

OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA VIRGINIA
SHERYL FRIEDLEY SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS WITH
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

BACKGROUND

The Optimist Club of Greater Vienna is **offering a \$1,500** scholarship to assist students with Intellectual Disabilities (ID) residing within the areas served by Madison, Marshall, and Oakton High Schools and who are receiving certificates of completion to continue their education in post-secondary educational/training programs. **There is one award per year.**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Students eligible for consideration for the scholarship must have resided in the areas served by Madison, Marshall, and Oakton High Schools at the time of obtaining certificates of completion from high school. (FCPS pyramid maps can be found at <https://www.fcps.edu/resources/maps>.) The scholarships will be available to students with documented Intellectual Disabilities and who are enrolling in a recognized training or educational program for preparation into the workforce.

For the purpose of these scholarships, an Intellectual Disability (ID) will be defined as per Fairfax County Schools definition as outlined on the Intellectual Disabilities Basis For Committee Decision form as follows: Intellectual Disability means significantly below-average general intellectual functioning, existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior, and manifested during the developmental period, that adversely affect a child's education performance.

(Deficits in cognitive ability and adaptive behavior are not primarily caused by visual or auditory deficits, motor deficits, emotional disability, learning disability, or environmental, cultural or economic disadvantage.)

Examples of eligible post-secondary programs are:

- University or community college-based programs for students with ID document (e.g., GMU LIFE; VCU ACE-IT, other out-of-state programs designed for the ID population)
- Work-based training programs
- Transitional training for independence and/or Job Coach services
- Community-based training and services for the ID population

The awards will be restricted to those persons who have not been granted a post-secondary school degree of any sort and who have earned a certification of completion from a secondary education institution no more than one academic year prior to award of this scholarship.

THE APPLICATION

Applications for the scholarships will be provided to the high schools serving the above areas. Applications must include a statement of educational/training objectives and how the proposed training or education will serve to meet said objectives. At least one letter of recommendation from a current teacher or ID program administrator working directly with the applicant is required. The letter needs to certify that the ID eligibility is current and is stated as such in the IEP. The recommendation letter should further present the applicant's qualifications for the award in addition to making this certification statement.



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The scholarship awards will be in the form of a check payable to the educational/training institution that the applicant will attend. The student may use an award at any time from the date of award, until and including the fall semester or quarter of the calendar year following the announcement of the award.

SCHEDULE

Completed applications (student application plus recommendation letter(s) may be submitted to the Greater Vienna Optimist Club any time prior to May 1, 2021. Electronic submission via email as an attachment is preferred and should be sent to joj@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org. If mailed, they should be sent to Optimist Club of Greater Vienna, P.O. Box 411, Vienna, VA 22183, postmarked no later than **May 1, 2021**. An application form is attached.

The Vienna Optimist Club will review applications after the **May 1, 2021** deadline. The winner will be announced by **May 31, 2021**, and the Optimist Club will notify the winner and school referenced by email. The winner and the home school faculty mentor will be invited to attend an on-line (Zoom or equivalent) meeting of the **Vienna Optimist Club on June 9, 2021**, to be formally acknowledged and congratulated by the Vienna Optimist Club.



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