

IRS Rules

- Due to IRS rulings, we are unable to direct any scholarships to a specific person or offer them to immediate family of employees or donors.
- Cobalt Mortgage Dollars for Scholars® is a 501(c)(3) foundation and, therefore, donations and contributions are tax-deductible. A notice of receipt of scholarship funding will be mailed within 72 hours.

Funding Scholarships

- 100% of your named scholarship goes directly to your award recipient.
- The funding year ends February 29, 2012, as we begin accepting applications March 1, though scholarship donations are welcomed year-round. Donations after February 29, 2012, are placed in interest-bearing accounts and interest accrued until scholarship is awarded is pooled and will be used to fund additional scholarships. No interest earned on any scholarship monies will be used for administrative costs.
- We are streamlined at this time for one-time donations and endowments, but are able to work directly with any scholarship creator who wishes to create an annual or renewable award. Please email DFS@CobaltMortgage.com with any questions or to set up a time to discuss at your convenience.

Marketing

- Affiliate partners and employees who participate in funding a scholarship (minimum \$500) are eligible to notify their client databases of eligibility to apply for scholarship awards.
- Tri-fold brochures for Scholarship Creation are available in all Cobalt Branch Offices to assist Affiliate Partners and Employees in creating scholarships. More may be requested from DFS@CobaltMortgage.com
- Digital marketing collateral will be provided and updated on a continual basis.
- In the spirit of sustainability and as a nonprofit, we will only be providing digital marketing materials except as noted.

Scoring Applicants

Applications submitted will be reviewed and scored in the following manner:

As outlined on the application and on our website, applications are from students who are:

1. Dependents of past or present clients of participating Cobalt Mortgage Loan Officers
2. Dependents of past or present clients of participating Affiliate Partners
3. Members of the local Boys and Girls Club
4. Members of the local YMCA/YWCA

Scholarship applications will be sorted according to criteria selected by Affiliate Partners in their scholarship creation, by:

1. Geographic location (zip code[s], county and state)
2. Educational status (current high school senior, currently attending an accredited post-secondary school, but under age 25, or either option)
3. Educational goal (accredited 4-year college, accredited 2-year college, or accredited vocational or technical institute).

After the sorting process students will be scored and recipients selected based on merit.

Awards

- The minimum award amount for a named scholarship is \$500. There is no maximum.
- Awards are for the Fall of 2012 quarters/semesters, but the institutions will be advised that the award can be used for the first quarter/semester or spread over the entire academic year, as their Financial Aid Department determines would best benefit the student. Awards are not to be spread out over more than one year. The chapter will allow recipients to defer their awards to a subsequent year but only under specific guidelines proposed by Dollars for Scholars®. This is generally not expected to occur.
- Awards are based on merit, although scholarship applications will be available at Boys & Girls Clubs and YMCAs/YWCAs. Applicants from these associations are generally presumed to be need-based. Basing the scholarships on merit, but seeking applicants from these organizations will encourage need-based applicants without requiring the arduous paperwork associated with scholarship using that as a criterion. We feel that this system will select many deserving students from our communities.
- Awards are NOT automatically renewable at this point, although students are encouraged to reapply in subsequent years.
- Studies have shown that repeat awards have increased impact, as students often get into college, but may not be able to financially sustain enrollment in subsequent years. Some students have dropped out of school with as little as two quarters remaining for the lack of \$250 per month, having exhausted all sources of support. Many scholarships are only available for incoming freshmen, but the goal is for each student to finish college! It is for this reason that we have included students currently attending post-secondary school but under age 25 as one of our selection criteria. Half of our award recipients from 2011 were in this category.