GFWC Women’s Club of South County Scholarship
2021

Background and Purpose

The General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC) Women’s Club of South County, founded in 1962, provides a forum for women to discuss and address issues of concern to the community. In 1997, the Club established a Scholarship Fund to support continuing education among women with limited financial and educational opportunities. In addition to the Club’s local fundraising efforts each year to support the Scholarship Program, The Rhode Island Foundation also manages a permanent Scholarship Endowment Fund established by the Club to provide a contribution to the total amount of scholarship funds distributed annually. This ensures perpetual support of the idea that the GFWC Club is committed to helping Washington County women achieve their educational and career goals.

All scholarships awarded by the GFWC Women’s Club of South County are for the direct support of tuition for accredited programs or colleges linked to the achievement of the recipient’s educational goals. Preference is given to highly motivated women with reduced financial resources with or without dependents who need further education or training to become more self-supporting. The scholarship awards are distributed directly to the educational institution for tuition costs only.

Scholarships Awarded

- Scholarship amounts may vary from year to year
- Multiple recipient awards may be given annually
- Scholarships are primarily one time awards per recipient

Eligibility Criteria

To qualify as an applicant, all of the following criteria must be met:
1. Be a woman of at least age 19 by date of application, with a high school diploma or GED.
2. Be a resident of Washington County (Charlestown, Exeter, Hopkinton, Narragansett, New Shoreham/Block Island, North Kingstown, Richmond, South Kingstown and Westerly).
3. Exhibit financial need by providing documentation or a verified statement of need from a community agency or educational institution and be able to provide financial and/or other documentation as requested.
4. Be enrolled, or accepted, in an accredited educational program and working toward a first degree (associate or bachelors) or in a career/vocational training or certificate program.
5. Has demonstrated the motivation to achieve educational and career goals.
6. Preference will be given to the applicant who is the primary support for herself or herself and dependents. Dependents may include children, spouse, partner, siblings and/or parents.

Submittal Process

Applications may be emailed or sent by U.S. mail to the Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee for processing, review and assessment by the Scholarship Committee of the GFWC Women’s Club of South County. The application timeline and due dates are provided on the application.

Notice of Non Discrimination Policy: The GFWC Women’s Club of South County Scholarship does not discriminate in its selection policy, programs, or activities on the basis of race, color, creed, disability, national/ethnic origin, age, religion, sexual orientation, or disabled veteran/Vietnam era veteran status. Privacy Policy: The information provided in this application will be used exclusively by the Scholarship Committee for the purpose of evaluating a candidate’s qualifications and financial need for the Scholarship.
GFWC Women’s Club of South County
2021 Scholarship Application

Application Deadline: April 1, 2021

Section 1. Basic Information

Name (first, middle initial, last): ____________________________________________________________

Address (number, street, city, state, zip code): ________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

Date of birth: ________________ Marital Status: ________________________________________________

Phone Number: (H) ______________________________ (C) _______________________________________

Email Address: ___________________________________________________________________________

How do you prefer to be contacted (by phone or email)? _________________________________________

Highest level of education achieved & date completed: ___________________________________________

Number of dependents you support (NOT including yourself): _____________________________

How are they related to you (children, spouse, partner, parents, etc.)? ___________________________

Ages (if they are children): __________________________________________________________________

Do you know or are you related to any member of the GFWC South County Women’s Club of South County? If yes, please share who and your relationship to them. _____________________________

Section 2. What are your education and career goals?

A. Please check the item or items that best describes your situation.

_____ To further my education  _____ Seek additional skills to re-enter workforce  _____ Seek additional skills to improve job status  _____ Seek to further certification/degree already started  _____ Other

________________________________________________________________________________________

B. What is the name of the school or vocational training program you are attending or where you have been accepted?

________________________________________________________________________________________
C. What will be your area of study? (Example: Physical Therapy Assistant, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Early Education Certificate, Information Technology/IT Support, or various Associates and Bachelor degrees)

_________________________________________________________________________________

D. What is the tuition cost for this course of studies (indicate academic year, semester or program)? $___________

________ Academic year    _______Semester    ________Program

E. Amount requested from the GFWC Women’s Club of South County    $___________
   (The scholarship awards are distributed directly to the educational institution for tuition costs only.)

F. Have you applied for or have you received other scholarships for your current program of study?
   (Check one)    _______Yes    _______No

   If yes, name(s) of scholarship, award amount, and date received. (This will not affect your eligibility.)

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

G. When do you expect to complete your studies? (Month and Year) ______________

H. Are you currently working and do you plan to continue working while you are getting your education?
   (Check one)    _______Yes    _______No

   If yes, how many hours a week? ______________

I. Please list your most recent work experience and/or community volunteer activities (organization, position, & dates).

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

J. How did you learn about this scholarship opportunity? _______________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

Section 3. Tell Us More about Yourself / Personal Statement

The GFWC Scholarship Award is intended to help women move forward with their careers and education who have financial and/or personal challenges. The program seeks to assist women who are currently enrolled in or who have been accepted to a school or a certificate program.

We want to know more about you. What are your hopes and dreams and your plan to building a better life for yourself and your dependent/s? What obstacles or setbacks have you faced? What are you doing or planning to do to become self-supporting?

In 250 words or less tell us about the challenges you’ve faced and how you think this award can help you. (Please use a separate piece of paper and type your response.)
Section 4. Letter of Recommendation

Please include one or two letter(s) of recommendation from a non-family member(s) who knows you and can speak on your behalf about your situation. For example, the reference(s) can be from a teacher, coach, clergy, counselor, social service professional or employer. Ask this reference to include their name, contact information, phone number, a statement of how they know you and to sign their recommendation.

Section 5. Financial Information

Please submit a Student Aid Report (SAR) or a verified statement of need from a community agency or educational institution.

You may be asked to provide additional financial information to satisfy this requirement.

Section 6. Documentation Checklist

There are other pertinent documents that MUST be submitted

1. Required: Letter of recommendation.

2. Required: Copy of your HS Diploma or GED or other documentation indicating last educational or vocational degree or certificate.


4. If applicable: You may be asked to provide a copy of last year’s tax return(s). If you do not file U.S. taxes, please submit other government documentation such as SNAP, SAMHSA, LIHEAP, SSI disability, etc. to validate your income.

5. If applicable. Copy of your financial aid award letter from the college or institute of higher education you will be attending.

6. If applicable. Copy of your final Student Aid Report (SAR). Note: This is not the application you submitted, but the returned report from the U.S. Dept. of Education.

7. If applicable. Verified statement of need.

Certification and Signature

I certify that the information in this application is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I agree to provide documentation for information on this application if asked by the GFWC Women’s Club of South County. I realize that failure to comply with all application requirements and/or request for additional information may disqualify me from receiving a scholarship. If granted a scholarship,

Yes  No

Applicant’s Signature  Date
I give permission for the GFWC Women’s Club of South County to use my photograph and/or selected quotes for publicity purposes. (Check one) __________ YES __________ NO

Application Deadline: April 1, 2021

Email or send via U.S. mail the completed and signed Scholarship Application and supporting documentation in one envelope to:

Elayne Casey, Chairperson
GFWC Women’s Club of South County
Scholarship Committee
PO Box 5684
Wakefield, RI 02880

If you wish to email your application or have questions regarding your application, email elayne111@verizon.net

Please retain the cover page and return only the application.

Applicants will be notified by May 18, 2021.

Thank you for your interest in the GFWC Women’s Club of South County Scholarship.