



SMILE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Smile2Educate believes that education is a powerful tool that breaks down barriers and opens doors of opportunity. The objective of the SMILE Scholarship Program is to help single mothers who are beginning or continuing their education complete an educational experience that will result in secure and sufficient employment and provide women the footing they need to turn their dreams into reality. Smile2Educate strives to be an organization that single mothers can turn to for support in getting an education.

Applications are available via our website (www.smile2educate.org) beginning February 10, 2010. Your application must be postmarked by **April 30, 2010**. Completed applications should be mailed to:

Smile2Educate, Inc.
4275 Wayne Road
Mantua, Ohio 44255

Eligibility Criteria

It is the Organization's expectation that the pressures of work and parenting may result in students taking longer than the traditional time period to complete an educational program. Therefore, both full-time and part-time students are considered for the SMILE Scholarship Program. Support is available for full-time or part-time students attending vocational, technical, community college, four-year degree or graduate studies programs. Candidates must be accepted and enrolled in their program.

Applications are accepted from single mothers who are citizens or legal residents of the United States that reside in Northeast Ohio. Applicants must be the primary custodial parent of her biological or legally adopted minor children (a child 18 years of age or younger). Candidates must demonstrate desire, ability and determination to attain their training or educational goal.

Policies and Procedures

Smile2Educate, Inc. cannot entertain a scholarship request from anyone related, in any way, to the staff or Board of Directors of the organization.

Smile2Educate, Inc. does not discriminate in its selection policy, programs or activities on the bases of race, color, creed, handicap, national/ethnic origin, age, religion, sexual orientation or disabled veteran/Vietnam era veteran status.

The Organization reserves the right, at its discretion, to cancel any awards without liability. Should the personal circumstances under which an individual was awarded a scholarship change, Smile2Educate reserves the right to adjust the award amount and request the dollars be returned or be paid back.

Scholarship(s) for 2010 will be awarded in the summer of 2010 for the 2010-2011 funding year. Scholarship monies are dispersed in two equal allotments, one-half dispersed in the Summer of 2010 and the second half in December of 2010. Award recipients are expected to be present at the award ceremony and to present an update of their educational experiences and progress toward educational goals at the December SMILE board meeting.

In order to receive the second half of the grant, recipients are required to further the mission of the SMILE organization by participating in one of the following:

1. Volunteer for 3 hours at one SMILE-sponsored event
2. Speak at the SMILE Comedy Night fund-raising event
3. Invite SMILE representatives to speak at an organization or event in order to promote SMILE

Applicants' past educational performance is not taken into consideration in determining scholarship eligibility for the first term of scholarship support. Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average to be considered eligible for second and subsequent terms of funding.

Individuals interested in subsequent funding must complete a renewal application. Each candidate selected to receive financial assistance must notify Smile2Educate whether she will accept the offer. The recipient of the award must return a signed contract to the Organization within 30 days and/or prior to the start of classes, whichever comes first. This contract serves as notice of her acceptance.

Scholarship dollars for tuition, fees, books and supplies are paid directly to the educational institution.

Recipient Selection

Incomplete applications will not be considered by the Review Committee. It is the applicant's responsibility to submit an application that is 100% complete and that follows the guidelines provided. You must include a copy of the SAR Report from your FAFSA to complete the application.

The Review Committee evaluates all completed applications using objective assessment of each candidate's qualifications.

The Review Committee meets as needed to process scholarship requests efficiently. The Committee's purpose is to review applications, select scholarship recipients and set and modify program policies as needed. The Review Committee may interview scholarship candidates and/or their sponsors as necessary. If an in-person interview is impossible, a telephone interview may be arranged.