

**The Barbara Wand James Homeless Student Support Scholarship
Application Instructions and Form
2019-20 School Year**

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 any higher education institution in the United States, including community colleges, technical schools, and public or private colleges and universities.

This year, 2019, is the third year that scholarships will be awarded to students who best meet the criteria set forth in the application. Depending on available funds, the Barbara Wand James Homeless Student Support Scholarship will award approximately four scholarships of \$1,000 each for the 2019-2020 school year. The deadline for submitting an application is 3:00 p.m. on Monday, June 17, 2019.

In addition to a personal notification, there will be a public ceremony to recognize the recipient at the Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness, sponsored by the Texas Homeless Network, (<https://www.thn.org/statewide/annual-conference/>). The 2019 conference will take place in Houston on October 8 - 10, 2019. 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, 2019.
4. Have been verifiably homeless at some point while attending high school (grades 9 – 12).
5. Sign a release for publicity purposes. This release gives The University of Texas at Austin permission to use the awardee's image, spoken words, and/or written

words to promote the scholarship. Only the awardee's first name and initial will be used. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis.

Award Criteria

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

- A description of the homelessness the applicant experienced and how it impacted his or her ability to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school. [25 Points]
- A description of the applicant's overall academic interests and achievement, including consideration of whether or not the student took challenging coursework and received any awards for outstanding academic achievements. [20 Points]
- A description of the applicant's plans to either attend or complete college; including the highest degree the applicant plans to obtain, and the applicant's career goals and how the degree obtained will help achieve them. [15 Points]
- A description of the applicant's extracurricular activities, including volunteer service, and any awards for outstanding achievements. [10 points]
- A description of the applicant's financial need and degree to which this scholarship will assist in college attendance. [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 three steps for submitting an application:

Step 1. Download and complete the application, available on this page:

<https://www.theotx.org/barbara-wand-james-homeless-student-support-scholarship/>

Complete all Student Information, Student Contact Information, and Contact Person Information.

The application requires the applicant to provide written responses to the following five prompts. Each written response must be double-spaced using a 12-point font.

The prompt limits are the maximum allowable length; they are not the required or suggested length, but are simply the maximum length for an allowable response:

Prompt 1: Describe the homelessness you experienced and how it impacted your ability to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school. (Limit: 3 pages)

Prompt 2: Describe your academic interests, accomplishments, and experiences, including any awards for outstanding academic achievements. (Limit: 1 page)

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. (Limit: 1 page)

Prompt 4: Describe your extracurricular activities, volunteer service, and any awards for outstanding achievements. (Limit: 1 page)

Prompt 5: Describe your financial need and how this scholarship will assist in college attendance. (Limit: 1 page)

Step 2. Obtain copies of the first four required attachments and include them as part of the completed application. Please redact any sensitive information, such as ID or SSN numbers, that appear on any of the documents. Print out and sign item number five and include it with your application.

1. A copy of the applicant's most recent school transcript. Include class ranking if available. All pages of the transcript must be submitted. The applicant's GPA must appear on the document.
2. A minimum of one letter of recommendation and a maximum of three from a teacher, counselor, coach, employer, or other adult who can speak to the applicant's qualifications and experiences.
3. 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 must sign this letter of verification. The letter must be on official district/school letterhead.
4. Proof of acceptance into a 2-year or 4-year accredited higher education institution. This must be an official letter of acceptance on institutional letterhead. Enrollment will be verified prior to awarding the scholarship.
5. The signed publicity release included in the application packet.

Step 3. Submit either:

- A paper copy of the complete application packet (the application and all four attachments) to:

The Barbara Wand James Homeless Student Support Scholarship
C/O The Texas Homeless Education Office
The Charles A. Dana Center
The University of Texas at Austin
3925 Braker Ln, Suite 3.801
Austin, Texas 78759

or

- An electronic copy of the complete application packet (the application and all five attachments) to:

theo@austin.utexas.edu

An electronic application packet must be complete and contain all Student Information, Contact Information, responses to all prompts, and the five required attachments. The electronic files must be in commonly available formats, such as .pdf or Microsoft Word. Scanned or photographed applications will be accepted; however, such files must be legible. If the documents are not legible, they will not be scored or considered as part of the completed application.

All submitted material, paper or electronic, must be legible and complete.

The deadline for submitting applications is 3:00 p.m. on Monday, June 17, 2019.
Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted or considered for funding.

Please Note: Overnight delivery services do not necessarily deliver in one day.