**OVERVIEW**

The **Southwest Solutions Community Scholarship Fund** is a scholarship program funded and implemented by a division of Southwest Solutions – **Southwest Counseling Solutions**.

The purpose of the fund is to provide college financial assistance to students from southwest Detroit. Each year, two students will receive Joseph Tardella Scholarships, the highest dollar awards offered through the Southwest Solutions Scholarship fund. Tardella Scholars will receive $2,500 per year, renewable for up to four years, for a possible total value of $10,000. Additional one-time awards are available to other students who apply. The Tardella scholarships and one-time awards will be released in fall 2018.

Information about the scholarship program is provided to public, charter and private high schools, nonprofit organizations and faith-based organizations in southwest Detroit. Southwest Solutions requests the leaders of these schools and organizations to promote the scholarship opportunity, distribute the application materials, and encourage eligible youth to apply.

The scholarship materials are also available on the Southwest Solutions website: www.swsol.org/scholarship

**ABOUT SOUTHWEST SOLUTIONS**

For more than 45 years, Southwest Solutions has pursued its mission to **build a stronger and healthier community**. The geographical focus of our mission is southwest Detroit, our "heart and home."

Southwest Solutions provides over 40 programs and partnerships in the areas of human development, economic development, and resident engagement. These three areas together form a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy and effort that helped more than 20,000 people last year.

Southwest Solutions serves people of all ages and backgrounds. Its programs work in concert to create a holistic system of support that promotes recovery and improves quality of life. Programs include mental health counseling, early childhood and family literacy, children and youth services, affordable and supportive housing, homeownership services, real estate and commercial development, financial literacy, workforce development, entrepreneurship training, and more.

Southwest Solutions actively and effectively collaborates with other organizations to identify and address needs in the community through innovative partnerships.

The Southwest Solutions Community Scholarship Fund is an expression and extension of the organization’s commitment to provide positive opportunities and strengthen community.

**ELIGIBILITY**

In order to be eligible to apply for the scholarship, the applicant must reside in southwest Detroit in any of the following zip codes: **48208, 48209, 48210, 48216, 48217**. In addition, the applicant must have attended a public, private, charter, parochial school or have been home-schooled.

Applicants who are employees or relatives of employees of Southwest Solutions or its family or corporations and/or related to members of the scholarship committee are **not** eligible for scholarship consideration.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

The applicant must meet all of these criteria:

- **Community Engagement**: Applicants must demonstrate their commitment to improving the Southwest Detroit community. Emphasis is placed on community engagement, including involvement in neighborhood/community improvement initiatives, service learning projects, community/youth leadership activities, and work experience.

- **Scholastic Performance**: A minimum GPA is not required for first year applications. Instead, applicants must demonstrate strong academic performance or academic potential as reflected in high school grade transcripts. A personal statement and letters of recommendation should also be completed and submitted as a part of the application process. For continuation applications (years 2, 3 and 4), a minimum GPA of **2.5** (4.0 scale) or its equivalent will be required for college/university coursework.

- A written personal statement that describes your involvement in the community, your educational plans and career goals, and how you intend to serve Southwest Detroit in the future.

- Application or acceptance as a full-time student at a tax-exempt public or private college or university in the United States.

- Applicants are encouraged to complete the 2018-2019 FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid). The application is available online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). Printed copies of the application – and assistance in completing the application – are available at the offices the southwest Detroit College Access Network, 5900 Longworth, Detroit, MI 48209. Applications may also be available at your school guidance counselor office.

All awards will be made without regard of race, gender, creed, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or sexual identification.
TO APPLY

- Complete the Scholarship Application Form.
- A written personal statement that describes your involvement in the community, your educational plans and career goals, and how you intend to serve Southwest Detroit in the future. (Please see application for more details).
- If you are in high school, ask your high school counselor or principal to complete the enclosed High School Certification Form and return it to Southwest Solutions.
- Request an adult (other than a family member) who knows you well to complete the Recommendation Form and return it to Southwest Solutions. The High School Certification Form and the Recommendation Form cannot be completed by the same person.
- For current college students, provide official academic transcripts of all schools that you have attended for the last three years and the grades from the most recent semester completed in college or university.
- Make sure that all materials are postmarked or dropped off to Southwest Solutions on or before the deadline date of April 16, 2018.

SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENTS

- Award payments will be made to the student c/o the name of the educational institution. Payments can only be used for tuition and fees, books and supplies, and room and board expenses.
- Award payments will be made as soon as:
  1. The recipient has signed and returned the Terms of Grant Agreement to Southwest Solutions.
  2. The recipient has notified Southwest Solutions of the eligible university in which he/she plans to enroll.
  3. The university has verified enrollment.
  4. The university has verified that it will not reduce previously awarded grant or scholarship aid as a result of this award, unless required by federal or state law.
- Awards are subject to state and federal income guidelines.

AWARD CONDITIONS

- If an award recipient withdraws from the educational institution (and does not re-enroll at another), the award will be discontinued.
- If a recipient chooses to enroll at a different educational institution than originally indicated, he/she may use the scholarship at any of the other public or private colleges or universities in the United States that are tax exempt under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- All Southwest Solutions Community Scholarship Fund winners must submit an official academic transcript at the end of their year of award.

IMPORTANT DATES

April 16, 2018. The deadline for the receipt of all application materials. All materials and attachments must be postmarked or dropped off by this date. Application packets should be delivered / mailed to:

Scholarship Committee
Southwest Counseling Solutions
5716 Michigan Avenue, Suite 3000
Detroit, Michigan 48210

Recipient and non-recipient notifications of award to be emailed out by no later than May 11, 2018.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you need additional information or materials, contact:

Southwest Counseling Solutions
Scholarship Committee
5716 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48210
313-481-3109

This application and guidelines can also be downloaded from the Southwest Solutions website at www.swsol.org/scholarship
Southern Solutions
Community Scholarship Fund
A Scholarship Program of Southwest Counseling Solutions

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
FOR POST-SECONDARY STUDY IN THE 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR
Applications should be typed (through Microsoft Word) or neatly printed in black or blue ink. Supplemental materials should be clearly labeled and securely attached to this form.

APPLICANT
1. Name: ____________________________________________________________________________
   Last                                      First                                      Middle

2. Home Address: _________________________________________________________________
   Street
   __________________________________________________________
   City                                      State                                      Zip

3. Telephone Number: (_____) ____________________  4. Email Address: ________________________

SCHOOL DATA
Please submit official academic transcript(s) for all years of high school attendance.

1. Present High School
   Name
   __________________________________________________________
   Street                                      City                                      State                                      Zip

2. Anticipated or Actual High School Graduation Date: ____________________________
   Month                                      Year

   Planned or Declared Major: _________________________  Career Goal: _________________________

3. Post-secondary schools to which applicant has applied or been accepted:
   1) Name
   __________________________________________________________
   Street                                      City                                      State                                      Zip
   __________________________________________________________
   Admissions Officer                  (_____) ____________________
   Area Code                                      Number                                      Accepted (Y/N)

   2) Name
   __________________________________________________________
   Street                                      City                                      State                                      Zip
   __________________________________________________________
   Admissions Officer                  (_____) ____________________
   Area Code                                      Number                                      Accepted (Y/N)

   3) Name
   __________________________________________________________
   Street                                      City                                      State                                      Zip
   __________________________________________________________
   Admissions Officer                  (_____) ____________________
   Area Code                                      Number                                      Accepted (Y/N)
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APPLICANT PROFILE
You may add clearly identified additional sheet(s) of achievements, activities or work experience if needed.

1. Academic Achievement: Your official school transcript(s) must contain a summary of subjects and grades. List below academic honors or awards you have received.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Honor/Award</th>
<th>Reason for Honor</th>
<th>Year(s) Awarded</th>
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2. Volunteer and Extracurricular Activities: List below all volunteer and extracurricular activities (in your school and/or community) in which you have participated to a significant degree and to which you have made a positive contribution. Feel free to include personal familial/home responsibilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Position Held</th>
<th>Years of Participation</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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</table>

3. Paid Work Experience (Full or Part-time): Below list work experience during the last three years.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Job Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Hours/Week</th>
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PERSONAL STATEMENT
Please attach a statement of your educational plans as they relate to you personally and to your career goals. Consider the following questions in your statement: What does community engagement mean to you? Provide an example of when your community influenced your life. How will you use your educational experience and future career to continue serving your community? *Think carefully about this statement. It is very important in the selection process. (Not to exceed two typewritten, double-spaced pages).*

STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZATION (OPTIONAL)
I have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2018-2019 academic year so I can be considered for need-based aid. Based on the results of my FAFSA, I demonstrate need at the college or university that I plan to attend. I agree to submit a copy of my Student Aid Report (SAR) if requested to verify my status.

Your signature at the end of the application authorizes Southwest Solutions Community Scholarship Fund and Southwest Detroit College Access Network to examine your academic and personal records. Your signature also certifies the accuracy of the information you have provided. *UNSIGNED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.*

Applicant’s Authorization Signature: ___________________________ Date: _______________
HIGH SCHOOL CERTIFICATION

2017-2018

To be completed by the applicant’s high school principal or counselor/advisor. Applications should be typed or neatly printed in black or blue ink. Supplemental materials should be clearly labeled and securely attached to this form.

1. **Name of Applicant:** __________________________________________
   Last First Middle

2. **Address of Applicant:** _________________________________________
   Street
   City State Zip

3. **Name of high school:** _________________________________________
   Name

4. **Address of high school:** _________________________________________
   Street
   City State Zip

5. **Entrance date of this applicant at this high school:** ________________

6. **Applicant will graduate from grade _______ on or about ________________

7. **At the close of the most recent term of the 12th year, the applicant ranked ______ from the top in a class of ________

8. **At the close of the most recent term of the 12th grade, the applicant’s cumulative grade point average was ______ on a scale of ________

9. **Please provide the following information: # of AP/Honors students __________, average test scores ______________, and % of students continuing on to 2 or 4 year institutions ______________.

10. **In your opinion, has the student been working up to his/her true level of ability? _____ (Y/N)
    Please comment: __________________________________________________________
    ________________________________________________________________________
    ________________________________________________________________________
    ________________________________________________________________________

11. **Have the applicant’s studies been seriously affected by outside work, illness or other unusual circumstances? _____ (Y/N)
    Please comment: __________________________________________________________
    ________________________________________________________________________
    ________________________________________________________________________
    ________________________________________________________________________

12. **In your judgment, is this applicant adequately prepared for admission to a four-year college? _____ (Y/N)
    Please comment: __________________________________________________________
    ________________________________________________________________________
    ________________________________________________________________________
    ________________________________________________________________________
13. Types of course taken by the applicant (General, Vocational, College Preparatory, Etc.):
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

14. Please attach an official transcript of all subjects studied by applicant, whether passed or failed, and all final marks, whether passed or failed. Indicate clearly all subjects credited upon basis of work done in other schools, or in which credit was earned without regular marking symbols appearing in the official transcript. Transcripts must include Fall 2017 grades.

15. What was the applicant’s highest ACT or SAT score? ________________. If the student did not take either of these tests, please indicate “not taken”.

16. Please make a statement below describing the applicant’s character, school and community leadership abilities, ambition to succeed, and evidence of present and future useful citizenship. If the student has overcome specific hardship in order to achieve his/her personal and educational goals, please indicate the circumstances. You may attach an additional clearly identified sheet if needed.
RECOMMENDATION FORM

2017-2018

To be completed by anyone not related to the applicant. Applications should be typed or neatly printed in black or blue ink. Supplemental materials should be clearly labeled and securely attached to this form.

1. Name of Applicant: ____________________________________________________________________________
   Last    First    Middle

2. Address of Applicant: ____________________________________________________________________________
   Street
   City    State    Zip

3. Name of high school or college: ____________________________________________________________________
   Name
   City    State    Zip

4. How do you know the applicant? ___________________________________________________________________

5. Please make a statement below describing the applicant’s character, school and community leadership abilities, ambition to succeed, evidence of present and future civic engagement and academic caliber and success. Please add an additional clearly identified sheet if needed.

Signature

Title

Printed or typed name

Relationship to Applicant, if applicable

Organization Name

Address

City    State    Zip

(   )

Phone Number

Date

E-mail Address of Recommender (if available)

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