2020-2021 Scholarship Program

Chicago Urban League scholarships are available to any person pursuing an undergraduate degree at an institution of higher learning to provide financial assistance for college. Scholarship awards range will be from $500 to $5,000 and up. Applications will be available online starting March 1 and due by April 15, 2020.

For 104 years, the Chicago Urban League (CUL) has been at the forefront of creating opportunities for African Americans to empower themselves and their communities. We are motivated by a vision that a strong African American community makes a better Chicago. The Scholarship Program includes awards funded by various donors in order to support students needing financial assistance to begin, continue or complete their post-secondary education.

Chicago Urban League’s Center for Student Development has provided scholarships to students in low income communities for over 20 years, our most recent 2019 program awarded 36 students a total of $57,000 in awards. Donors included Chicago Urban League Auxiliary groups (Women’s Board, Metro Board, Leaguers), Jack & Jill of Chicago and ComEd.

To qualify for a Chicago Urban League scholarship, students must:

- Possess a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale)

- Meet student status requirements for specific awards:
  
  - Enrolled as a full-time, undergraduate student in a degree-granting program or
  - Expecting to graduate this year from high school and enroll in a full-time undergraduate degree-granting program or
  - Completing a two-year college program and expecting to enroll in a degree-granting program at a four-year institution
  - Demonstrate financial need
  - Selected students for scholarships must commit future engagement with Chicago Urban League through programming or volunteerism

Selection Process

- First, the Scholarship Program Committee evaluates applicant eligibility based on financial need, academic achievement and funder focus. In the case of equivalent academic achievement, students with the greatest financial need are given priority. Financial need is determined by the Student Aid Report (SAR), which is provided 3-6 weeks after filing your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and includes the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) calculation.
- Second, eligible applicants are interviewed in person by teams of 2-3 Scholarship Program Committee members.
- Committee members include Chicago Urban League Staff, Board Members and Auxiliary Groups. These committee members are all volunteers and not paid individuals.
- Third, the full Scholarship Program Committee reviews interview team recommendations and makes final award recommendations to the CUL’s Center for Student Development leadership.
- Unless specified by the funder, scholarships are not renewable and are only applicable to one school year.
**Application Process**

To be considered for a Chicago Urban League scholarship award, you must provide the following items:

- Completed scholarship application
- One typed essay and photo
- One letter of recommendation (school counselor/teacher)
- One letter of recommendation (non-family)
- Official transcript of grades (most recent high school transcript for seniors or college transcript for post-secondary students) sent directly to CUL by the school
- Student Aid Report (SAR)

or

- Proof of financial status/income (most recent tax returns or documentation of SSI, public aid or unemployment)
- Proof of current enrollment or acceptance in a college/university

**Application and selection timeline**

The following are key dates for the Chicago Urban League Scholarship Program:

**March 1, 2020:**
Application open and available electronically

**April 15, 2020:**
Deadline for all application materials

**April 30, 2020:**
Completion of application pre-review by Scholarship Program Committee and notification of interviewees and non-interviewees

**May 31, 2020:**
Interviews completed

**June 15, 2020:**
Awards Notification

**August 2020:**
Awards Disbursement

*Note: Salaried employees of the Chicago Urban League, CUL scholarship sponsors and members of the immediate family of any such persons are not eligible to apply to the program. The term “immediate family” includes spouses, siblings, parents, children, grandparents, grandchildren and “in-laws,” by current or past marriage(s), remarriage(s), adoption, co-habitation or other family extension.*