

## *Abilities Plus Endowment* **Scholarship Qualifications & Guidelines**

Each year, the Board of Directors of the Abilities Plus Endowment intends to award \$1,000 academic scholarships to two students who meet the criteria listed below. **Applications must be received by March 30, 2018.** Awards will be announced by July 1, 2018. If awarded, funds will be used for the upcoming fall semester.

**To be considered for a scholarship, the applicant shall meet the following qualifications:**

1. Primary residence must be in Henry, Stark, or western Bureau Counties in Illinois.
2. Be enrolled in or accepted into an accredited college or university and pursuing a certificate, associates degree, bachelor's degree, or graduate degree in a human service field of study. Acceptable fields of study include, but are not limited to, psychology, social work, sociology, special education, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, and child development.
3. Future plans shall include a career goal to work in some capacity with individuals with disabilities or developmental delay.
4. Any college or certificate program eligible individual who has been accepted into or is currently enrolled in a program of study for any of the human service fields described above will be considered. Eligibility is open to upperclassmen, graduate students, and adult learners, i.e. is not limited to college freshmen.
5. To be considered for a scholarship, the student must submit:
  - (1) A completed application
  - (2) The most recent OFFICIAL transcript (high school or college), and
  - (3) ONE letter of reference from an individual familiar with his or her academic and career goals. (Examples may include a teacher, counselor, work supervisor, co-worker, etc. This person may not be a relative.) Multiple letters will not be accepted.

**Other requirements and guidelines include:**

1. Scholarships will be granted based on academic and career goals, academic and extra-curricular accomplishments, and financial need.
2. Applying for and/or receiving other forms of financial aid will not exclude an individual from consideration.
3. If deemed necessary by the scholarship selection committee, applicants may be asked to attend a brief personal interview.

4. Each scholarship will be a one-time award of \$1,000, in the form of a check payable to the student. Funds may be used for tuition, room and board, books, or other related academic materials or expenses.
5. Employees, Board Members, Committee Members, and relatives of each of these, are eligible to receive these scholarships. In the event that a relative of the Endowment Project Selection Committee submits a scholarship application, this Committee Member shall abstain from the scholarship selection process.
6. The recipient, and the recipient's parent or guardian if student is under the age of 18, will be required to sign an agreement once the scholarship is awarded. This agreement will include a statement that the requirements and guidelines described in this document are fully understood and will be followed. This agreement will also either grant or not grant permission to Abilities Plus to utilize the recipient's name, photo, academic plans, and career goals in any public relations activities. (for example: agency newsletter, local newspapers, etc.)
7. The scholarship recipient shall submit a written report and proof of completed coursework or program (certificate and/or transcript) at the conclusion of the semester or year for which the scholarship was awarded. Reports will also be requested annually, thereafter. Each report shall include a brief description of the student's academic accomplishments throughout the term, and any changes in their career expectations and goals. The final report will be submitted once the student has established employment following graduation, and shall include the name of the employer, job title, and a brief job description. Records will be used for tracking purposes, to ensure that the goals of the scholarship fund are being met.
8. If the recipient fails to complete the school term for which the scholarship was awarded, he/she will be expected to return all funds to the Abilities Plus Endowment.
9. Completed application packets must be received no later than **March 30, 2018** to:

Abilities Plus  
Endowment Committee  
1100 N. East Street  
Kewanee, Illinois 61443

Any questions concerning the guidelines or application may be directed to Julie Landwehr at the address above, by phone (309-852-4626) Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., or by e-mail to [julie@abilitiesplus.org](mailto:julie@abilitiesplus.org).