

**Commitment to Excellence Scholarship Program (CESP) Application**

Office of Resident Services • 1170 12<sup>th</sup> Street NW • Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 914-6334

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Student's Name ( <i>Last, First, Middle Initial</i> )			Age	Gender (please circle) Male      Female		
Social Security Number		Birth Date		Ethnicity	Veteran? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	
Permanent Address						
City	State	Zip Code	Name of DCHA Property		HCVP: <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	FSS: <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N
Home Telephone Number		Cell Number			Work Number	
E-Mail Address				DCHA notifications may be sent via email. Do you check this email frequently? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N		
Name of Parent/Guardian (Head of Household)				If you are unable to be reached, should we contact the Head of Household? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N		

**EDUCATION: (CHECK ONE)**  High School Senior     GED (Year Completed     )     Returning College Student

Name of High School/College	City/State	Zip Code
School/College Counselor's/Advisor's Name	Counselor's/Advisor's Phone Number	Cumulative GPA

**AWARDS, HONORS, AND STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICE & VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

Please list awards, honors and school/community activities in which you have participated in the past five (5) years. Attach an additional sheet, if necessary.

**PLEASE LIST THE UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE OR TRADE SCHOOL THAT YOU WILL BE ATTENDING IN THE FALL:**

Name of College/University/Trade School you will attend.				<input type="checkbox"/> If returning student, check if this is <u>NOT</u> the same school attended last term	
<input type="checkbox"/> Freshman <input type="checkbox"/> Sophomore <input type="checkbox"/> Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Senior <b>Senior Graduating</b> <input type="checkbox"/> December 2020 <input type="checkbox"/> Spring 2021 <input type="checkbox"/> Other					
Intended Major/Minor:					
Attending FT or PT	Full Time	Part Time	Other (Explain)		Month/Year You Expect to Graduate?

A copy of the DCHA Commitment to Excellence Scholarship Program (CESP) Application Package can also be downloaded at

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### INSTRUCTIONS FOR TRANSCRIPT • ESSAY • LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

❑ Official **TRANSCRIPT** from current or last school attended. *Only originals or certified copies are acceptable.* Certified means it must have an original school seal or original signature of a representative of the Academic Registrar's Office/Bursar/Enrollment Office. Certification from other staff members, such as faculty or college staff members, is not acceptable. Transcripts and enrollment certifications are not acceptable via email or electronic transmission services unless sent directly to the Office of Resident Services (Attn: [orsprograms@dchousing.org](mailto:orsprograms@dchousing.org)) from the school Registrar/Bursar/Enrollment Office; and it will not be honored until it is verified to be an official school document by the college/university/trade/technical school. Electronic documents mailed/forwarded by the student and/or "opened" by the student will not be accepted. **GED Applicants: Please include a copy of GED certificate.**

❑ Five hundred (500) word **ESSAY** on one of the three topics below (typed using a 12 pt. Times New Roman font/double-spaced). As you develop your essay, think about the Scholarship Review Committee members who will read your statements. What do you want them to understand about you? While your essay is only one of the factors considered when making the scholarship decision, it helps provide context for the review of your application. The essay will be judged on content, creativity, writing ability and organization, grammar and punctuation. **Points will be deducted for not complying with the font, spacing, word-size instructions and self-plagiarism, which is submitting an essay from a previous year's application (-20 points):**

#### Essay Topics

- 1) Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the things you have done to overcome the challenge. How has overcoming or dealing with the challenge shaped your life dreams and aspirations? *Things to consider:*
  - The challenge can be something personal or something you faced in your community, school, church or other place
  - What did you learn from the experience...positive or painful lessons?
  - Did you have support from someone to overcome the challenge or did you face it alone?
  - How has the challenge impacted your decision to major in a particular course of study?
- 2) Describe a single event that you believe helped reshape the course of human history. *Things to consider:*
  - This is entirely your opinion there is no right or wrong answer.
  - An event can be an occurrence (a war) or the actions that prevented the occurrence (peace talks/negotiations).
  - No academic topic is too controversial (history, religion, politics, science, etc.).
- 3) If given the unlimited authority to do so, what single cause would you champion? You are now in a position to bring international attention to something that you believe is vitally important. What actions do you take?  
*Things to consider:*
  - Who would you ask to help you and what would you ask them to do?
  - How would you influence people to get support for your mission?
  - What would you consider success?

❑ **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION (3)**—Letter should include writer's name, title, organization, mailing address, email address, phone numbers. Examples of acceptable sources for the three (3) letters of recommendation include: school faculty members, school counselors or professors, work supervisors, volunteer organization supervisors, members of clergy, your community Resident Council, or elected government officials. One letter may be from a member of the community who can attest to your character, community service experience, and/or who can speak about your involvement in special projects and activities that demonstrate your skills, abilities and character.

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## PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND SIGN WHERE INDICATED BELOW

I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and complied with all instructions to submit my application for the 2021 Commitment to Excellence Scholarship Program ---including the submission of all documents requested: application, transcript, essay, and three (3) letters of recommendation.

I understand that all documents submitted, including transcript, essay, and recommendations become the property of the Commitment to Excellence Scholarship Program and will not be returned to me.

I understand the decisions of the Scholarship Review Committee are final. I further understand that, as a part of the review process the applicant may be contacted by the Scholarship Review Committee for a personal interview; and that if reviewers have any questions regarding the application or materials submitted, the applicant may be contacted.

I acknowledge that the documents checked below are enclosed with my application (please check all that apply):

By my signature below, I agree to submission of my complete Application for consideration in the 2021 COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. The documents checked (✓) below are enclosed:

Y  N Scholarship Application  
*If not included, please explain*

Y  N OFFICIAL Transcript  
*If not included, please explain*

Y  N Typed Essay (Typed, Double-Spaced, 12pt Times Roman)  
*If not included, please explain*

Y  N Letters of Recommendation (Three Letters)  
*If not included, please explain*

DO NOT FORGET TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS PAGE WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

**Points Will be Deducted For:**

1 Point Not Returning this Page 3 with Application.

1 Point Not completing the CHECKLIST at the right.

1 Point No SIGNATURE/DATE on Signed line below.

8-10 Points Not Following ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS.

**Application, Transcript, Essay and Recommendations Due by Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA**

**Maximum Eligible Points:**

- **GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) – Up to 30 points**
- **ESSAY --- Up to 20 points**  
*(Content =5pts, Grammar=5pts, Organization=5pts, and Originality=5pts)*
- **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION – Up to 3 points**
- **BONUS POINTS – Up to 3 points**  
*(Evidence of Community Service and Volunteer Activities)*

**Commitment To Excellence Scholarship Program (CESP)**

**2021 Application Instructions, Questions and Answers**

Completed Applications Must Be Received In The Office Of Resident Services No Later Than **MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2020.**

**Who is ELIGIBLE to apply?**

Applicant must be a **DCHA customer**: public housing resident or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant.

An applicant must have:

- Proof of being accepted for admission or currently enrolled in an accredited two or four-year college or university; or an accredited trade or technical school.
- GPA of at least 2.0 or GED score of at least 225.
- Applicant must reside on a DC Housing Authority (DCHA) property or have a Housing Choice Voucher issued by DCHA. Residency will be verified by ORS staff.

**What is the AMOUNT of the CESP Scholarship Award(s)?**

Scholarship awards are to be used for tuition, books, equipment or other related school expenses.

There is an approximate amount of the CESP scholarships that will be awarded to recipients.

Awards will be based on an applicant's GPA and total application points as scored by the panel of reviewers.

**How will the SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS receive payment?**

Each winner's award payment will be made payable *to the college, university, trade or technical school* upon receipt of written verification (i.e. Letter of Acceptance, Enrollment Certification Form) that student is accepted and enrolled for the Fall 2021 semester. The payment will be mailed directly to the appropriate department at the *college, university, trade or technical school*.

**How will the Scholarship Winners be SELECTED?**

The 2021 CESP Scholarship Review Committee will be comprised of anonymous reviewers who're representatives from a Commercial, Governmental, Community and/or Service Organization and representatives from DCHA departments not directly related to the Office of Resident Services (ORS). Upon completion of the review process, the applicants with the highest scores will be selected to receive a scholarship award.

**Is there a CHECKLIST and INSTRUCTIONS for all items to be included with the Application?**

Yes. See Scholarship Application page two (2) and page three (3) for instructions regarding the Transcript, Essay and Letters of Recommendation that are to be submitted with the Application. A copy of the CESP Application can also be downloaded at (Click on RESIDENT SERVICES/General Info/Services).

**Will applicants receive UPDATES and ANNOUNCEMENTS during the review process?**

Yes. Updates, questions, and request for additional information will be communicated to you primarily via email or phone. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide a working email, telephone numbers and to check their email and/or voicemail regularly for updates and information.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

There will be a **mandatory** award ceremony for selected applicants. **The award ceremony will be on Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.** All applicants should keep this date in mind as they apply for the scholarship.

**COMMUNITY VISION, INC. SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**  
c/o DCHA - Office of Resident Services  
1170 12<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W • Washington, DC 20005

Completed Applications Must Be Received In The Office Of Resident Services No Later Than **MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021** at 5:00PM in person and 11: 59PM via email or fax.

For more information, please contact the DCHA Office of Resident Services at (202) 914-6334 or [orsprograms@dchousing.org](mailto:orsprograms@dchousing.org).