

2016 University Choice Neighborhood Scholarship Program

Program Description & Guidelines

The University Choice Neighborhood Scholarship (UCNS) Program is an initiative of the \$30m University Choice Neighborhood Grant which is being administered by the Atlanta Housing Authority and the City of Atlanta. This one time scholarship award is for 1.) graduating seniors at Washington High School; 2.) residents of the former University Homes or residents within the University Choice Neighborhood that will be entering a two or four year college or university as a freshman this fall. The UCN includes Ashview Heights, Vine City, and the Atlanta University Center Neighborhood. AHA strongly encourages lifelong learning as an integral component of its vision of building vibrant communities and encouraging individual self-sufficiency.

The purpose of UCNS is to provide scholarships to eligible University Choice Neighborhood individuals in support of their post-secondary education options. Scholarships will be awarded without regard to race, religion, sex, color, national origin, disability or familial status. All candidates for the scholarship must complete the attached application and meet established eligibility criteria. This year we will award up to 20 scholarships with a minimum amount of \$1,000 each. The funds will be disbursed by the educational institution and can be used for tuition or any school or student related cost and fees unless the selection committee determines that a portion of the scholarship may be used for a personal computer or other items to facilitate college readiness.

Eligibility Criteria

The applicant must:

- ✓ Be a graduating senior at Washington High School, resident of the former University Homes or resident within the University Choice Neighborhood that will be entering a two or four year college or university as a freshman this fall.
- ✓ Have attained a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale at the time of application submission or a GED.
- ✓ Use scholarship proceeds at an accredited two or four year college or university. Checks will be made payable to the winner's school of choice once evidence of registration is provided. Student identification number Bursar's address will be required.

In addition:

- ✓ UCNS Scholarship Selection Committee will judge the submitted scholarship applications. Awardees will be selected based on completed application, attachments and will be awarded first to the students with the greatest need.
- ✓ The UCNS Scholarship Selection Committee reserves the right to conduct an interview with the finalists.
- ✓ Scholarship Eligibility Criteria apply only to scholarships to be awarded in 2016 and are subject to change in future years.
- ✓ The number and value of the scholarships awarded will vary based on the number of quality applications received and the amount of funds available.

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Required Documents:

- **Completed Application** - typed (using the application enclosed).
NOTE: This form cannot be submitted electronically. Every effort should be made to submit a typed application.
- **Two letters** of recommendation **on letterhead**. One letter from an academic source, and one of the letters should come from an adult (not a relative) not affiliated with your school for example, see the list below:
 - **Academic:** Principal, teacher, counselor, or other school official.
 - **Civic:** A person in the community (employer, civic leader, pastor, community service official, etc.).
 - **Personal:** An adult (21 years or older) who knows the applicant well and can attest to applicant's achievements, qualifications, and aptitude. **Letters from relatives will not be accepted.**
- **Official** high school transcript or GED certificate.
- **Two Completed Essays:**
 1. What does Community mean to you? (250 words max)
 2. Describe your financial need for this scholarship and what it would enable you to accomplish in your academic career. (250 words max)
- Letter(s) of acceptance from chosen institution(s) – Please include any letters received prior to the application deadline, and forward any letters received prior to May 10th to be included as part of your application.

Incomplete Applications will not be reviewed by the UCN Scholarship Selection Committee

Restrictions:

UCNS Committee reserves the right to revoke any award for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Candidate does not enroll for Fall 2016 semester classes.
- Candidate is not accepted by an educational institution.
- Application information determined to be late, incomplete or includes false information.

Submission & Additional Information:

Application with supporting documentation due no later than 5:00pm, **Friday April 15, 2016:**

**UCN Community Engagement
Scholarship Selection Committee
227 Roach Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30314
Attn: Gwen Weddington**

(404) 685-4376

gwen.weddington@atantahousing.org

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Application

Name: _____
Last First MI

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: Female _____ Male _____

Current Address: _____
Number Street Apt. #

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Cell Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____
Number Street Apt. #

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Cell Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Education

┌ _____ **High School** _____ **GED**

School Name: _____

Counselor's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Cumulative GPA: _____

Do you have a laptop that you can utilize for your college education? Yes _____ No _____

List Colleges and/or Universities to which you have applied and /or been accepted.

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College or University w/ City and State	Acceptance Date (if received)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Activities, Awards & Honors

Please list all school activities in which you have participated during the **past four years** (e.g., student government, music, sports, etc.) and note all special awards, recognitions, honors and offices held.

High School Activities	# of Years	Honors, Special Awards or Recognition	Offices Held
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

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Community Involvement

Please list community service organizations, volunteer organizations or special projects you are now active with or have previously been active with during the past four years, including employment and internships, etc.

Organization	# of Years	Service, Volunteer Organizations, Special Projects, Employment, Internships, etc.	Offices/Positions Held
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

Disclosure

By signing this disclosure, I understand that I am granting AHA permission to disclose and discuss the contents of this application with UCN staff and the UCNS Scholarship Selection Committee or third parties such as schools, colleges, universities, and references for the purposes of evaluating my application and eligibility for the UCNS scholarship.

I hereby certify that the information provided in this application is to the best of my knowledge, true and correct. I have not knowingly withheld any facts or circumstances that could otherwise jeopardize consideration of this application.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

(If under the age of 18)
 Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

This application form consists of **five (5)** pages including the essays. If you are missing any page(s) please contact the Community Engagement Team at (404) 685-4376.

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Essay #1: What does Community mean to you? (250 words max)

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Essay #2: Please describe your financial need for this scholarship and what it would enable you to accomplish in your academic career. (250 words max)