



HOWARD COUNTY FOUNDATION FOR BLACK EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

2020 SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

The HCFBECA awards scholarships to African-American graduating high school seniors who reside in Howard County. The applicant for this award is required to meet the criteria stated below. Failure to meet these criteria may result in the rejection of the application or denial of this award. Applicant shall submit a recent photograph with the application.

1. BASIC CRITERIA

- A. Residency: Applicant shall have been a Howard County resident for at least 15 months and shall have resided in the county a minimum of one year immediately prior to the date of the scholarship award.
- B. Age/Race: Applicant shall be African-American and shall not have reached the age of twenty (20) years on the date of the award.
- C. Scholastic Record: Applicant shall have a minimum grade point average of 2.50 (high school cumulative).
- D. Citizenship: Applicant shall be U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident. (Residency as defined by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service).
- E. Recommendation: Applicant shall furnish two (2) letters of recommendation and one of which shall be written by a Howard County resident. Letters shall be written by persons not related to the applicant.
- F. Acceptance for Further Study: Applicant shall be eligible to enroll as full-time in an accredited post-secondary school. (A full-time student normally enrolls for 12 credit hours in an institution using the semester, trimester or quarter system). An accredited post-secondary school provides a degree or certificate in a recognized occupation. Evidence of acceptance and the student enrollment status (or other requested documentation) shall be presented to the Scholarship Committee by **July 31, 2020** or earlier upon demand.
- G. Non-Traditional Study: The eligibility of scholarship applicants enrolling in a non-traditional program shall be determined on a case by case basis requiring the unanimous vote of the Scholarship Committee.
- H. Period of Consideration: Applicant shall be eligible for this award in the academic year of graduation from secondary school.

2. **PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

Applicants who have met the “Basic Criteria shall also meet one of the following in this section.

- A. Talent and Abilities: Applicant must have demonstrated a special talent or ability in academics, athletics, vocational arts, work experience, fine arts or technical sciences.

OR

- B. Community Service: Applicant shall have exhibited leadership qualities, performed community service and must have the potential for continued community service. Participation in any of the following organizations is acceptable for qualification under this section: Boy or Girl Scouts of America, 4-H Clubs, Department of Recreation and Parks activities, Church organizations, extracurricular school activities, and community services organizations.

3. **ESSAYS**

Applicant will be required to submit an essay of 250-300 typed words with the application. The essay will address one of the topics below. Please select one of the following:

- A. In the book/movie, “The Hate You Give” by Angie Thomas, the main character experiences “code switching.” Define code switching in your own words. Have you experienced it? Talk about your experience.
- B. What are your concerns regarding global climate change? Discuss the local and global implications you’ve seen or experienced secondary to it.
- C. Nearly 85% of black bachelor’s degree recipients carry student debt compared with 69% of white bachelor’s degree recipients. What are you doing to prepare for or avoid the implications of these statistics?

INTERVIEW

Applicants must successfully participate in a group interview before the Scholarship Committee. In addition to a review of the applicant's credentials, the applicant will be evaluated on the basis of personal appearance, discussion of the essay and attitude or demeanor. The items stated above (demeanor, dress and essay) will have a direct effect on the successful completion of the interview. A unanimous vote of the committee is required to approve an applicant.

4. FINAL SELECTION

Applicants who have been certified under 1, 2, 3, and 4 above shall have their names placed in a lottery. Applicants will be notified of the Scholarship Committee's decision in writing. All decisions are final. Scholarship winners shall be drawn until the scholarship fund is exhausted for the academic year. At least (4) alternatives will be selected in the event first choices are unable to accept scholarships.

5. INELIGIBILITY

- A. Students who have received or will receive a full scholarship for the 2020-2021

Academic years shall not be eligible for the HCFBECA award. Full scholarship awards include full four year co-op scholarships or fellowships funded by state, local or federal governments, scholarships to military academies, full athletic scholarships, etc. College work-study programs and student loan programs shall not be considered for the purpose of defining full scholarships. In unusual circumstances, the final determinations will be made on a case by case basis by the Scholarship committee. Decisions will require the unanimous vote of the committee.

- B. 1. Resident Students: A full scholarship shall be defined as any combination of grant or scholarship funds which equals or exceed tuition, required fees, and room and board.

2. Commuting Students: A full scholarship shall be defined as any combination of grant or scholarship funds which equals or exceed tuition and required fees and room and board

- C. Applicants must be present at the drawing in order to receive these awards. If an applicant is not able to be present for the scholarship lottery, a parent or other adult representative must be present to receive the award. The applicant must also notify the Scholarship Committee

Chairperson at least two days in advance of the awards ceremony.
Failure to comply with this requirement will result in forfeiture of the awards. Extenuating circumstances may be considered. The scholarship awards program will be held on Sunday, **May 17, 2020.**

SC Form 1 (Rev.01/16/2020)