



Southwest Regional Council NAHRO Scholarship Program Description and Overview

The Southwest Regional Council NAHRO Scholarship Program provides scholarship opportunities to families that reside in, work with, or who otherwise receive housing benefits from one of the member agencies of the Council. The SWRC NAHRO annually awards scholarships totaling more than \$10,000.00. Scholarship awards are available to public housing residents, participants in rental assistance or similar programs, both heads of household and other family members, and children of staff working for a member agency.

Scholarship Application with accompanying documentation and information must be submitted directly to:

818 S. Flores
San Antonio, TX 78204

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 6, 2008

Graduating Senior – Resident or Participant: Scholarships are awarded in three categories to graduating seniors who are residents who otherwise receive direct housing benefits from one of the member agencies of the Council. The first category is a \$4,000 four-year scholarship awarded to a graduating senior, with \$1,000 payable each year over a four-year period. A \$1,000 one-year scholarship is available to graduating seniors of a public housing agency in honor of Phillip Miller. The third category includes scholarship awards of a minimum of \$100 to all resident graduating seniors who apply for the program, who attained a four-year 3.0 GPA and an 18 on the ACT. Actual amount will vary according to the number of students applying and funds available.

Graduating Senior, Child of Agency Staff: Two \$1,000 one-year scholarships are available to graduating seniors of agency staff families. One scholarship is awarded in the memory of Mr. Michael Hanratty and one in the memory of Ms. Cissy Wood.

Resident/Participant Head of Household: Scholarships are available for heads of household who have been residents of a housing agency or program participants for at least 12 months prior to the application deadline, and who intend to start or are already attending college. The Sam McKay Memorial Commissioners Scholarship in the amount of \$750, plus a one year \$500 scholarship are available in this category.

The scholarships have been established by the membership of Southwest NAHRO to provide the opportunity for students associated with public assisted housing to take advantage of post high school educational opportunities that otherwise may not be possible.. Any unused portion of a scholarship may, at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee, be awarded a student exhibiting outstanding accomplishment.

Eligibility Requirements

1. For the resident scholarship, the applicant and their family must reside or receive direct housing benefits for the entire senior year (and at least 12 months prior to the application deadline) through any housing program administered by any agency that is a member in good standing of Southwest NAHRO.
2. For the staff family scholarship, a parent or legal guardian of the applicant must have been employed by the agency for the entire senior year (or at least 9 months prior to the application deadline) and the agency must be a member in good standing of Southwest NAHRO. At the discretion of the judges, the consideration of family circumstances and financial need may be a factor in selection of the recipient.
3. The applicant must have maintained an overall 3.0 grade point average for the total of his/her high school career, and the student must commit himself or herself to enrolling in a college or vocational training program beyond high school graduation.
4. Applications submitted that are not in accordance with the instructions will not be considered for judging.

The program is competitive and awards are based on academic achievement, extra curricular activities, and community involvement.

Scholarship Payments:

In an attempt to expedite scholarship payments, eliminate lost payments, and to make a greater impact on the students as to who is providing the scholarship funds, SWNAHRO has established specific scholarship payment procedures. For one-year scholarship recipients, the program coordinator will obtain enrollment information from the student; after which a check in the scholarship amount will be mailed to the housing authority that sponsored the student. The agency is then asked to make the presentation of the check to the student and his or her family at a Board Meeting or some other appropriate event.

For those recipients of four-year scholarships, the procedure will be the same for the first year. That payment will be followed by an annual payment of \$1,000 for the next three years provided the student maintains a 2.5 average. For those three years the sponsoring agency will collect the grades from the previous year, plus some evidence that the student is enrolled in the then current fall semester, and send that information to the program coordinator, after which a check will be forwarded to the housing agency to present to the recipient. At this time, the agency may want to recognize the student for continuing success.

Certification: The housing agency must certify that the applicant is a resident or child of an employee of the agency. The agency must also certify that it is a member in good standing of SWRC NAHRO.

Definitions: A graduating senior of a resident family is a high school graduate of the current program year who is a member and resides with a family, who resides in or has received direct housing benefits from a SWRC NAHRO member agency for the twelve months prior to the application date. A graduating senior of an agency staff family is a high school graduate of the current program year who is a member and resides with a family who has one parent or guardian employed with a SWRC NAHRO member agency for at least nine months prior to the application date. A head of household applicant is the head of a resident family who has lived in a public housing development for at least twelve months prior to the application date.

Scholarship Categories

There is currently available \$10,750 in scholarship awards as follows:

I. Scholarship for Resident Families – \$7,500 Total As Follows:

- a) 1 - \$4,000 Four-year scholarship to a graduating senior, payable \$1,000 per year over four years.
- b) 1 - \$1,000 One-year Philip Miller Academic Scholarship to a graduating senior.
- c) Scholarship awards of a minimum of \$100 to resident graduating seniors who attain a four-year 3.0 GPA and an 18 on the ACT. Actual amount will vary according to the number of students applying and funds available.

II. Scholarship for Resident Family Head of Household - \$1,250 Total As Follows:

- a) 1 - \$750 One-year Sam McKay Memorial Commissioners Scholarship to a resident Head of Household whether starting or already in college.
- b) 1 - \$500 One-year scholarship to a resident Head of Household whether starting or already in college.

III. Scholarship for Agency Staff Family Member - \$2,000 Total As Follows:

- a) 1 - \$1,000 One-year scholarship to an agency staff family graduating senior.
- b) 1 - \$1,000 One-year scholarship, or 2 - \$500 one-year scholarships to an agency staff family member already in college.

If there are not enough qualified applicants in any one category, the funds from that category will be transferred to other categories that have more qualified applicants. The judging and application forms will be the same in all categories and the students will compete against one another for the top award.

EVALUATION AND SCORING OF APPLICANTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GRADING SYSTEM

POINT SYSTEM FOR EVALUATION OF RESIDENT/PARTICIPANT SCHOLARSHIP

CATEGORY	POINTS
Grades (Completed by Committee Chairman)	
1 st two years @ 25 points	
Last two years @ 50 points	
Total	150
ACT Scores (Completed by Committee Chairman)	50
Academic Achievement/Extra Curricular Activities	100
Community Activities	75
Essay	100
General Overall Performance	25
Total Available Points	500

POINT SYSTEM FOR EVALUATION OF STAFF MEMBER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

CATEGORY	POINTS
Grades (Completed by Committee Chairman)	
1 st two years @ 25 points	
Last two years @ 50 points	
Total	150
ACT Scores (Completed by Committee Chairman)	50
Academic Achievement/Extra Curricular Activities	100
Community Activities	75
Essay	100
Financial Need / Special Circumstance	100
General Overall Performance	25
Total Available Points	600

JUDGING

- a) Scholarship applications will be evaluated and judged on two levels. The Committee Chair will grade point averages and determine the point total for grades and ACT scores. A panel of seven judges will evaluate the students' academic achievements, extra-curricular and community activity involvement. The panel of judges will also score the essay and determine the overall performance.
- b) In judging the scholarship applications the judges should consider all aspects of the application that may have an impact on each judging category. One would perhaps consider an applicant's part-time and/or after school job record (with private enterprise business) as a possible balancing value for an outstanding student who worked instead of participated in extra-curricular activities. Non-government jobs should only be considered because they are rarely political and a reflect a student's self-determination as compared to say a JTPA or CETA job, which often has political attachments.
- c) The letters of recommendation submitted by each student should be considered in the evaluation of the extra-curricular activities as well as the community activities. Emphasis in evaluation of the letters should be given to the position of the writer, the obvious familiarity (or lack thereof) of the writer with the student themselves, and the overall quality of the recommendation. One needs to separate the good intentions of the writer from the quality and validity of the recommendation.
- d) The general overall performance evaluation is the "gut feeling" of the judge with regard to the excellence of the student. A general review of transcripts and ACT scores should be included in this evaluation.
- e) In scoring each applicant, the judges should consider giving the most qualified student the maximum points available in each category and reduce the score for each succeeding applicant by an appropriate amount. This should be especially considered for the overall performance score with as much as three to five points being given for each step. Please bear in mind that students may receive tie scores for grades and ACT scores so it is important to give some differentiation on the objective section.

SUBMISSION

Completed applications (application (2 pages) and Essay) should be mailed to

**Lori Mendez
Education Investment Foundation
818 S. Flores St.
San Antonio, TX 78204**

**2008 SOUTHWEST NAHRO SCHOLARSHIP
RESIDENT/PARTICIPANT/CHILDREN OF
AGENCY STAFF FAMILIES
APPLICATION FORM**

2008 Graduating Senior _____ Resident/Participant/Client _____
(Status, check all that apply)

Applicant Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Street Address _____ Mailing Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Gender: M ___ F ___

Name of Housing Agency and City: _____ Age _____

Social Security # _____ Graduation Date: _____

Academic Major(s) will pursue, or are pursuing: _____

College or Vocational School you plan to attend: _____

Summarize your academic accomplishments (e.g. scholarships, awards, honor societies):

List some of the community activities in which you have taken part (e.g. church groups, community service organizations, etc.):

**2008 SOUTHWEST NAHRO SCHOLARSHIP
RESIDENT/PARTICIPANT/CHILDREN OF AGENCY STAFF FAMILIES
APPLICATION FORM (Page 2)**

List hobbies and any special interests:

Indicate any jobs which you may have had (full or part-time):

List two personal references (name, addresses, and phone number):

Applications must include the following additional materials:

1. All available and most recent high school transcript (including current grades).
2. ACT scores.
3. Two letters of recommendation from community leaders.
4. An essay (in applicant's handwriting) on why he or she has chosen to pursue the area of study chosen, and what influenced the applicant's choice of that area of study. (500 words or less) TYPED ESSAYS WILL NOT BE JUDGED

Use additional sheets if more room is required.

**2008 SOUTHWEST NAHRO SCHOLARSHIP
RESIDENT/PARTICIPANT HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD
APPLICATION FORM**

Applicant Name: _____ **Phone:** (____) _____

Street Address: _____ **Mailing Address:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Mailing Zip:** _____ **Gender:** M F **Age:** _____

Name of Housing Authority and City: _____

Social Security Number: _____ **Length of residency with Housing Authority:** _____

Marital Status: M ___ D ___ S ___ **# of Children at home/Ages:** _____

Are you currently in college or vocational school? _____ **If yes, at what level** _____

Academic Major(s) will pursue, or are pursuing: _____

College of vocational school you plan to attend, or are attending: _____

If you are not presently in school, please provide information about when you plan to start school, including what steps that you have taken to become eligible, and what other resources you may have available to you:

List some of the community activities in which you have taken part (e.g. church groups, community service organizations, etc):

Total Household Income:

Under \$15,000 _____ Under \$25,000 _____ Under \$35,000 _____ Over \$42,000 _____

Provide information on any special circumstances about yourself or your family:

Indicate any jobs, which you may have had (full or part-time):

1. List two personal references (name, addresses, and phone number):
2. Attach two (2) letters of recommendation from community leaders.
3. Applicant must write (in their own handwriting) an essay of 500 words or less on why he or she has chosen to pursue the area of study chosen, and what influenced the applicant's choice of that area of study. TYPED ESSAYS WILL NOT BE JUDGED.

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 6, 2008

Mail to: Education Investment Foundation, 818 S. Flores St., San Antonio, TX 78204