



Pennsylvania Association of Housing  
& Redevelopment Agencies

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**Memorandum**

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**To:** Executive Director of Housing, Redevelopment Authorities  
and Community Development Agencies

**From:** PAHRA Scholarship Committee

**Subject:** 2021 PAHRA Scholarship Program

**Date:** January 13, 2021

The PAHRA Board of Directors is proud to announce its Thirty-Third Annual Scholarship Program to benefit those individuals who reside in low-income housing or a redevelopment area who wish to continue their education. The purpose of the scholarship program is to encourage higher education, develop self-sufficiency and increase self-esteem among these residents.

Under the L. DeWitt Boesel High School student/graduate category, the following will be awarded:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place \$3,000
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$2,000
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$1,000

Under the Paul G. Pecharko Adult resident attending a post-secondary institution category, the following will be awarded:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place \$3,000
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$2,000
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$1,000

Each PAHRA member is encouraged to participate in the scholarship process. Carefully read the enclosed material outlining the scholarship requirements.

The Application from the individual must be post-marked by Monday, March 15, 2021, to the Agency, therefore permitting each Agency time to review and certify the application before submitting one application from the high school senior/graduate and one application from an adult resident to the scholarship committee by Monday, April 19, 2021.

Please remember that the selected application must be submitted by the Agency, *not* the applicant. Should the committee receive an application directly from the applicant, it will be disqualified immediately and not considered for award.

It is our hope that each of you will do as much as you can to promote this year's program.

The Pennsylvania Association of Housing & Redevelopment Agencies (PAHRA) is making available a total of \$12,000 annually in scholarship monies to encourage higher education, develop self-sufficiency, and increase self-esteem for:

- residents of a federally-subsidized public housing (PH) community or RAD conversion under ownership / management of a public housing authority (LIHTC or other affordable housing is not eligible)
- participants in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program
- persons residing in an area directly served by a PAHRA member city or county redevelopment authority

Scholarships are offered in one of two categories as follows:

- **L. DeWitt Boesel Memorial Scholarship** – *eligible applicant must be a high school senior OR age 20 or younger, who is not currently or has not previously been enrolled in an institution of higher learning or other accredited type of post-secondary education*
- **Paul G. Pecharko Memorial Scholarship** – *eligible applicant must be age 21 or older OR a student between the ages of 18-20, who is currently enrolled in an institution of higher learning or other accredited type of post-secondary education*

Additional requirements to determine scholarship eligibility are listed below.

1) Applicant must be a PAHRA member agency's PH or RAD conversion resident, HCV participant, or resident of an area served directly by a redevelopment authority for **at least 12 months** immediately preceding the date that scholarship applications are due to PAHRA.

2) Eligible applicants must be pursuing post-secondary education in an **accredited** vocational/technical course, trade school certification, college, university, online or distance learning degree program. Graduate programs are eligible.

3) With the exception of online or distance learning institutions, the school must be located within the state of Pennsylvania. Applicants must be considered to be registered on a full-time basis.

4) Annual income of the applicant's family must fall within the current Section 8 low-income guidelines as certified by the local agency. Please note that scholarships are considered income, so they are taxable.

5) Applicants who have received a scholarship through PAHRA during the prior year are not eligible to apply.

6) A list of schools to which the applicant has applied / been accepted must be provided. Scholarship award is subject to proof of acceptance and confirmation of enrollment to the school of the applicant's choice.

7) Scholarship award will be paid in two installments: 50% in June/July upon award notification; the remaining 50% in January of the following year. **Payment is conditional upon proof of continued enrollment or completion of courses.** Sponsoring agency is responsible to provide PAHRA with proof of continued enrollment or completion of courses.

8) L. DeWitt Boesel Memorial Scholarship applicants must have maintained a 2.5 grade point average (C+) or higher during their entire high school years. GPA must be certified by the high school through the latest marking period along with high school transcripts.

9) Paul G. Pecharko Memorial Scholarship applicants must provide a copy of their high school diploma or equivalent. In addition, any applicant already enrolled in an accredited program must verify their current or most recent GPA.

10) All required materials as outlined on the Scholarship Application must be submitted with the application and shall become the property of the PAHRA Scholarship Committee. It is important to note that if any required materials are missing from the application package, the application will be eliminated from consideration.

All applications must be submitted through and recommended by a PAHRA member agency. Each member agency may submit only **one application in each category.**

The agency is responsible for verifying all application requirements and collecting all application materials, as well as local promotion of the scholarship program within their jurisdiction.

Applications must be submitted to the PAHRA member agency by **Monday, March 15, 2021.**

The PAHRA member agency must submit the application/s to PAHRA by **Monday, April 19, 2021.**

Member agencies should forward select application packages to:

**William Lisak, Chair, PAHRA Scholarship Committee, c/o Housing Authority of the City of Pittston  
500 Kennedy Boulevard, Infantino Towers, Pittston, PA 18640**



Pennsylvania Association of Housing & Redevelopment Agencies

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print Clearly or Type – Page 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Head of Household \_\_\_\_\_

Which scholarship category are you applying for? (see preceding page for detailed definition of each category)

L. DeWitt Boesel Memorial Scholarship \_\_\_\_\_ OR Paul G. Pecharko Memorial Scholarship \_\_\_\_\_

List any College, University, Accredited Vocational/Technical Course, Trade School Certification, Online Degree or Distance Learning Program to which you have applied or been accepted (please note that with the exception of online or distance learning, the school must be located within the state of Pennsylvania)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship award is subject to proof of acceptance and confirmation of enrollment

Vocational goal or major course of study \_\_\_\_\_

Upon completion of my studies I will receive: Certificate \_\_\_\_\_ Diploma \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Length of course of study or training program \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ Anticipated Completion Date \_\_\_\_\_

Summarize your academic accomplishments (scholarships, awards, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

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**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

*Please Print Clearly or Type – Page 2*

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List extra-curricular activities in which you have participated (playing, coaching or managing sports, clubs, etc.)

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List civic or community activities in which you have participated (church groups, community service organizations, fund raisers, etc.)

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List specialized training, continuing education courses, or seminars which you have attended

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List your hobbies or special interests

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List jobs that you have held during the past 5 years. Positions may be full-time or part-time.

| Employer Name & Address | Position | Dates |
|-------------------------|----------|-------|
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**APPLICANT & AGENCY – IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Please check the Applicant Checklist and/or the Agency Checklist to ensure that all required application materials are included and that the application is complete. If any required criteria are missing from the application package, the application will be eliminated from consideration.

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION – INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

*Please Print Clearly or Type – Page 3*

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Answer the following questions. It is acceptable to type or submit your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Why do you feel that post high school education is important?
2. What are your personal career goals?
3. What significant events or people have strongly influenced your life, and why?
4. What is your definition of success?
5. How are you preparing yourself to achieve the success that you have just defined?
6. Is there an additional comment or statement you wish to make that may influence the Scholarship Committee’s decision with regards to your application?



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## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION – ESSAY

*Please Print Clearly or Type – Page 4*

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Please explain in 500 words or less:

**HOW WILL YOUR SCHOOLING / TRAINING AFFECT YOU AND WHAT CONTRIBUTION DO YOU HOPE TO MAKE TO YOUR COMMUNITY OR SOCIETY AS A RESULT?**

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## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION - CHECKLISTS

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### APPLICANT CHECKLIST

Please make certain that the following items are complete before you submit your application to the local housing or redevelopment authority. Do **not** submit your application to PAHRA directly.

- \_\_\_\_\_ High school transcript, high school diploma, or equivalent
- \_\_\_\_\_ L. DeWitt Boesel Memorial Scholarship applicants: grade point average of 2.5 (C+) or better through entire high school years, which has been certified by the high school through the latest marking period
- \_\_\_\_\_ L. DeWitt Boesel Memorial Scholarship applicants: two (2) teacher / counselor recommendations and one (1) personal / character recommendation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Paul G. Pecharko Memorial Scholarship applicants: three (3) personal / character recommendations
- \_\_\_\_\_ List of schools applied to and proof of acceptance. Confirmation of enrollment will be required
- \_\_\_\_\_ Detailed list of academic achievements, extra-curricular activities, civic or community services, employment history, and other accomplishments as requested on the application form
- \_\_\_\_\_ Responses to interview questions
- \_\_\_\_\_ Essay (500 words or less) ***HOW WILL YOUR SCHOOLING / TRAINING AFFECT YOU AND WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS DO YOU HOPE TO MAKE TO YOUR COMMUNITY OR SOCIETY AS A RESULT?***

### PAHRA MEMBER AGENCY CHECKLIST

Please make certain that the application you are submitting is complete and that the following criteria are met.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Your agency is a current member of PAHRA in good standing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Your agency is submitting only one (1) application in each category
- \_\_\_\_\_ Your agency has verified all application requirements and materials prior to submitting to PAHRA
- \_\_\_\_\_ Your agency has certified in your cover letter that the applicant or his/her household meets the current residency requirements and published Section 8 low-income guidelines
- \_\_\_\_\_ This application is being submitted by the Agency, not by the applicant
- \_\_\_\_\_ If any required criteria are missing from the application package, the application will be eliminated from consideration

**PAHRA would appreciate if ALL paperwork is submitted one-sided due to the volume of copies to be made and circulated for review.**

**Please do not submit two-sided paperwork.**

**Thank you for your cooperation.**