

Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio 2008 Scholarship Program Guidelines

Who is eligible?

Applicant must be a high school graduate or a senior expected to graduate the year of application. Individuals with Down syndrome and siblings (brother or sister, including half brother/sister and step brother/sister) of a person with Down syndrome (living or deceased) will be considered eligible with other relatives considered at the discretion of the DSACO scholarship committee.

Applicant must be accepted to an accredited technical school, university or college in pursuit of an associate, bachelor or master's degree in one of the following areas of study- Nursing, Education, Social Work, Medicine, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech and Language Pathology; other areas of study will be considered at the discretion of the DSACO scholarship committee. This scholarship program is not specific to a particular year in school, though an individual is eligible for no more than two (2) scholarships.

When are applications due?

Applications will be accepted beginning February 1st and must be postmarked no later than March 31st. Applications received before or after this timeframe will not be considered.

What will the scholarship application package consist of?

- Two (2) letters of reference—these references are intended to inform the committee of the applicant's relationship to the person with Down syndrome and the impact that relationship has had on the applicant.
- A completed application form.
- A one page typed essay that addresses the specified topic as stated on the application form. The "specified topic" will change each year and will be determined by the review committee prior to distribution of the scholarship application package.

What can the scholarship money be used for?

The scholarship money is to be used to pay for incurred education expense, such as coursework tuition, material/equipment purchased for academic needs, i.e. PC, books, etc. The award can also be applied to living expenses, such as dorm, rent, food, etc.

How will applications be evaluated?

A committee consisting of DSACO members, Board members and Board professionals will review each application package and rate each application. A rating will be given by each reviewer and awards will be given based upon the highest ratings. A rating standard will be developed by the committee prior to screening of all applications.

How will the scholarship account be funded?

- The DSACO Governing Board will designate a portion of the general operating funds (based on a percentage of the annual budget) on an annual basis to this scholarship account.
- Specific and targeted donations will be accepted from external individuals and/or organizations to help fund this program.
- The names of the scholarships will be based upon the funding source and will be co-branded with DSACO. For example, if the Rotary Club provides \$2500, this is enough money to provide one (1) \$2000 scholarship and one (1) \$500 scholarship. Each of these scholarships would be called “DSACO/Rotary Club Scholarship”.
- Undistributed funds will be retained in the name of the donor until the remaining amount falls below \$500 for a period of more than two (2) years at which time those funds would be absorbed into the general scholarship fund.

When will the scholarships be awarded?

- Scholarships will be awarded at the annual Spring general membership meeting.
* Receipt of actual scholarship funds is reliant upon proof of enrollment.
- A special ceremony will be conducted to recognize recipient(s).

How many scholarships will be awarded?

- The number of scholarships to be awarded will be dependent upon the amount of money that is available for distribution. The funds will be based on two sources: internal assigned through the budget, and external grants or donations specifically targeted for scholarships.
- A maximum of ten (10) scholarships will be awarded per year.

How much will each scholarship be worth?

- Each scholarship will be a maximum of \$2000.
- Each scholarship will be a minimum of \$1000.