



# ECI-CAA

East Central Illinois Community Action Agency

## *CSBG: Scholarship Application Essay Template*

### **Essay Requirements:**

- Essays must be typed; using a professional, easy to read font such as: Arial, Calibri, Tahoma, Times New Roman, or Verdana.
- Font size should be between 10 and 12 points for the body; 14 points for the heading.
- Proofread your essay; ensure it is free of typographical and grammatical errors or spelling mistakes. **ALLOW SOMEONE ELSE TO PROOFREAD YOUR ESSAY** prior to submission.
- There is no specific page requirement but make sure the essay is comprehensive and provides detailed insight into who you are.

### **Suggested Essay Outline:**

**Paragraph One:** *Introduction:* Ensure this paragraph expresses who you are; provide a specific personal history and background, family life, what type of person you are, what motivates you, hobbies, interests, community involvements, achievements/awards, etc.

**Paragraph Two:** *What does education mean to you?* This paragraph should describe the type of student you are/or have been/or desire to be, the importance of post-secondary education from your perspective, and why you want to pursue your specific degree, certification, and/or vocation.

**Paragraph Three:** *Describe any financial and/or personal obstacle that may impede your pursuit of a college education.* This paragraph should detail your current financial situation and how this could adversely affect your ability to attend college.

**Paragraph Four:** *Describe your future goals, objectives, and aspirations.* This paragraph should reflect how attaining a degree/trade/certification will enhance the lives of you and your family as well as your career goals.

**Paragraph Five:** *Conclusion.* This paragraph should summarize the breadth of your essay and also express why you deserve to be a recipient of the East Central Illinois Community Action Agency's CSBG Scholarship.



# East Central Illinois Community Action Agency

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

East Central Illinois Community Action Agency is offering scholarships to income eligible individuals who reside in Ford, Iroquois, or Vermilion County and are furthering their education by enrolling in courses at an accredited college, university, or technical/vocational school within the state of Illinois. Funding for this initiative is provided by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

To qualify, this application, completed in its entirety, with the required essay must be submitted no later than **Friday, March 30, 2018** Students already enrolled in college must also submit a copy of their most recent grades or a college transcript. Scholarship finalists will be asked to provide verification of family income. ***Successful candidates must meet income and program guidelines.***

***Scholarship Awards are between \$500 to \$2,500 depending upon the number of eligible applicants who apply and/or the availability of grant funding.***

### INCOME GUIDELINES

(125% of Federal Poverty Guidelines)

Family Size	Annual Income
1	\$15,175
2	\$20,575
3	\$25,975
4	\$31,375
5	\$36,775
6	\$42,575

\*Add \$5,400 for each additional person\*

***Please return the Scholarship Application and essay to:***

East Central Illinois Community Action Agency  
c/o Scholarship Selection Committee  
56 N. Vermilion Street  
Danville, IL 61832

## IDENTIFYING INFORMATION AND STATEMENT OF NEED

Name:

Telephone:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

***Print or type a brief paragraph describing your financial circumstances, how much money you and/or your family can afford to help you attend college, and describe any other financial assistance you will receive (you will be required to provide verification of family income if selected as a finalist).***

## COLLEGE PLANS

What do you plan to major in?

Which college, university, or vocational/technical school are you currently attending or planning on attending? If you are unsure, which schools are you considering? Why?

## COMMUNITY SERVICE/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Please describe any volunteer effort you have participated in, extracurricular clubs and/or athletic endeavors, work experiences, etc. which you believe is a testament to your character and work ethic.

## REFERENCES

Please provide the names, address, and telephone number of three (3) people, non-relatives, who you have known for at least three years. (Pastors, teachers, and employers are examples of whom you might use.)

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER

## ESSAY REQUIREMENT

To be considered, you must attach a typewritten essay of 300-500 words explaining your goals and future plans for your professional career; why you have chosen the major you have selected, and how well you believe you are prepared for college. Refer to attached **Scholarship Application Essay Template**.

### DISCLAIMER

*I certify that the information provided is an accurate, complete disclosure of requested information. I authorize the Agency to verify the information by contacting any and all necessary references, schools, and/or businesses as it relates to this application and determining worthiness of receiving the scholarship.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

