



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GRADUATING SENIORS

ABOUT OUR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Heart of Illinois Community Foundation (HICF) is proud to support local students by offering financial educational support through the gifts of our donors. HICF's scholarship program annually benefits enrolled students pursuing their higher education goals. These phenomenal financial awards vary in size from \$500 to \$10,000 with some renewing year to year.

HICF scholarship funds and designated funds are provided by generous donors who are committed to improving educational outcomes in our communities. We are pleased to be able to offer scholarship opportunities for two and four-year institutions as well as support for trade schools and established apprenticeship programs for students in Macon, Moultrie, and Piatt Counties.



APPLY ONLINE FOR FALL SEMESTER 2026 JANUARY 1 - MARCH 1



"I am so thankful for the continued support of this scholarship. It has made it possible for me to get the most out of my education, and to make me the most capable and well-rounded citizen that I can possibly be, something that I believe is vital to future success."

ZACHARIAH JALLEY

Warrensburg-Latham High School Class of 2022
Recipient of Lynn D. Augustine Memorial Scholarship,
Blake Cowden YLIA Leadership Scholarship

CHECK OUT THE
FLIP SIDE FOR
SCHOLARSHIP

FAQs

QUESTIONS?

Contact Andrea Gerhard

Director of Scholarships & Grants

217.429.3000 or agerhard@heartofillinois.org

LEARN MORE at heartofillinois.org/scholarship

SCHOLARSHIP FAQs

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WHERE DO THE SCHOLARSHIPS COME FROM?

Because of the generosity of donors, the Heart of Illinois Community Foundation awards up to 70 scholarships each year to high school seniors who have been accepted at accredited colleges, universities, or trade programs in the United States. These awards total well over \$120,000 in educational financial support. Endowed scholarship funds help students long after the donor's lifetime.

Scholarship awards vary in size from \$500 to \$10,000, and length (from 1-4 years).

HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M ELIGIBLE FOR A SCHOLARSHIP?

Scholarships are awarded based on criteria, including but not limited to:

- Residency (Macon, Piatt, or Moultrie County)
- High School Attended
- Academic Excellence
- Financial Need
- Community Service / Involvement
- Personal Essay, Additional Essay (as applies), Letters of Recommendation

Some scholarships are also connected to the pursuit of specific careers or majors (i.e. agriculture, business, engineering, education, science, trades, etc.)

WHEN AND HOW DO I APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP?

The online scholarship application portal is open to graduating seniors from **January 1 - March 1**. The application is online **ONLY**, accessible via our website at heartofillinois.org (no paper or printed applications will be accepted).

The application requires personal and academic information, FAFSA/SAI score, essays, qualifications (transcript, activities), letters of recommendation. Many of these items can be completed and prepared ahead of time.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP?

After the **March 1** (11:59 PM) deadline, the scholarship review process begins with nearly 100 volunteer committee members reading and evaluating the applications based on related scholarship criteria. High School Counselors are notified of recipients in April, and scholarship notification letters are awarded at high school award ceremonies or mailed to the recipients' home address (those not receiving an award will be notified in the month following). Scholarship payments are sent directly to colleges/universities or trade schools in July/August (pending completion of the required award acceptance and follow-up form by recipient).

**FIND MORE
INFORMATION
AND RESOURCES AT**
[HEARTOFILLINOIS.ORG/
SCHOLARSHIP](http://HEARTOFILLINOIS.ORG/SCHOLARSHIP)



"The desire to want to help people in need started to resonate in my heart at an early age and only grew stronger as I aged enough to realize that a career in health services is what I wanted to achieve. The thought of being part of someone's survival story one day brings me tremendous joy."

IVY WILLIAMS

Cerro Gordo High School Class of 2025
Recipient of Cancer Care Specialists of Illinois Scholarship

