

# **The Barbara Wand James Homeless Student Support Scholarship Application Instructions and Form**

The Barbara Wand James Homeless Student Support Scholarship celebrates the 24 years that Ms. James served as Director of the Texas Homeless Education Office. Though her active service was completed in 2015, her legacy lives on in this scholarship fund that will support homeless students to attend and succeed in higher education endeavors.

The intent of this scholarship is to build on the strength and resilience of students who have experienced homelessness and are determined to continue their education beyond high school. The scholarship is open to Texas homeless students who have been accepted into higher education institutions.

This year, 2018, is the second year that scholarships will be awarded to students who best meet the criteria set forth in the application. The Barbara Wand James Homeless Student Support Scholarship will award up to four scholarships each of \$1,000 for the 2018-2019 school year. The deadline for submitting an application is 5:00 p.m. on June 1, 2018. In addition to a personal notification, there will be a public ceremony to recognize the recipient at the Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness co-sponsored by the Texas Homeless Network and the Texas Homeless Education Office. The 2018 conference will take place in Austin on September 26-28, 2018. Awardees will be asked to provide a brief acceptance video that will be displayed during the conference.

## **Eligibility**

In order to be eligible, applicants must:

1. Be a senior in or a graduate of a Texas public high school (including charter schools) and have at least a 2.5 GPA.
2. Be accepted into a 2-year or 4-year accredited higher education institution anywhere within the United States of America.
3. Be under the age of 21 on September 1, 2018.
4. Have been homeless at some point while attending high school (grades 9 – 12).

## **Award Criteria**

A team of reviewers will score the application using the following criteria:

- The impact of homelessness on the applicant's ability to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school. [25 Points]

- Overall academic achievement, including consideration for whether or not the student took challenging coursework and received any awards for outstanding academic achievements. [20 Points]
- Clarity of college major and career goals with demonstrated determination to complete a higher education degree [15 Points]
- Extracurricular activities, including volunteer service, and any awards for outstanding achievements in such activities. [10 points]
- Applicant's financial need and degree to which this scholarship will assist in attaining goals. [15 points]
- Letter(s) of recommendation. [10 points]
- Overall quality of narrative: well-written, expresses thoughts clearly. [5 Points]
- Completeness of application. [0 points; incomplete applications will be disqualified]

## **Instructions**

There are two steps for submitting an application:

Step 1. Complete the official online application, at this url:

[https://utexascns.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6Gzn8x2qW66Svjv](https://utexascns.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Gzn8x2qW66Svjv)

The online application includes written responses to the following five prompts:

Prompt 1: Describe the homelessness you experienced and how it impacted your ability to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school. *Character limit: 4500.*

Prompt 2: Describe your academic interests, accomplishments, and experiences, including any awards for outstanding academic achievements. *Character limit: 3000.*

Prompt 3: Describe your plans to either attend or complete college; include the highest degree you plan to obtain. Describe your career goals and how your degree will help you achieve them. *Character limit: 1500 .*

Prompt 4: Describe your extracurricular activities, volunteer service, and any awards for outstanding achievements in such activities. *Character limit: 1500.*

Prompt 5: Describe your financial need and how this scholarship will assist you to attain your goals. *Character limit: 1500.*

Step 2. Following the prompts online, upload scanned copies of the documents listed below. Please redact any sensitive information, such as ID or SSN numbers, that appear on any of the documents.

- a. A copy of the applicant's most recent school transcript. Include class ranking if available.
- b. A minimum of one letter of recommendation (and no more than three) from a teacher, counselor, or other adult who can speak to the applicant's qualifications and experiences.
- c. A letter verifying that the student met the McKinney-Vento criteria for homelessness at some point while in high school (grades 9 – 12). This letter should provide an indication of the duration and number of instances of homelessness during this time. A McKinney-Vento homeless liaison or his/her designee can sign this letter of verification.
- d. Proof of acceptance into a 2-year or 4-year accredited higher education institution.

**The deadline for submitting applications is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 1, 2018.**  
***Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted or considered for funding.***