



GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship

Application

INSTRUCTIONS

Should you have any questions about completing the application, contact the GFWC Signature Project Chairman Beverly Lassiter at BevLassiter@bellsouth.net | 704-542-1426 or the GFWC Programs department at 202-347-3168 or toll free at 1-800-443-GFWC (4392).

- Please read the application instructions and information carefully before starting.
- Please keep a copy for your reference.
- This form may be printed and completed in ink or it may be completed online.
- You may submit this application by e-mail or postal mail by March 30, 2012, by 11:59pm EDT to:

General Federation of Women's Clubs
Attn: GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship
1734 N Street NW
Washington, DC 20036-2990
Scholarship@GFWC.org

PURPOSE AND AVAILABILITY

The General Federation of Women's Clubs launched the *GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship* in 2010, as part of its efforts within the GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention.

GFWC hopes to provide support to domestic violence survivors to help them rebuild their lives through personal development, education, increased self-sufficiency, and independence.

The scholarship can be used by full or part-time students interested in attending appropriately accredited programs at U.S. education institutions listed below:

- State supported community colleges
- State supported colleges or universities
- Technical or vocational schools
- Private colleges or universities
- Proprietary schools

Eligibility

A candidate who meets all of the following requirements is eligible to apply:

- Survived intimate partner abuse;
- Is a citizen or permanent legal resident of the United States;
- Is officially accepted into a appropriately accredited program at a United States institution (noted above);
- Exhibits strong desire, ability and determination to complete a training and/or academic program;
- Has a definite plan to use the desired training to upgrade skills for career advancement, to train for a new career field or to enter or reenter the job market; and
- Is sponsored by a GFWC Club willing to provide support to the student; and
- Is sponsored by a nonprofit, domestic violence service agency willing to provide a recommendation for the candidate.

We have extremely limited funds to assist with graduate school expenses. While we applaud all survivors who pursue graduate degrees in law, medicine, social work, and like-minded areas, they generally do not meet our basic financial need criterion.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The *GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship* program does not discriminate in its selection policy, programs, or activities on the basis of race, gender, color, creed, disability, national/ethnic origin, age, religion, sexual orientation, or disabled veteran/Vietnam era veteran status.

Application and Deadlines

To be considered for the scholarship, applicants must submit a completed application packet, which includes:

- A completed *GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship* application form;
- A narrative statement that outlines your background and plan to use the scholarship for education and training leading to career advancement;
- A letter of sponsorship from a GFWC Club;
- A letter of sponsorship from an eligible domestic violence service agency; and
- Two letters of reference.
- Copy of your school invoice as soon as it is available showing charges for the session you are planning to attend.

Applications must be e-mailed or postmarked to GFWC by 11:59 pm EDT, March 30, 2012.

All information contained in this application will be considered confidential. Please use the form provided and complete all parts of the application. Any materials submitted, other than those requested by GFWC, will not be considered. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Review Process

Applications are reviewed in order of receipt. The Sponsor Agency, GFWC Club, and applicant will be contacted by a scholarship coordinator during the review process. Complete applications are submitted to the Review Committee for final decision.

Notification

Each candidate will be notified in writing of the Scholarship Review Committee's decision. Please do not contact GFWC regarding the status of your application.

Awards

GFWC will annually award eight \$1,000 scholarships to recipients at its Annual International Convention, beginning in June 2012.

The scholarship award can be used for direct-education expenses, such as tuition, books, and fees, paid directly to the educational institution.

Renewals

Scholarship recipients may submit an application to apply for further funding for the next academic year. This form is available online at www.GFWC.org/Scholarship.

Sponsorship

The highest barriers many domestic violence survivors face in returning to school are the emotional pressures of navigating in a foreign environment, ongoing harassment by their perpetrators, and juggling work, school, and/or parenting. Access to a consistent source of support and assistance while in school can have an enormous impact on a survivor's ability to succeed. To ensure that each scholarship recipient has both the backing and support s/he needs to achieve educational goals, this scholarship program requires that each applicant have the support of a sponsoring GFWC Club and nonprofit domestic violence service organization.

It is the scholarship applicant's responsibility to identify these sponsors, and GFWC, at the request of an individual interested in the scholarship program, will work to connect the applicant with a local GFWC Club.

The agency sponsor may be any nonprofit 501(c)(3) domestic violence victim service agency that has known and worked with the applicant for a minimum of six months.

GFWC Club Sponsor

The GFWC Club must attest to its support of the domestic violence survivor by:

- Reviewing the candidate's application and proposed plan of study: Will it assist the applicant in reaching her/his goals? Does the applicant have the ability to complete the program outlined?
- Providing support and encouragement to the scholarship recipient, not just during the application process but throughout her/his time while undertaking the educational program.

Sponsoring Agency

The Sponsoring Agency must attest to its support of the domestic violence survivor by providing information on the services and/or support provided to the candidate for at least six months and completing a sponsorship questionnaire.

If the Sponsor Agency is willing to take on this role, an authorized representative must complete the Sponsor Agreement form and return it to the candidate, along with a copy of its 501(c)(3) verification letter and "Authorization for Release of Information" signed by the authorized representative and the candidate. The candidate must include these materials with their application packet.

CHECKLIST

Include in your application packet:

GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship Form

This section of the application helps us to get to know you, your educational goals, and your personal goals.

Narrative Statement

Your narrative statement allows us to get to know you in your own words.

Sponsorship

Sponsors play a critical role in helping us identify appropriate applicants. Additionally, sponsors provide on-going mentoring and support to scholarship recipients during their school enrollment.

- GFWC Club Letter of Support
- Nonprofit 501(c)(3) Letter from Domestic Violence Service Agency

References

We require that you provide two references. They may be submitted on these forms or by separate letter. Your sponsor at the domestic violence service agency may be one of these references.

Additional Documentation

A copy of your school invoice as soon as it is available showing charges for the session you are planning to attend.