



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

SCHOLARSHIPS

ONE APPLICATION | ONE DEADLINE:
DECEMBER 1st - FEBRUARY 1ST @ 5PM





COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

- Northern Illinois' largest independent, private provider of grants and scholarships
- Created by donors
- Approximately 89 different scholarships awarding up to \$300,000 this year
- Many different focuses:
 - Athletic
 - Academic
 - Field of Study
 - Financial Need
 - Community Service
 - And more





COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Ciara Stahly

Program Associate

cstahly@cfnil.org

(779) 210-8209



WHY SHOULD MY STUDENTS APPLY?

- Scholarship dollars are worth more
 - \$500 loan with 5.045% interest over 10 years actually costs \$637.20
- 1 in 3 chance of receiving an award
- Can qualify for multiple scholarships at once
 - Each applicant applied for an average of 3 scholarships
- Scholarships go unawarded every year
- They've already done most of the work!



TEXT NOTIFICATIONS

We'll text periodic updates about deadlines, resources, and more throughout the cycle.

(815) 456-4308

To Join:

- Counselors: text "counsel"
- Students: text "scholar"
- Parents: text "parent"



THE PROCESS

1. Register for web portal

See <http://cfnil.org/how-to-register-apply/> for specific instructions

2. Fill out the **applicant profile**
3. Provide contact information for academic verifier and two references
4. Include financial aid data to be considered for need-based scholarships
5. Select the scholarships to apply for based on your eligibility criteria
6. Write an essay (addendum) for each
7. Submit!



THE PROCESS

- Applications reviewed anonymously by committees in March; the CFNIL Board of Trustees approves their recommendations
- Recipients notified by the end of April via letter that they've **received** an award
- Status of all applications available in Web Portal after May 1
- CFNIL's Scholarship Night on June 13, 2019
- Checks sent directly to the school by early July





COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
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CLARIFICATIONS & CHANGES IN 2019



ACADEMIC INFORMATION

- Reporting Grades:
 - Current high school students should submit their **unweighted** grades (on a 4.0 scale) from second semester junior year
 - Academic verifiers should submit **both weighted and unweighted** grades from first semester senior year
 - GED students can now submit their scores
- Only graduating high school seniors will use academic verification; everyone else must provide transcripts
- Students over the age of 23 will only need to provide the name of their high school and their GPA



REFERENCES

- Deadline: **February 19 at 8:00 a.m.**
 - You can work on the forms before the applicant deadline, but wait until after Feb. 1 to submit
- Two kinds of reference forms: Academic Verification and Student Recommendation
 - Removed 1/3 of the assessments in Student Recommendation
 - Don't refer to student by name
- **cfnil.org/counselors-references**
 - updated before Thanksgiving break
 - Walkthrough video
 - Written instructions



REFERENCES

- Requests are sent when student submits their first application
 - You may receive duplicate notification emails if a student submits applications at different times
- **CFNIL can't resend reference requests**
 - students have to do it through their portal
- References don't need a login
 - Link is connected to reference's email address



References

This page lists all the reference requests that have been sent to this email address. Please use the links provided to complete the requested references.

Once you have clicked **Submit** on the reference form, you cannot go back to make changes, so please verify your responses before clicking **Submit**

Thank you!

Name: test

Email Address: slambert@cfnil.org

Status

Applicant	Application	Status
Dan Dineen	Scholarship Applicant Profile	NEW
Dan Dineen	Scholarship Applicant Profile	NEW
James Patterson	Thompson-Wells Scholarship Application	NEW
James Patterson	Richard J. Schnell Scholarship Application	NEW
Sarah Lambert	Scholarship Applicant Profile	NEW
Sarah Lambert	Scholarship Applicant Profile	NEW
Sarah Lambert	Scholarship Applicant Profile	COMPLETED
Sarah Lambert	Scholarship Applicant Profile	COMPLETED
Sarah Lambert	Scholarship Applicant Profile	COMPLETED



OTHER APPLICATION CHANGES

- Activities & Extracurriculars
 - Students will be asked to describe one activity in more detail
 - Looking for increasing levels of responsibility, overcoming challenges, and commitment
 - Should include things like jobs and taking care of family members in addition to clubs and sports
- Supplemental documents (like DD-214 form for VVA) moved to addendum pages so students can move on to essays without them
- Application open to all students regardless of citizenship status



WEB PORTAL

Welcome **Sarah** of Community
Foundation of Northern Illinois

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANT

FIND SCHOLARSHIPS

MY SAVED APPLICATIONS

REFERENCES

MY AWARDS

GRANT APPLICANT

AVAILABLE GRANTS

MY SAVED APPLICATIONS

MY AWARDS

MY PROFILE

LOG OUT

Welcome Scholarship Applicant

Use the Scholarship Applicant menu to get started.

[Saved Applications](#)

Name	Date	Status
Scholarship Application 2017		EXPIRED
Scholarship Application 2017		EXPIRED
Scholarship Application 2017		EXPIRED
Scholarship Application 2017		EXPIRED

[Available Applications](#)

[Scholarship Applicant Profile](#)

- Main application called "Scholarship Applicant Profile" so it's clear that there are two stages in the application
- Click links under "Saved Applications" to access applications that have already been started



AWARD NIGHTS

- All educators, recipients, donors, and volunteers are invited to Scholarship Night on June 13, 2019
- If donors want to attend a high school's award night, we'll put them in contact with the school, but generally assume that CFNIL will not have a representative in attendance
 - If you want a donor representative to attend your award night, let CFNIL know
- Recipients must return Acceptance Form with an RSVP and a thank you note to the donor before the scholarship check will be sent



NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

Sorenson Memorial Scholarships

- 4 year renewable scholarships of at least \$3,000/year
- Residence in Boone/Winnebago County
- 3.0 GPA
- Community Service
- Financial Need
- Majors: Architecture, Engineering, Music, Theater

Walter K. Raczynski Family Scholarship

- 4 year renewable scholarship of at least \$2,000/year
- Residence in Boone/Winnebago County
- 3.0 GPA
- Financial Need
- Majoring in Medical Science



NOTABLE SCHOLARSHIPS

Larry & Betty McGee Scholarship

- For current college freshmen majoring in engineering/technology
- 3 year renewable award of at least \$5,000
- Residence in Winnebago County; preference for students attending colleges in Illinois or military academies
- EFC < 10000

Students with Disabilities Scholarship

- Senior at public high school in Boone/Winnebago
- Have a physical disability and be eligible for special education services
- Financial need considered



NOTABLE SCHOLARSHIPS

Randall A. Blank Memorial Scholarship

- High school in Winnebago County
- Majoring in Police Science or related field
- Now open to current high school seniors

Dr. Constance L. Goode Memorial Scholarship

- African-American students from RPS205
- Intent to teach
- 2.5 GPA
- Community service

Galaway Library & Information Science Scholarship

- Residence in Boone, Ogle, Stephenson, Winnebago
- Majoring in library/information science at 4-year school
- Intend to be a public or school librarian



COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FAIR 2018



**Tuesday,
December 4, 2018
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

Mendelssohn Hall
At Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center

406 N. Main Street
(At Park St.) In Rockford

SEMINAR OFFERED AT 5:15 AND 6:15 P.M.

The Financial Aid Process, Applying for FREE Application for Federal Student Aid, Financial Aid Programs of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and Applying for Rock Valley College Foundation Scholarships.

Presented by the Rock Valley College Financial Aid Office and Illinois Student Assistance Commission

SEMINAR OFFERED AT 5:15 AND 6:15 P.M.

Community Foundation scholarship opportunities, including how to apply, and Rockford Public Library's local scholarship database and scholarship resources.

Presented by the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois and Rockford Public Library



CONTACT INFORMATION

Sarah Lambert

Community
Investment Director

slambert@cfnil.org

(779) 210-8207

Ciara Stahly

Program Associate

cstahly@cfnil.org

(779) 210-8209

cfnil.org/scholarships

