

Deadline: Monday, August 3, 2015

**Community Vision, Inc.**

1133 North Capitol Street, N.E. - Suite 147  
Washington DC, 20002  
Phone: 202-535-1517  
Fax: 202-535-2345

July 8, 2015

Dear Scholarship Applicant:

The “*Commitment to Excellence*” Scholarship Program (CESP) provides financial assistance in the form of scholarships to public housing residents enrolled as a full-time student in college or an accredited training school beyond high school. This year a minimum of \$25,000 in financial assistance will be awarded to public housing residents or Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) participants who demonstrate a financial need and academic leadership. Students who will begin or continue academic/vocational programs this fall are eligible to apply for a scholarship.

Eligible applicants may obtain a scholarship application packet from the Office of Resident Services, HCVP, Resident Council office or Housing Manager’s office at each DCHA property. Applications will also be available on DCHA’s website at [www.dchousing.org](http://www.dchousing.org). Applicants must submit completed applications and signed recommendation letters to the Office of Resident Services (ORS) on or before **August 3, 2015**. Until that time, staff in the Office of Resident Services will be available to answer questions about the application packet and the program. You can reach the ORS staff at (202) 535-1517 or [orsprograms@dchousing.org](mailto:orsprograms@dchousing.org).

The importance of obtaining a college degree or trade/technical training cannot be overstated. We are proud of all our residents who have accepted the challenge to further their education. We wish them all the very best of luck!



Adrienne Todman  
Executive Director  
District of Columbia Housing Authority



Sherrill Hampton  
President  
Community Vision, Inc.

## Commitment To Excellence Scholarship Program

# 2015 Application Questions, Answers and Instructions

Completed Applications Must Be Received In The Office Of Resident Services No Later Than **Monday, August 3, 2015.**

### Who is ELIGIBLE to apply?

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

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
- Resident must reside on a DC Housing Authority (DCHA) property or have a Housing Choice Voucher Residency will be verified by a review of the DCHA lease.

### 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.

**\$25,000** is the total amount of the DCHA CESP scholarships that will be awarded as follows:

- Three (3) **\$5,000 scholarships** will be awarded to selected applicants with a GPA of 3.5 or better
- Ten (10) **\$1,000 scholarships** will be awarded to selected applicants with a GPA of 2.0 or better

### 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 2015 session. 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 2015 CESP Scholarship Review Committee will be comprised of eight anonymous reviewers: four representatives from a Commercial, Community and/or Service Organization and four representatives from DCHA departments not directly related to the Office of Resident Services. Upon completion of the review process, the thirteen (13) applicants with the highest scores will be selected to receive a scholarship award: top three (3) highest scores will each receive a \$5,000 scholarship award and next ten highest scores will each receive a \$1,000 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 [www.housing.org](http://www.housing.org) (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 your email and/or voicemail regularly for updates and information.

## COMMUNITY VISION, INCORPORATED SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE Office of Resident Services

1133 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 325 • Washington, DC 20002

Completed Applications Must Be Received In The Office Of Resident Services **No Later Than Monday, August 3, 2015.**

For more information, please contact the DCHA Office of Resident Services at (202) 535-1517 or [orsprograms@dchousing.org](mailto:orsprograms@dchousing.org).

**Commitment to Excellence Scholarship Program Application**

Office of Resident Services • 1133 North Capitol Street, N.E., • Washington, D.C. 20002 (202) 535-1517

**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      Ward
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 HOH? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	

**EDUCATION (CHECK ONE)**    High School Senior    GED Year \_\_\_\_\_    Currently attending college

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

**AWARDS, HONORS, AND 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 SELECT (v) THE BOX INDICATING THE SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING:**

<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000.00 Scholarship Award (Must have a GPA of 2.0 or above to be eligible)
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000.00 Scholarship Award (Must have a GPA of 3.5 or above to be eligible)

**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"/> Freshman	<input type="checkbox"/> Sophomore	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Graduating December 2015	<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 Application Package can also be downloaded at [www.dchousing.org](http://www.dchousing.org).

## Commitment to Excellence Scholarship Program Application

Office of Resident Services • 1133 North Capitol Street, N.E., • Washington, D.C. 20002 (202) 535-1517

### 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 we consider 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 an instance where being a young person growing up in Washington, DC has influenced and shaped your dreams and aspirations. You may include:
  - Positive/negative experiences
  - Number of moves to different neighborhoods you have experienced
  - How it has impacted your decision to major in a particular course of study
  - How you have done volunteer or community service to help your community
- 2) Describe a character in fiction, a historical figure, or a creative work (as in art, sports, religion, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you, and give examples of how the character has/is an influence on you. Has the character impacted your personality, talents, or goals you want to accomplish?
- 3) Tell us why you are choosing (or chose) to further your education—why is education in your chosen field of study important to you and how will achieving the degree or certification impact your future? What will you leave behind and what will you gain? What will you be doing in ten years?

☐ **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.

# Commitment to Excellence Scholarship Program Application

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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 2015 Commitment to Excellence Scholarship Program ---including the submission of all documents requested: application, transcript, essay, and three 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 2015 COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. The documents checked (✓) below are enclosed:

**DO NOT FORGET TO CHECK “Y or N” REGARDING DOCUMENTS INCLUDED WITH YOUR APPLICATION.**

**Points Will be Deducted For:**

1 Point This page (PAGE 3) Not Returned 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.

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

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

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

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

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**Application, Transcript, Essay and Recommendations Due by Monday, 8/3/2015.**

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

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

A copy of the DCHA Commitment to Excellence Scholarship Program Application Package can also be downloaded at [www.dchousing.org](http://www.dchousing.org).