



**Southwest Tribal Housing Alliance**

P.O. Box 10572

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**ARIZONA – NEW MEXICO – WEST TEXAS**

## **SOUTHWEST TRIBAL HOUSING ALLIANCE (SWTHA) ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

Southwest Tribal Housing Alliance (Region VIII) is comprised of members tribes from the states of Arizona, New Mexico, and West Texas. Each year SWTHA receives donations to support the Annual Scholarship Program, whereby students enrolled in SWTHA member tribes are eligible to apply for monetary scholarships to be used for tuition and other school-related expenses.

### **PURPOSE OF SCHOLARSHIP**

The goals of the scholarship program are to assist in the education of an enrolled tribal member from one of the SWTHA members. The grant may be used for post-secondary or graduate level courses at an accredited educational institution for a course of study that will result in an accredited degree or vocational certification.

### **PROCESS**

The SWTHA Board shall review the scholarship applications annually and select scholarship recipients on the following criteria:

1. The applicant is an enrolled Region VIII tribal member, **as evidenced by CIB/Enrollment Letter.**
2. A completed application received by the deadline date.
3. The applicant is a high school graduate or certified equivalent.
4. The applicant has applied to or has been accepted by an accredited, post-secondary institution or other acceptable established accredited program, **verified by current College Letter of Acceptance or Upcoming Class Schedule.**
5. The applicant meets the required overall 2.5 GPA (4-point system) and is based on a part/full time course load **as evidenced by submitted official course/grade transcripts.**
  - a. Electronic transcripts are deemed "official" when received from a secure site formally connected to the sending institution or testing service.
  - b. Official hard-copy transcripts and other academic records must arrive in sealed, stamped, official envelopes with all seals and security features intact to be considered "official."

6. The applicant must submit an essay (signed and dated) with the application on one or more of the following subjects:
  - a. The needs, issues, and concerns of his/her tribe
  - b. Experience of American Indian tribal culture
  - c. How he/she will contribute his or her knowledge, education, training experience to his/her community
  - d. Specific interests in housing issues and how to increase awareness in their community
  - e. Other specific issues and interests and why he/she is pursuing education toward those interests
7. Two letters of reference (signed and dated within the application period) that can describe the applicant's achievements and or accomplishments.

### **AWARD DESIGN**

**The check will be mailed directly to the college the student is attending.** The determination of the applicant's eligibility and the determination to award an eligible applicant is solely at the discretion of the SWTHA Board and the determination is final. The distribution of funding will be determined by the following:

The Board will determine how much funds are available to award each year. That amount will be awarded in equal amounts, rounded down to the nearest \$50 or \$100, for a maximum of \$1,000 per applicant. Example: 1) \$5,000 available – five applicants, each gets \$1,000. 2) \$5,000 available – seven applicants, each gets \$700: with \$100 remaining in the fund for future awards.

### **SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION:**

All applications need to be submitted by the deadline of **April 30, 2024**, close of business. Email applications to [swtha.region8@gmail.com](mailto:swtha.region8@gmail.com) or mail official documents to:

**Southwest Tribal Housing Alliance**  
P.O. Box 10572  
Albuquerque, NM 87184  
[swtha.region8@gmail.com](mailto:swtha.region8@gmail.com)

If you have any questions, please email question to: [swtha.region8@gmail.com](mailto:swtha.region8@gmail.com).

### **NOTIFICATION**

The students will be notified by email after the awards are decided. Presentation of the regional scholarship award(s) will be made at a Southwest Tribal Housing Alliance Tri-Annual Meeting and announced through our website at [www.swtha.org](http://www.swtha.org) and newsletter.