



2008

CBC Spouses Student Scholarship Guide



Congressional Black Caucus Spouses Student Scholarship Guide

Who are the CBC Spouses?

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Spouses are comprised of the wives and husbands of the African American members of the United States Congress. The CBC Spouses were established in 1976 as a part of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. (CBCF). For more than twenty-five years, the Spouses have worked with corporate sponsors to establish educational and training opportunities for high school and college students. Since 1988, the CBC Spouses have dedicated their time and talents to fulfilling their mission by establishing programs which support the educational endeavors of students throughout the nation. The CBC Spouses have awarded more than \$9 million in scholarships to deserving students.

The CBC Spouses of the 110th Congress of the Congressional Black Caucus

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New York

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Georgia

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Secretary
Missouri

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Florida

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Georgia

Mrs. Sandra Jackson
Illinois

Mrs. Carolyn Rush
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Dr. Andrea Jefferson
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Mrs. Diane Cleaver
Missouri

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South Carolina

Mrs. Lillian Lewis
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The Honorable Monica Conyers
Michigan

Mrs. Michelle Obama
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California

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Pennsylvania

Mrs. Alma Rangel
New York

Mrs. Gaines Wynn
Maryland

Mrs. Renee Chenault-Fattah
Pennsylvania



Congressional Black Caucus Spouses Student Scholarship Guide

I. Types of Scholarships

The CBC Spouses Education Scholarship Fund

This scholarship fund was established in response to federal cuts in spending for education programs and scholarships. This is the foundation's first educational program. The CBC Spouses Educational Scholarship is a national program that awards scholarships to academically talented and highly motivated students who intend to pursue or are pursuing full-time undergraduate, graduate or doctoral degrees. The Educational Scholarship Fund was established in 1988 and has experienced substantial growth. The fund is operated through the district offices of the members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). CBC Members work through local scholarship committees to award money to academically talented and highly motivated students.

Award Amount(s): Are determined each year.

The CBC Spouses Cheerios Brand Health Initiative Scholarship

This scholarship program focusing on health was established in 1998 as the CBC Spouses partnered with General Mills, to increase the number of minority students pursuing degrees in the fields of medicine, engineering, technology, nutrition and other health-related professions. Since the inception of the program, General Mills has invested more than \$1,000,000 to underwrite this initiative. The CBC Spouses Cheerios Brand Health Initiative Scholarship has served hundreds of students over the years, and has helped to create leaders in the medical and health related fields.

Award Amount(s): Are determined each year.

The CBC Spouses Performing Arts Scholarship Program

Established in the year 2000, the CBC Spouses Performing Arts Scholarship program was developed in honor of the late Curtis Mayfield to ensure that students pursuing a career in the performing arts receive the financial assistance to achieve their goals.

Award Amount(s): Up to 10 students are selected by the CBC Spouses Performing/Visual Arts Selection Committee and are awarded up to \$3,000 each.

The CBC Spouses Visual Arts Scholarship

The CBC Spouses Visual Arts Scholarship was established in 2006 for students who are pursuing a career in the visual arts.

Award Amount(s): Up to 5 students are selected by the CBC Spouses Performing/Visual Arts Selection Committee and are awarded up to \$3,000 each.



Congressional Black Caucus Spouses Student Scholarship Guide

II. Education & Cheerios Brand Health Initiative Scholarship

Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be preparing to pursue an undergraduate degree full-time or be a current full-time student in good academic standing at an accredited college or university.
- Applicants must have a minimum 2.5 GPA, exhibit leadership ability, and participate in community service activities.
- Applicants must reside or attend school in a congressional district represented by a Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Member.

Selection Process

A local scholarship selection committee is appointed by the CBC Member and/or Spouse to administer the Education and Cheerios Brand Health Initiative scholarships at the local level which includes:

- A. Reviewing completed application(s)
- B. Selecting eligible candidate(s)

The committee is comprised of local dignitaries, community leaders, educators and/or church groups. In addition to the local scholarship selection committee, each district has an agent responsible for scholarship administration at the district level. This district agent (scholarship coordinator) is the point of contact for communication between the CBC Spouses office and the CBC Member office. The district agent (scholarship coordinator) is also the primary contact between the scholarship applicants and the CBC offices.

How students should apply

Education and Cheerios Brand Health Initiative

All applications must be received by the applicant's local Member district office along with the required supplemental documentation by May 1, 2008.

Application Requirements

All applications for CBC Spouses Scholarships must include:

- A completed CBC Spouses Education Scholarship Application.
- A sealed official high school or college transcript submitted with the application.
- A personal statement essay from the student (500 words or more) describing the student's future academic and professional career plans. The personal statement must also address the student's interests, involvement in school activities, community and public service, hobbies, special talents, sports and other highlight areas.
- Two letters of recommendation. One recommendation should come from a community or public service leader (i.e. church leader, community leader).
- If a high school senior, an acceptance letter from the college where the student will enroll in the fall of 2008.
- A recent photograph suitable for publication; i.e., a cap and gown picture, or other professional quality and professionally dressed photograph.



Congressional Black Caucus Spouses Student Scholarship Guide

Students applying for Education and Cheerios Brand Health Initiative Scholarships must submit their completed applications and all supporting materials to their CBC Member's Local Scholarship Selection Committee by May 1, 2008.

III. Performing Arts & Visual Arts Scholarship

The performing/visual arts include theater, motion pictures, drama, comedy, music, dance, opera, as well as marching bands and other musical ensembles. Artists who participate in these art forms are considered to be performers--including actors, comedians, singers, dancers, and musicians.

Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be either a high school senior who intends to pursue an undergraduate degree full-time or be a current full-time student in good academic standing at an accredited college or university.
- Applicants must have a minimum 2.5 GPA, exhibit leadership ability, and participate in community service activities.

Selection Process

The selection process for the CBC Spouses Performing Arts and Visual Arts Scholarships consists of three stages.

1. The application must be received by the CBC Spouses Office by 5pm Eastern Standard Time May 1, 2008 at:

CBC Spouses, Attn: Performing and Visual Arts scholarship, 1720 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington DC 20036

2. The CBC Spouses Performing/ Visual Arts Selection Committee will review the applications with accompanying materials. Applicants please make sure your visual presentation best represents you and your work.
3. Up to ten students will be awarded the CBC Spouses Performing Arts Scholarship and up to 5 students will be awarded the CBC Spouses Visual Arts Scholarship. Winners will be announced by the CBC Spouses Office in June. Recipients will receive an award letter and have their names featured on the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's website and in other CBCF marketing material.

How students should apply

Performing Arts and Visual Arts Scholarship

Applications must be sent directly to the CBC Spouses office at 1720 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington DC, 20036 and received by 5pm Eastern Standard Time May 1, 2008.



Congressional Black Caucus Spouses Student Scholarship Guide

Application Requirements

All applications for CBC Spouses Scholarships must include:

- A completed CBC Spouses Education Scholarship Application.
- A sealed official high school or college transcript submitted with the application.
- A personal statement essay from the student (500 words or more) describing the student's future academic and professional career plans. The personal statement must also address the student's interests, involvement in school activities, community and public service, hobbies, special talents, sports and other highlight areas.
- Two letters of recommendation. One recommendation should come from a community or public service leader (i.e. church leader, community leader).
- If an incoming first year student, an acceptance letter from the college/university where the student will enroll in the fall of 2008.
- A recent photograph suitable for publication; i.e., a cap and gown picture, or other professional quality and professionally dressed photograph.
- Applicants must include a video, CD, or DVD recording of a recent performance, or a photograph of their artwork (THE APPLICANT MUST PROVIDE A VISUAL RECORDING TO BE ELIGIBLE)

Students applying for Performing or Visual Arts Scholarships must submit their completed applications and all supporting materials to the CBC Spouses' office by 5pm Eastern Standard Time May 1, 2008.

IV. Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply?

Applications are available on the CBCF website (CBC Spouses) at www.cbcfinc.org. Students are encouraged to download the application off the website. Applications are also available at all of the CBC Member offices.

What is the application process for a returning scholarship applicant?

In order to be considered, returning applicants (who have previously received a CBC Spouses Scholarship) must complete **ALL** of the application requirements.

How can I determine if I live or attend school in a CBC Member's district?

To verify whether your residential address or school address is located in a CBC Member Congressional District, please visit the following websites:

- www.cbcfinc.org
- www.house.gov
- www.senate.gov

When will I find out if I have been awarded a scholarship and the amount of the award?

Award distribution periods vary; you must contact your local CBC Member's office to check the status of your application. For applicants applying to the CBC Spouses Performing Arts and Visual Arts Scholarships please contact the CBC Spouses office.

What are the Local Scholarship Selection Committees?



Congressional Black Caucus Spouses Student Scholarship Guide

A Local Scholarship Selection Committee is appointed by the CBC Member and/or Spouse and administers the CBC Spouses Scholarship Program at the local level. The Local Scholarship Selection Committee reviews all completed applications and selects candidates for the education and the health scholarship programs.

Who is the district contact (scholarship coordinator)?

In addition to the Local Scholarship Selection Committee, each district has an agent responsible for scholarship administration at the district level. This district agent is the point of contact for communication between the CBC Spouses office and the CBC Member offices. The district agent is also the primary contact between scholarship applicants and the CBC offices.

What is the application deadline?

General Education/Cheerios Brand Health Initiative Scholarship Applications

All applications must be sent to the applicant's local Member district office along with the required documentation by May 1, 2008. Applications received with after May 1st will not be accepted.

Note: **Do not send your General Education or Cheerios Brand Health Initiative scholarship application to the CBC Spouses' office.** Please forward your application to the appropriate Local Scholarship Selection Committee. Any applications for General Education or Cheerios Brand Health Initiative scholarships that are sent to the CBC Spouses office will be discarded.

Performing Arts/Visual Arts Scholarship Applications

Applications must be sent directly to the CBC Spouses office at 1720 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington DC, 20036 and received by 5pm Eastern Standard Time May 1, 2008.

Applications received after 5pm Eastern Standard Time May 1st will not be accepted.

The Congressional Black Caucus Spouses (CBC) Education Scholarship Program is an equal opportunity scholarship provider, which considers all applicants solely on the basis of qualifications and ability without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, disability or even veteran status. Employees and/or relatives of CBC Members, CBC Spouses, the CBC Foundation, the Board of Directors, the Corporate Advisory Council, General Mills Inc., Walt Disney Company and Heineken USA are ineligible for the scholarship program. Visual presentations may be used for CBC Spouses Scholarship Program marketing campaigns.