



Scholarship Program 2017-2018 Academic Year

The Positive Paths Scholarship Program assists East Valley women who are returning to school to improve their lives and enhance their career opportunities by way of obtaining appropriate education and training. Many of the recipients will have overcome major obstacles including poverty, domestic violence, death of a spouse, loss of a job, illness of family members, issues with children, or other challenges. Recipients can use the award to offset costs associated with their efforts to attain a post-secondary credential that leads to stable employment opportunities, including tuition, fees, books, gas, childcare, and other expenses. Scholarship amounts may vary, up to a maximum of \$1000 per semester, and can be given for a maximum of eight semesters, for women who meet the renewal criteria.

Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be female.
- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Demonstrate financial need.
- Be a resident of an East Valley community at time of application and continuously while funded. For the purposes of this program the East Valley consists of Tempe, Mesa, Chandler, Gilbert, Queen Creek, Apache Junction, San Tan Valley and unincorporated areas within these community boundaries.
- Be enrolled in, or have been accepted to, a vocational/skills training program, a community college associate's degree program, or a bachelor's degree program at an Arizona public university.
 - Awards will be given for use at public institutions such as the community colleges, the state universities, and adult education programs offered through public school districts. Positive Paths is currently not funding students who wish to pursue their work at private institutions or for-profit institutions.
 - Awards will be made only to students seeking certificates or degrees. This program does not pertain to those who wish to take special interest courses or coursework not related to certificate or degree completion.
 - Awards may also be given to students who do not yet have a high school diploma and wish to pursue their GED. Note that not having a high school diploma or GED will prohibit an applicant from receiving federal financial aid, but we still ask those applicants to demonstrate financial need via completion of the FAFSA form.
- Show aptitude or the promise for success. Recipients may plan to attend school full-time or part-time, but, if selected for an award, must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Positive Paths Scholarship Committee that they have a viable plan for certificate or degree completion.

Awards are granted without regard to race, color, creed, religion, disability, or national origin.

Priority Areas for Funding

Current areas of priority for funding include:

1. Short-term technical training certificates and associate degrees in fields such as healthcare, manufacturing, computers and information technology.
2. STEM scholarships for students willing to pursue degrees in science, technology, engineering or mathematics.
3. Health care scholarships for students willing to pursue degrees in health care including nursing, nutrition/dietetics, exercise/wellness, health sciences, and health administration.
4. Business/entrepreneurship scholarships for students who wish to pursue business degrees or degrees in related areas that would advance the applicant's entrepreneurial activities.
5. Scholarships for those pursuing careers in public service careers such as becoming a teacher, a police officer, or a fire fighter.

Submission of Materials

Submit completed materials:

- by 4:00pm on May 19, 2017
- via email to maria.hesse@asu.edu
- or have materials postmarked by May 19, 2017, and sent via the U.S. Postal Service to Positive Paths, Scholarship Committee, c/o Maria Hesse, 102 S. Diamond Key Court, Gilbert, AZ 85233.

A completed packet will include the following items:

1. The scholarship application form. All items on the application form must be completed. The form is available at this website: <http://positivepathsaz.org/scholarships/>
2. One letter of recommendation ideally from an employer, school official, or clergy member.
3. Printout of completed FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) EFC (Estimated Family Contribution) page to demonstrate need.
4. Copy of educational transcripts from any previous colleges or universities. If you have not attended a college or university, please include a copy of your high school transcript. These need not be official copies.

Important Information

- All Positive Paths monies will be paid directly to the institution or college, for the specific purpose of helping to address expenses associated with obtaining a degree or certificate.
- Falsification of information or submission of a late or incomplete application disqualifies the applicant.
- Submission of a completed application does not guarantee an award.
- All applications will remain confidential and become the property of Positive Paths. Please do not submit any materials which need to be returned.
- Applicants may be asked to participate in a phone or in-person interview, as part of the selection process.
- Applicants must live in the identified East Valley communities both at the time of application and thereafter to be eligible for scholarship renewal.
- Positive Paths board members and employees are not eligible for this scholarship program.

*For questions related to the scholarship program,
please call Maria Hesse at (602) 496-1180.*