

2026 CSBG SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



Completed applications can be submitted to CAPCIL through email, mailed to the corporate office in Lincoln, or hand delivered to the closest location. Questions about the scholarship program or the application process should be directed to Central Office at 217-732-2159.

Central Office 1800 5 th Street Lincoln, IL 62656	Fulton CAP Office 1055 West Locust Street Canton, IL 61520	Menard CAP Office 511 S. 6 th Street Petersburg, IL 62675
DeWitt CAP Office 45 Cedar Square Clinton, IL 62727	Mason CAP Office 301 S. Dale Street Havana, IL 62644	Piatt CAP Office 1115 N. State Street, Suite 102 Monticello, IL 61856

Helping People. Changing Lives.

It is the mission of CAPCIL, in partnership with our communities to empower all vulnerable populations, through poverty-fighting initiatives for those who seek a life of lasting independence.

CAPCIL does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act; the US Civil Rights Act; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act; the Age Discrimination Act; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act; and the US and Illinois Constitutions. If you feel you have been discriminated against, you have a right to file a complaint. For information, contact EEO Officer at 217-732-2159.



Objective:

CAPCIL's CSBG Scholarship program is designed, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, to provide financial assistance to low-income individuals with either college/university courses, General Education Diploma, trade school certification, or job-related requirements by an employer. Attainment of potential Scholarships will go toward tuition costs for an accredited educational institution, trade school program, and or necessary requirements documented by an applicant's employer. This is a competitive scholarship based on merit, not solely on financial need.

Scholarship Awards may be used for tuition fees, books, school related, or employment related costs. (i.e., required shoes or tools); documentation from said institution or employer is required.

General Eligibility Requirements:

- **Must qualify for CSBG services.**
- **Residency:** Must be a resident of Dewitt, Fulton, Logan, Mason, Menard, or Piatt County.
- **Must provide Social Security Numbers for all household members.**
- **Income:** Must provide documentation of income received by all adults in the household for the previous 30 days to verify grant eligibility. Eligibility is based on the number of people living in the household and the gross income received by all of the adults. See the chart below for the 2026 eligibility breakdown.

Family Size	30-Day Income
1	\$2,660
2	\$3,607
3	\$4,553
4	\$5,500
5	\$6,447
6	\$7,393
7	\$8,340
8	\$9,287
For each additional household member add:	\$947

Additional Requirements:

- Must be pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree, a GED, High-School Equivalency Certificate, or Trade School Certification.
- Must provide proof of enrollment or registration in an accredited institute of higher education, or trade school of choice.
- Submit a typed response to one of the provided essay prompts. (Not required for GED)
- Transcript and most recent GPA. (not required for Trade School or GED applicants)
- GED ONLY: Proof of a passing grade on a practice exam for each testing module.

If Awarded a Scholarship Recipients Must:

- Provide proof of class completion and grades at the end of the semester or program.
- Take a picture for an award social media post.
- Provide a statement on what receiving the award means to them.

Educational Prosperity Scholarship Information:

Scholarship Awards (except GED/high school equivalency) are based on the total number of points received based on the submitted application, academic information, and essay. Trade School and applications do not require high-school transcripts. Scholarship funding is limited. Applications will be reviewed until the award threshold for the year has been paid out. Scholarship Award monies will be sent directly to the institution in the name of the recipient.

- Maximum scholarship amount for GED/High School Equivalency Certification is \$400
- Maximum scholarship amount for Associate, Bachelor, or Trade School Degree/Certification is \$5,000

Application Instructions:

Read the entire application thoroughly before completing and submitting. Scholarship awards are based on the total number of points received by an applicant. Answer ALL of the questions on the application. If not applicable, please state "Not Applicable." Sign your name legibly and date the application before mailing or delivering the application. Please note that a parent or guardian must also sign this application, as well as other indicated pages, if you are: not 18 years of age or older; or are not self-supporting.

An intake appointment will be scheduled, either in person or over the phone, to ensure eligibility prior to the application being submitted for review. All required documentation must be submitted before the application can be submitted for review.

Deadline and Location:

Scholarship applications will be reviewed on an as needed basis.

- Applications for GED scholarships must be turned in at least 3 weeks prior to the test date.
- Applications for associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, and trade school scholarships must be submitted at least 6 weeks prior to the start of the semester/class/program.

The application deadline can be waived with the approval of the Community and Personal Development Director. Requests will be judged on a case-by-case basis. Additional documentation may be required to waive the deadline requirement.

Applications are to be submitted to the Community and Personal Development Department at the Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois' Central Office in Lincoln, IL. Any CAPCIL office locations can be used to facilitate getting the application submitted to Central Office. If submitting the application to an office other than Central Office, it must be submitted directly to a staff member. Please be clear that you are requesting that it be sent to the CSBG Project Coordinator at Central Office. Applications can be mailed, emailed, faxed, or delivered in person.

Central Office:
1800 5th Street
Lincoln, IL 62656

Fax Number:
217-735-1753

Email:
hnaugle@capcil.org

Required Documents for GED/High School Equivalency Scholarship:

Applicants are REQUIRED to submit the following documents with their completed application.

1. Proof of Residency in DeWitt, Fulton, Logan, Mason, Menard, or Piatt counties.
2. Official transcript with proof of passing scores on pre-tests.
3. Copy of applicant's summary detailing fees for upcoming testing.

Required Documents for Associate, Bachelor, or Trade School Degree/Certification:

Applicants are REQUIRED to submit the following documents before an application can be processed.

1. Official transcripts, including most recent semester grades and grade point average (GPA),
(Not required for trade school applications but would give additional points.)

CAPCIL does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act; the US Civil Rights Act; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act; the Age Discrimination Act; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act; and the US and Illinois Constitutions. If you feel you have been discriminated against, you have a right to file a complaint. For information, contact EEO Officer at 217-732-2159.

2. Proof of income for all adults in the household.
3. Proof of registration or a letter of interest from the school to be attended.
4. Proof of residency in DeWitt, Fulton, Logan, Mason, Menard, or Piatt counties.
5. Essay (Answer to 1 of 3 provided prompts.)
6. One letter of recommendation.
7. School Cost Form AND copy of the applicant's tuition summary detailing fees for the upcoming semester or the total tuition of the trade school program.

Personal Essay:

Applicants must submit a typed essay responding to one of the following prompts. (Not required for GED applications.)

1. Describe your future and educational goals. Explain what you want to study, why you chose this field, and how your career could support programs or services that help the community.
2. Think about how your talents or interests could be used to serve others. Write about how your education and career plans could create positive change in your community and/or for people in need.
3. Explain how your future career could improve the quality of life in your community. What skills or knowledge will you gain from your education that will help you do this?



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CSBG Educational Prosperity Scholarship Application

This scholarship is made possible by Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Name: _____

Full Address: _____

County of residence (please circle): DeWitt Fulton Logan Mason Menard Piatt

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Gender (please circle): Male Female Do not Wish to Answer

Veteran? Yes No

Disabled? Yes No

Previous CSBG scholarship recipient? Yes No

Number of People in Household: + _____

Name of Last High School Attended and Location: _____

High School Graduation or GED date: _____ GPA (most recent school): _____

Name of College or Vocational School Attending: _____

Is the Program: Remote, In-Person, or Hybrid Part Time or Full Time

Major/Area of Study: _____

Expected Graduation Date: _____

How are you involved in your local community? _____

Applicant Acknowledgements

____ I certify the information contained in this application is accurate and a complete disclosure of the requested information.

____ I hereby acknowledge that the information relating to the determination of my eligibility requires verification and I authorize others to release such information as may be required for the determination of my eligibility for this scholarship.

____ I understand that any false statements contained in this application and accompanying documentation may result in the rejection of the application or termination of any assistance received. I understand that to perjure to obtain assistance is a fraudulent offense for which I can be prosecuted.

____ I permit the agency to share my information with media.

____ I understand that I may be contacted for additional documentation.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Guardian's Signature (if applicable): _____ Date: _____



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CSBG Scholarship School Cost Form

Cost Detail: Completion of this form and submission of school costs is required to be considered for CSBG Scholarship award.

Please provide the following information:

1. A statement from your school account detailing the costs for the semester.
2. Cost of any additional materials needed for the program.

(Please print legibly)

Applicant Name _____

School Attending _____

Start Date: _____

Major/Area of Study/Vocational Trade _____

Total School Cost \$ _____

Must provide statement of costs from school account.

Addition Material Cost \$ _____

(Must provide statement of additional costs.)

School Tuition deadline (date): _____

PLEASE NOTE: Parent or Guardian Signature is required if applicant is:

- 1.) Not 18 years of age or older; and/or 2.) not self-supporting.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Guardian's Signature (if applicable): _____

Date: _____

