



## **Scholarship and Mentoring Program Description and Overview 2023-2024 Academic Year**

The Positive Paths Scholarship and Mentoring 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/training and mentorship. Applicants must demonstrate financial need. 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 financial 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 based on individual needs, up to \$1000 per semester, and can be given for a maximum of eight semesters, for women who meet the renewal criteria. Additionally, recipients will be paired with a mentor, often professional women from the applicant's area of career interest.

### **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 the time of application and continuously while funded. For the purposes of this program the East Valley consists of Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, Tempe, Mesa, Chandler, Gilbert, Queen Creek, San Tan Valley, Apache Junction, and unincorporated areas within these community boundaries.
- Be enrolled in, or have been accepted to, a vocational/skills training program, a community college certificate or associate's degree program, or a bachelor's degree program at an Arizona public university.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.

### **Working on the Application**

The application will be submitted online via a Google form. You may want to prepare answers to these questions in advance, then copy and paste your answers into the form.

1. Please tell us something about you – your story and your background – and how you see yourself fitting the criteria for the Positive Paths Scholarship and Mentoring Program.
2. What are your career and professional goals? How will this scholarship and achievement of this education or training help you advance toward these goals?
3. Mentoring is a major part of the program. Have you ever had a mentor? How do you see the mentoring component of the program helping you to achieve your education and career goals?

### **Submission of Materials**

Submit completed materials online by 4:00pm on May 12, 2023. A completed application will include the following items:

1. The scholarship application and eligibility questions. All items on the application must be completed. The link to the online form is available at <https://positivepathsaz.org/programs/#scholarship>
2. Copy of completed FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) EFC (Estimated Family Contribution) page to demonstrate need. If you are worried that your EFC score is too high or if you know you are not Pell Grant eligible, but you still wish to apply for the Scholarship and Mentoring Program, please tell us more about your financial need in the short-answer questions so that we can better understand your circumstances.
3. 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 transcripts. These can be unofficial 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.
- Applicants will be asked to participate in a virtual or in-person interview, as part of the selection process.
- Individuals selected for a scholarship will be paired with a mentor, a professional in the community who will encourage them in their education and career efforts.
- Applicants must live in the identified East Valley communities both at the time of application and thereafter to be eligible for program renewal.
- Positive Paths board members and employees are not eligible for this scholarship program.

*For questions related to the Scholarship and Mentoring program,  
please call (480) 788-0615.*