

HMONG COMMUNITY HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND



A component fund of the

BACKGROUND:

In 2007, the Hmong American Center, previously known as the Wausau Area Hmong Mutual Association, established the Hmong Community Higher Education Scholarship to reward academic excellence among Hmong students, and to encourage Hmong professionals graduating from college to return to the central Wisconsin area. In 2016, those funds were transferred to the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin and the *Hmong Community Higher Education Scholarship Fund* was established.

PURPOSE OF THE FUND:

Education is the key to knowledge and success. The purpose of the *Hmong Community Higher Education Scholarship Fund* is to award scholarships to outstanding graduating high school seniors and current college students of Hmong descent who are pursuing a college degree in any field of study. A major purpose of this scholarship is to encourage students to return to our area to reside and to step into professional and leadership roles within the community in ways that positively impact the Hmong community as well as the community at large.

AWARDS:

Four scholarships in the amount of \$500 will be awarded. Two will be awarded to high school graduating seniors and two to current college students (traditional or non-traditional), pursuing an undergraduate degree in an approved program of study at an accredited college or university.

APPLICATIONS PROCESS AND DEADLINE:

Students are encouraged to apply online by visiting the Community Foundation's website at www.cfncw.org. Click the "Apply Now" / Grants Scholarships button on the top menu bar; then go to the left-side menu and click on "Scholarships." You can then click on the "Apply Online" button anywhere you see it on the page to reach the online application portal and begin the registration and application process. If this is your first visit to the site, you will need to "Create an Account." If this is a return visit, enter your email address and password. You will choose the *Hmong Community Higher Education Scholarship* from the menu of available scholarship applications.

Completed applications must be submitted by **March 1** to be considered by the Selection Committee. Information will be held in the confidence of the Selection Committee, the Community Foundation's board of directors, and its staff.

YOUR APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:

- Transcript of grades
- List of extracurricular activities and community service (downloadable form online)
- Two reference letters (not from a family member)

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION:

A Selection Committee designated by the Community Foundation will review the applications and choose the scholarship recipient. Candidates for this scholarship must meet the following criteria:

- Resident of Marathon, Lincoln, or Shawano Counties (Wisconsin);
- U.S. citizen or a permanent resident (with a green card);
- Hmong descent;
- Accepted as a full-time college student in the fall;
- Graduating high school senior with a GPA of 3.2 or higher (or equivalent)
(OR) Current undergraduate student with a GPA of 2.8 or higher (or equivalent);
- Demonstrate concern and commitment to improving the Hmong community

Students are only allowed to receive this award once.

The Selection Committee, monitored by the Community Foundation, will include representation of the Hmong American Center and the community at large. Members of the immediate families of any of the Selection Committee members shall be eligible to apply with the provision that the related member not serve on the committee during the year in which the application is considered.

ANNOUNCEMENT AND PAYMENT:

Scholarship recipients are expected to attend the Dream Big scholarship fundraising event in April. The recipient/s will be announced at that event. High school seniors may also be recognized at their high school senior awards ceremony.

All recipients will receive a congratulatory letter from the Community Foundation after the awards ceremony instructing them on how to initiate their scholarship payment. Scholarship funds will be paid by the Community Foundation directly to the school the student will be attending in the fall. The student must provide proof of registration to the Community Foundation office for payment to be initiated.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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