



Wise Up! Scholarship Application

Annual Scholarship

Deadline: June 24th, 2011



Since 2001, Wise Up!-a project of CHIRLA-has been the foundation of immigrant youth organizing in Los Angeles and across the state of California. Wise Up! was created when immigrant students began organizing and advocating for the passage of AB 540-a California bill that allows students to pay in-state tuition regardless of their legal status. Ten years later, Wise Up! continues to be one of the few high school student-led groups focused on immigrant youth, and has now expanded to over ten high schools in Southern California. Wise Up! strives to work on promoting higher education amongst undocumented and immigrant students, as well as other issues that affect the immigrant community.

Due to California's current education budgets cuts and tuition increases, immigrant youth are facing an even harder challenge to independently finance their education. Through Wise Up!'s extraordinary fundraising efforts, CHIRLA will be awarding (3) **\$500 scholarships** for the 2011 school year to help California's immigrant youth achieve their dreams and aspirations. The Wise Up! Scholarship will be awarded to three immigrant students, regardless of status, who excel in academics while actively engaged in his/her community in the fight for immigrant rights.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a high school senior in **Los Angeles County**
- Must come from an immigrant family
- Must demonstrate financial need
- Must demonstrate participation and/or activism on immigrant rights issues and/or other progressive social justice causes (school or local community)
- Must enroll in one of the following accredited institutions for fall 2011:
 - California Community Colleges
 - California State University System
 - University of California System
 - Private Four Year college or university in California
 - Vocational School in California
- Must have a minimum 2.0 G.P.A.
- Must complete, if awarded the scholarship,10 hours of community work with CHIRLA during the summer

Application Materials:

- Wise Up! Scholarship Application** - Please complete application in full.
- One Written Prompt:**
 1. **Personal Statement (500 words maximum)** - Provide an autobiography that includes:
 - Family history-upbringing experiences, financial barriers, obstacles confronted
 - Community involvement-past, present and future
 - Academic goals and aspirations
- Letter of Recommendation** - Please submit only **one** (1) letter of recommendation. The recommender should be a person of responsibility: employer, supervisor, teacher, or community leader (church, non-profit organization, etc...). Letters should be written on official letterhead (when applicable) and sent in a sealed envelope, addressing the following:
 1. Relationship to the applicant
 2. Length of acquaintance
 3. Applicants strengths and weaknesses

4. Examples of applicant's leadership and/or commitment to civic service
 5. Assessment of the applicant's overall potential to succeed in college
- High School Transcripts** - Submit most current high school transcripts. You may submit an unofficial or official transcript
 - Resume** - Please include work experience, community involvement, internships, awards, etc.
 - Tax Return** - Please include copy of your and your parents' tax return (if applicable)
 - Proof of Enrollment** - Official proof of enrollment will be needed from your college or university if awarded the scholarship.

Application Instructions:

1. Send only application materials listed above.
2. **Prompt must be typed with a one-inch margin and double-spaced. Font must be Times New Roman and size 12.**
3. Everything must be mailed together in the following order:
 - a. Scholarship Application (*In front of all documents*)
 - b. Written Prompt
 - c. Resume
 - d. Transcripts
 - e. Copy of your and your parents' tax return (if applicable)
4. Application must be postmarked or delivered in person **by** June 24th, 2011 to the address below.
5. Faxed or emailed applications will **not** be accepted
6. Incomplete applications will **not** be reviewed. Applications missing any of the required documents are considered incomplete.
7. Awardees will be notified by July 8th, 2011 and will need to attend the Wise Up! Annual Banquet in July (date TBD). Finalist names will be posted on the CHIRLA website and Facebook page.
8. **Regret letters will not be sent.**
9. For more information go to www.chirla.org
10. **Please mail your application to the address below:**

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
Wise Up! Scholarship
Attn: Jacqueline Amparo
2533 W 3rd. Street, Suite 101
Los Angeles, CA 90057

