



2026 La Voz Latina Scholarship

Scholarship Sponsored by:



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

INFORMATION SHEET

The YWCA Northwestern Illinois is the steward for 2 scholarships to be awarded to high school seniors meeting the eligibility criteria below. **Application deadline is January 16, 2026**

RULES FOR ELIGIBILITY

Only those applicants meeting the following requirements will be eligible for this scholarship:

1. Applicant must be of Hispanic/Latino descent. (Male or Female)
2. Applicant must be a resident of and attending high school in Winnebago, Boone, Stephenson or Jo Daviess Counties.
3. Classification as a graduating senior by the time award is granted and be enrolled at an accredited college or university in order to receive funds.
4. Applicant must maintain a 2.5 scholastic average or equivalent.

CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Academic achievements which indicate a high potential for success in post-secondary education (includes review of transcripts, ACT/SAT scores, scholastic achievements and awards).
2. Level of involvement in school and community activities.
3. Completed description of projected financial needs as stated in Part 2 of application.
4. Strength of essay written for application (**Limit of two pages with a legible font no smaller than 10pt, double spaced**).
5. Submission of at least two letters of recommendation. At least one of the letters must be written by a teacher, school counselor or administrator.

PROCEDURES

The following requirements must be met for application to be considered, **all others will be rejected**:

1. It is recommended that candidates work closely with their school counselors while completing this application. The application **MUST be reviewed and signed by the counselor and the applicant**.
2. All information may be completed online at <https://www.ywcanwil.org/scholarships/>
3. The essay must be submitted and must be **typed** on separate sheets, double-spaced, and attached to the application packet.
4. The **essay must be limited to no more than 2 pages**, using a legible font no smaller than 10-point and double-spaced.
5. The scholarship committee will review all eligible applications. Candidates will be scored based on the quality of the overall application. **Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.**

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PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Applicants should be aware that a personal interview may be required as part of the selection process. If needed, you will be contacted at the phone number provided on your application.

SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

Completed forms and essays must be completed **online** or **delivered to the YWCA office postmarked no later than Friday, January 16, 2026**. No exceptions. Mail to:

YWCA Northwestern Illinois
La Voz Latina Scholarship Applications
4990 E. State Street
Rockford, IL 61108

2026 YWCA La Voz Latina Scholarship Application

PLEASE REVIEW THE INFORMATION SHEET BEFORE PROCEEDING.

To be considered for this scholarship:

1. All criteria and format requirements listed on the Information Sheet must be met;
2. All sections of this application form must be **typed** and **signed by the applicant and school counselor/administrator**, where indicated;
3. Applicant's name **must** appear on each page request;
4. A personal interview may be required.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant's Name _____

Applicant's Address _____

City/Zip _____ Telephone _____

Applicant's E-mail Address _____

School _____

School Address _____

City/Zip _____ Telephone _____

Parents/Guardian _____

Parent's Occupation _____

I have applied for admittance in the fall to the following colleges or universities:

How did you hear about this scholarship and where did you obtain the form? (check all that apply)

- School counselor or administrator
- Friend
- Newspaper
- YWCA Website
- Other:

Applicant Name _____

I. Biographical Essay (must be typed)

Please attach a biographical essay that includes your goals and future plans upon completing college. **(Limit of two pages with a legible font no smaller than 10pt, double spaced.)**

II. Please describe financial needs for the first year.

A. Projected Expenses:

Tuition, books, room and board (This information can usually be found on the college's website or in the college catalogue).

B. Your financial resources to help meet these needs:

1. Estimated Yearly Family Income:

\$0-\$25,000 \$25,000 - \$50,000 \$50,000 - \$75,000 \$75,000 – over

Number of people in family: _____

Number of persons in family attending college: _____

2. Current Student Employment:

3. Scholarship(s) Granted and/or applied for:

4. Other (e.g. Education Funds):

III. Extra-Curricular School Activities and Achievements

A. I have participated in the following extra-curricular activities at school (list activity and dates):

B. I have served in leadership positions in my school and/or earned the following honors or awards (list service and date):

IV. Community Service

A. I have contributed the following volunteer service to my community (church, cultural and civic organizations, etc.):

B. I have served in the following leadership position(s) in the community or earned the following recognition:

V. Attach at least TWO letters of recommendation. At least one of the letters must be written by a teacher, school counselor or administrator.

VI. Attach your official high school transcript, complete with ACT or SAT score.

VII. Grade Point Average:

Applicant's Grade Point Average _____ of _____ total points

(for example: 2.5 of 4.0 total points)

VIII. Counselor Verification: Application MUST be signed by a Counselor or School Administrator and the applicant to be considered for the YWCA La Voz Latina Scholarship.

I have reviewed and verified the enclosed information.

Counselor/School Administrator Signature (above)

Date

Print Name and Title

Scholarship Applicant Signature (above)

Date

