



## 2016 Family Scholarship Program Guidelines

### **Who is eligible?**

Applicant must be a high school graduate or a senior expected to graduate the year of application. Individuals with Down syndrome and siblings (brother or sister, including half brother/sister and step brother/sister) of a person with Down syndrome (living or deceased) will be considered eligible with other relatives considered at the discretion of the DSACO Scholarship Committee. Applicant's family member with Down syndrome must reside in the 23 county area of Ohio that DSACO supports.

Applicant must be accepted to an accredited technical school, university or college in pursuit of an associate, bachelor or master's degree. Eligible fields of study include but are not limited to:

- Nursing
- Education
- Social Work
- Medicine
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech and Language Pathology

Other areas of study will be considered at the discretion of the DSACO Scholarship Committee. Applicants with Down syndrome who have graduated from high school and are participating in post secondary programs at their own expense will be considered. This scholarship program is not specific to a particular year in school, though an individual is eligible for no more than two (2) scholarships.

### **When are applications due?**

Applications must be received no later than **February 19, 2016**. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

### **What will the scholarship application package contain?**

- A completed application form.
- A one page typed essay that addresses the specified topic as stated on the application form. The specified topic will change each year and will be determined by the DSACO Scholarship Committee prior to distribution of the scholarship application package.
- Two (2) letters of reference. These references are intended to inform the Committee of the applicant's relationship to the person with Down syndrome and the impact that relationship has had on the applicant.
- Appropriate transcripts. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that transcripts requested from school personnel are sent to the DSACO office.

**Please note** that an application will **NOT** be considered if any part of the application package is missing.

### **How can funds be used?**

The scholarship funds are to be used to pay for incurred education expense such as coursework, tuition, or materials/equipment purchased for academic needs (PC, books, etc.). The award can also be applied to living expenses, such as dorm, rent, food, etc.

### **How will applications be evaluated?**

A committee consisting of DSACO members, Board members and Board professionals will review each application package and rate each application. A rating will be given by each reviewer and awards will be given based upon the highest cumulative ratings. A rating standard has been developed by the DSACO Scholarship Committee prior to the screening of all applications.

### **How will the scholarship account be funded?**

- The DSACO Governing Board will designate a portion of the general operating funds (based on a percentage of the annual budget) on an annual basis to this scholarship account.
- Specific and targeted donations will be accepted from external individuals and/or organizations to help fund this program.
- If an outside organization chooses to fund a scholarship, the scholarship will be co-branded with the company's name and DSACO.

### **When will the scholarships be awarded?**

- A letter from the DSACO Scholarship Committee will be sent to all scholarship winners notifying them of their award.
- By fiscal year end (before December 31<sup>st</sup>) and upon receipt of proof of school enrollment, DSACO will issue each winner their scholarship award.
- A special ceremony will be held to recognize scholarship recipient(s). Additional information about this gathering is forthcoming.

### **How many scholarships will be awarded?**

- The number of scholarships to be awarded will be dependent upon the amount of funds that are available for distribution. The funds will be based on two sources: internal assigned through the budget, and external grants or donations specifically targeted for scholarships.
- A maximum of five (5) scholarships will be awarded per year.

### **How much will each scholarship be worth?**

- Each scholarship will be a maximum of \$2,500.
- Each scholarship will be a minimum of \$1,000.