☐ Unofficial Transcript
- ☐ Educational History
- ☐ Educational Plan
- ☐ Honors and Awards (Please list award and date e.g. MM/YYYY)
- ☐ Financial Requirement
- ☐ Two (2) Letters of Recommendation - One from an educator; one from your public housing authority.
- ☐ Essay - why is this scholarship essential to your future? Elaborate on your community involvement, engagement, and service. Essays showcasing outstanding community service will be considered for the additional financial awards.
- ☐ Certification Signature

PLEASE BE SURE TO IDENTIFY YOUR CATEGORY: Category 1: Resident, or Category 2: Employee of PHA.

INFORMATION FORM

APPLICANT'S NAME:

LOCAL ADDRESS:

DATE OF BIRTH:

PHONE NUMBER: EMAIL:

Which housing and or community development agency are you affiliated with? Click here to enter agency.

Applying as: ○ Category One Applicant (See Page 1) ◉ Category Two Applicant (See Page 2)

EDUCATION HISTORY

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

Colleges Attended including dates, hours completed and degress received if any:

2027-2028 EDUCATION PLANS

What college, university, vocational, or post-secondary school do you plan to attend in 2027-2028 (include city & state):

2027-2028 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 2027-2028 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 with dates (attach extra sheet if needed).

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT

Please provide a statement of the estimated cost of education for 2027-2028.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Please attach two letters of recommendation from non-family members. The letters must contain the writer's contact information. One letter must be from an executive at your local housing and community development or NAHRO sponsor agency; and one letter must be from a professional in an educational environment. Please include their name, address, phone number, and relationship to you, and length of time you have known them.

ESSAY

Submit a brief typed essay explaining your reasons for applying for this scholarship and your educational and career goals. If you have any unusual circumstances that you would like the scholarship committee to consider, please include them in your essay. **Please clearly showcase your community service and engagement activities to be considered for additional financial awards**. MAXIMIUM ONE-PAGE (8.5 X 11 INCHES)

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 Iowa NAHRO informed of any changes in schools or enrollment status.
- To provide, or respond to Iowa NAHRO requests for, periodic updates on academic progress for the duration of the candidate's receipt of 2027-2028 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).

_____ _____

Signature Date

INFORMATION FORM

For Iowa NAHRO Scholarship Only

Applicant Information

Name:

Address:
City/State/Zip:

Phone Number:

Email:

Current GPA:

College at Which Accepted:

College Address:

Course of Study:

Category 1:_____
Category 2: _____

~~Affiliation with NAHRO Agency~~
Housing or Community Development Agency or NAHRO Member Agency:

Address:

I have enclosed with this application:

- Unofficial Transcript
- Educational History
- Educational Plan
- Honors and Awards (Please list award and date e.g. MM/YYYY)
- Financial Requirement
- Two (2) Letters of Recommendation - One from an educator; one from your public housing authority.
- Essay - why is this scholarship essential to your future? Elaborate on your community involvement, engagement and service. Essays showcasing outstanding community service will be considered for the additional financial awards.

Certification Signature

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the information contained in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

_____ _____
Signature of Applicant Date

Certification for Regional Award

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the individual listed on this scholarship application is associated with this agency and that this agency is a National NAHRO member. I also certify that the information contained in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

_____
Regional Representative's Signature

_____
Please Print Name

_____
Agency Name

_____
Street Address

_____
City, State, & Zip

_____
Phone

All applications and documentation must be sent no later than February 1st, 2027 to:

Laura Shaw
Iowa NAHRO Scholarship Committee Chair
Community Development Division
City of Cedar Rapids, 101 First St SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
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Direct line: 319-286-5184
Fax: 319-286-5870
Email: l.shaw@cedar-rapids.org