

Welcome

Golden Belt Community Foundation is pleased you are on our scholarship review committee. We are continually impressed with the seriousness with which committee members approach the task of selecting recipients. Volunteer participation and willingness to objectively review student applications ensures that recipients are selected in a fair and consistent manner. The future of the economy and the quality of life we enjoy, now more than ever, rest on providing educational opportunities.

Before reviewing the scholarship applications, please sign and return the Confidentiality Policy and Conflict of Interest Statement.

Thank you for volunteering to be a scholarship committee for Golden Belt Community Foundation. We hope you will find this experience rewarding as you assist students with reaching their educational goals. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Program Officer - Scholarships

Scholarship Committee

Frequently Asked Questions

What is my role?

Your primary role as a volunteer is to assist with evaluating student scholarship applications. You are expected to read and score applications as thoughtfully as you can.

Can we tell applicants whether they will receive a scholarship?

No. You must keep all information you learn about applicants confidential. Often there are awards ceremonies in the high schools where scholarship recipients are announced. Students will be notified individually via our scholarship system (email) of the foundation's decisions.

What else can I do to help with the Foundation's Scholarship Program?

You have a unique opportunity to help promote Golden Belt Community Foundation's scholarship funds. Tell others about your role in evaluating scholarship applications. Encourage students to apply for scholarships at the foundation. And, tell others you know about the foundation's *commitment to increasing scholarship resources* for the area.

Scoring Applications

Overview

The scholarship selection process begins when applications are received in the Golden Belt Community Foundation's Scholarship system. The Program officer reviews applicants for eligibility after they have went through the universal application process for additional care and consideration. This information will give you tips on what to consider and guides to help you interpret the information you will be reviewing when making your selections. **Not all of the below scoring areas are applicable to all scholarship applications.**

Scoring System

1. You will receive an email inviting you to review/score our scholarship applications.
2. To review scholarships, you click "[login](https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=gbcfs)" in the following link:
<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=gbcfs>
3. You will see your first Evaluation listed and you then will choose **Start** to begin the process.
4. The Scholarship criteria will be listed at the top for your review.
 - a. The left side will be the Evaluation/Scoring Card
 - b. The right side will be the scholarship application for review
5. Each scholarship fund has its own unique criteria that was established in the Golden Belt Community Foundation Scholarship Fund Agreement, when the scholarship fund was established. Simply, score the applications in each of the designated areas.
6. Applicants are ranked according to their score. **Priority funding should be given to applicants with the highest scores.**

Scoring Tips

Transcripts - the Foundation wants you to use the scoring guide using the most current high school or college transcripts. If the student is a graduating senior with college classes please score using their high school transcript only. If the student is already a full-time college student you will use their current college transcript. Use the cumulative GPA for scoring purposes. Also, use the attached transcript rather than the self-reported GPA in the application.

ACT Score – The American College Testing score assesses college readiness with a standardized test for high school students. Students are tested in the following areas: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. The composite score is the average of the four tests, rounded to the nearest whole number.

Financial Aid – Financial aid is not as easily identifiable as it was in the past with the use of the EFC (expected family contribution) number from the FAFSA. Some students are not filling these out due to the lack of help. We are currently using the questions listed referencing Pell grants and free and/or reduced lunches. We've also added a financial need summary question to see if that will help paint a better picture.

Activities and Community Involvement: look at not only the number of activities the applicant participated in but also if they had a leadership role and their length of involvement.

Work Experience: sometimes students cannot participate in activities because of financial obligations. Look to see if they work after school or just in the summer and also keep in mind how long they have been at the job.

Essay: did the student answer each essay question and is the essay written well, engaging, and informative.

Recommendation: Was the person writing the recommendation a teacher or professional and was their referral strong and positive.

Incomplete Information: Occasionally students will not provide adequate information for you to score them in a specific area. Just do the best you can and if you leave an area blank, chances are other people are doing the same thing and the student's score will be docked for insufficient documentation.