

Tips to consider when applying for the Cherokee Nation Higher Education

Scholarship:

The CN Higher Education Office would like students to keep these tips in mind when filling out applications:

- Keep in mind the deadline of June 11, 2010 for scholarship applications for the 2010-11 academic year.
- Submit complete applications by the deadline to help speed up the process. Incomplete applications will be returned to the student with a letter stating what documents are missing. By not submitting complete applications, students risk not being selected for a scholarship if not received by the deadline date. Also, if students wait to turn in documents during deadline week, because of the high volume of student traffic and phone calls, they may not be able to get the one-on-one personal advisement from the Higher Education student advisors.
- The office strongly encourages students to use certified mail when mailing documents to Higher Education so students have a tracking number in case documents are not received by Higher Education.
- If students change schools or mailing address, they must notify Higher Education in writing to prevent a delay in payment to the new school. They may also miss out on important information or reminders from Higher Education.
- There is a self-help component for the scholarship. Students are required to complete one hour of community service with a non-profit organization for each \$100 received in scholarship funds. For those already with scholarships, community service completed with a church must be for the community or focused humanitarian functions. Students are encouraged to contact their student advisors with any questions.
- Students must apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and submit a Student Aid Report with their scholarship applications.
- Students seeking a license, training certificate or associate of applied science degree are not eligible for Higher Education funding. Students may contact Career Services for funding criteria at (918) 453-5555.

- Before the deadline, follow up with Higher Education to make sure their documents are received. There are now student advisors who will assist students with any questions.

The alphabet assigned to each advisor and their contact information:

- A-G: Krista Boston-Stalnaker, (918) 458-6951, krista-boston-stalnaker@cherokee.org
- H-M: Brenda Butler, (918) 207-3948, brenda-butler@cherokee.org
- N-T: Valerie Patterson, (918) 453-5308, valerie-patterson@cherokee.org
- U-Z: Taryn Taylor, (918) 453-5322, taryn-taylor@cherokee.org

High Education scholarships are awarded to selected CN citizens pursuing degrees at a Carnegie-accredited college or university. To apply for these funds, new and continuing students must submit a complete application packet to the CN Higher Education office by the annual deadline.

The scholarship program includes accomplishing three desired outcomes: strengthen the sovereignty of the CN, increase the capacity of its citizens and promote the language and culture of the CN.

Cherokee Nation College Housing Assistance Program

Students who may be searching for some help paying for housing while they attend college may be able to get help from CN Human Services and the College Housing Assistance Program.

The program was formerly known as the Dorm Assistance Program and fell under CN Housing Services.

Jerri Callaway, assistant manager of the Rental Assistance Program, said the DAP was designed to help students who are attending an institute of higher education.

“They can attend school anywhere, but their permanent residence has to be within our 14-county jurisdiction,” Callaway said.

The program is for up to \$1,000 per semester, and students can live on or off campus. Assistance is based on income, and the Human Services determines eligibility based on the student’s parents’ taxes. Human Services uses the formula for 80 percent of the national median family income. So income guidelines are based on family size.

The deadlines for applying for the program are July for the fall semester and December for the spring semester.

Students must maintain a 2.5 GPA and remain a full-time student in order to remain eligible for the program. The program is for first-time undergraduate students seeking their first degree.

The aid is strictly for housing fees, not meals, Callaway said.

“The colleges are good about dividing up room and board,” she said. “They will divide that up for us and it goes strictly toward housing fees.”

Payments are made directly to colleges or landlords, she said.

To apply, students should contact their local CN Human Services office and speak to any Rental Assistance staff member.

Catoosa Field Office

Teresa Rider, Elder Advocate
750 S. Cherokee Suite M
Cherokee Village Shopping Center
Catoosa, OK 74015
Tel: (918) 266-5626
Fax: (918) 266-5929
Every Wednesday of the Month
Hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Jay Field Office

Carol Thompson, Family Advocate
1600 ½ N. Main
Industrial Park Rd.
P.O. Box 369
Jay, OK 74346
Tel: (918) 253-4219
Fax: (918) 253-8383
Every Monday thru Thursday of the month
Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Locust Grove Field Office

Darlene Walker, Family Advocate
Willard Stone Heights
300 Willard Stone Circle
Locust Grove, OK 74352
Tel: (918) 479-5808
Fax: (918) 479-6941
Every Monday thru Thursday of the month
Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Muskogee Field Office

Cherokee Nation Health Center
1805 N. York
Muskogee, OK 74403
Tel: (918) 687-0201
Fax: (918) 687-0665
(918) 453-5327 to schedule appointment
Hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sallisaw Field Office

Wynenna Smith, Family Advocate
101 W. Quesenbury
P.O. Box 508
Sallisaw, OK 74955
Tel: (918) 775-6226
Fax: (918) 775-3809
Every Monday thru Thursday of the month
Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Stilwell Field Office

Jennie Whitekiller, Elder Advocate
Third & Oak Street
P.O. Box 913
Stilwell, OK 74960
Tel: (918) 696-5531
Fax: (918) 696-8054
Every Monday thru Thursday of the month
Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Vinita Field Office

Tom Buffington Heights
900 W. McNellis Ave. 31-B
Vinita, OK 74301
Tel: (918) 256-8595
Fax: (918) 256-8595
By appointment only (Thursdays)
(918) 253-4219 to schedule appointment

Indian Health Services Scholarship

The Indian Health Service Scholarship Program offers American Indian/Alaska Native students three different scholarship options:

- Health Professions Preparatory Scholarship - American Indian and Alaska Native students may enroll in courses (compensatory or pre-professional) in preparation

for entry to health professional schools such as nursing, pharmacy and others as needed.

- Health Professions Pre-Graduate Scholarship - American Indian and Alaska Native students may enroll in courses leading to a bachelor's degree in specific pre-professional areas such as pre-medicine, pre-dentistry, pre-podiatry and others as needed.
- Health Professions Scholarship - American Indian and Alaska Native students enrolled in health professions and allied health professions programs may apply. The Health Professions Scholarship Program is for American Indian and Alaska Native students, who are members of a federally recognized tribe, enrolled in health professions and allied health professions programs. Students incur service obligations and payback requirements on acceptance of funding from this program.

Health Professions Scholarships are awarded for a one year period, with re-application required for each year of continuation. Stipends are paid for the 12-month period beginning each year from August 1 through July 31 for health and allied health professional education up to four years full-time or up to eight years part-time.

The Health Professions Scholarship Program recipients incur a service obligation of one year for each year of scholarship support received (or the part-time equivalent) with a minimum service period of two years.

Students must be a citizen of the United States at the time they apply for an IHS scholarship award. Permanent resident aliens and other aliens are not eligible to apply. Students must also provide documentation of American Indian/Alaska Native eligibility by either submitting a copy of an approved Bureau of Indian Affairs Certification Form with their application.

Deadline for new applicants is March 28, and the deadline for continuation students is Feb. 28. For more information contact the IHS Scholarship Program Office at (301) 443-6197.