

Program Description & Guidelines

The Choice Neighborhood (CN) Scholarship Program is an initiative of the Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant Program, which was awarded to Atlanta Housing and the City of Atlanta in September 2015 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The scholarship program is for students in the following categories: **1)** residents of the former University Homes who reside inside the City of Atlanta; **2)** graduating seniors at Washington High School who reside in the designated Choice Neighborhoods (CN) boundaries that include only the neighborhoods of Ashview Heights, Vine City, and the Atlanta University Center Neighborhood (the CN Boundaries); **3)** graduating seniors who reside in the designated CN boundaries, but attend high school outside of the CN area; **4)** prior CN scholarship recipients who reside inside the CN boundaries; or **5)** postsecondary students whose primary residence (as per GA ID) is within the CN boundaries. All applicants must be in the process of applying to enter into or already accepted to an accredited two- or four-year college, university, or technical school. Scholarship awards are for students between the ages of 16-24, and can be applied to undergraduate studies only.

The creation of the Choice Neighborhood Scholarship Program fulfills a CN goal for educational achievement by assisting eligible individuals to achieve postsecondary education goals. Scholarships will be awarded without regard to race, religion, sex, color, national origin, disability or familial status. All candidates for the scholarship must complete the attached application and meet established eligibility criteria. Award amounts will be determined by a selection committee based upon the review of student merit and need. If awarded, funds will be disbursed directly to the educational institution, and can be used for tuition or any school or student-related costs and fees.

Eligibility Criteria

The applicant must:

- ✓ Meet one of the (5) five categories described in the paragraph above.
- ✓ Have attained a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale at the time of application submission, or have a GED.
- ✓ Carry a course load that qualifies as full-time student status.
- ✓ Use scholarship proceeds at an accredited two- or four-year college or university (includes technical/vocational schools).

In addition:

- ✓ The CN Scholarship Selection Committee will evaluate submitted scholarship applications and select awardees based on completed application and required supporting documents. Awards will be determined based on merit and need.
- ✓ The CN Scholarship Selection Committee reserves the right to conduct an interview with finalists.
- ✓ Scholarship Eligibility Criteria apply only to scholarships to be awarded in 2020 and are subject to change in future years.
- ✓ The number and amount of scholarship awards will vary based on the number of qualified applicants and the amount of funds available.

2020 Choice Neighborhood Scholarship Program



Required Documents:

Completed Application – A typed application must be submitted on or before the application deadline of **Monday, April 6, 2020 at 5:00 pm. Late submissions will not be accepted. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed by the CN Scholarship Selection Committee.**

NOTE: Electronic submissions (email) are accepted; however, original transcripts must be submitted in unbroken, sealed envelope and be hand-delivered or sent via mail.

- Two** letters of recommendation (select from the following):
 1. **Letter #1 (on letterhead)** from an academic or civic source:
 - **Academic:** Principal, teacher, counselor, or other school official.
 - **Civic:** Civic leader, pastor, community service official, employer, etc.
 2. **Letter #2 (letterhead not required)** from an adult (not a relative) 21 years or older, who can attest to applicant’s achievements, qualifications, and aptitude.
Letters from relatives will not be accepted.
- Official High School Transcript** or GED certificate.
- Two Completed Essays:**
 1. Referring to Ashview Heights, Atlanta University Center, and Vine City: What is the single fondest memory of your community that makes you proud and why? (250 words max)
 2. Please describe your financial need for this scholarship, and how this scholarship will help you to accomplish your career goals. (250 words max)
- Letter(s) of Acceptance** from chosen institution(s) if available by application date.

SAVE Affidavit: All applicants must verify their status by completing and submitting a SAVE Affidavit, as part of the application. Please find attached the affidavit. Applicants can have the affidavit notarized at their own expense, or bring it to the Choice Atlanta Office at 227 Roach Street to have it notarized at no cost.

Additional Documents to be Submitted:

If an applicant is selected in the first review round for further consideration to receive a CN Scholarship, applicant must also submit:

- Award letter from chosen institution’s financial aid office.



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Restrictions:

The CN Scholarship Selection Committee reserves the right to revoke any award for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Candidate does not enroll for Fall 2020 semester classes.
- Candidate is not accepted by an educational institution.
- Candidate is not enrolled as a student of full-time status.
- Application information determined to be late, incomplete or includes false information.

Submission Information and Additional Questions:

Application with supporting documentation due no later than 5:00pm, Monday, April 6, 2020:

Angela Benjamin
Operations Administrator
227 Roach Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30314
angela.benjamin@AtlantaHousing.org
(404) 817-7285

Application

Name: _____
Last First MI

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: Female _____ Male _____

Current Address: _____
Number Street Apt. #

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Cell Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____
Number Street Apt. #

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Cell Number: _____ E-Mail: _____



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Education

_____ High School _____ GED

School Name: _____

Counselor's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Cumulative GPA: _____ on a 4.0 Scale

Do you have a laptop that you can utilize for your college education? Yes _____ No _____



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List Colleges and/or Universities to which you have applied and /or been accepted

College or University w/ City and State	Acceptance Date (if received)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Activities, Awards & Honors

Please list all school activities in which you have participated during the past four years (e.g., student government music, sports, etc.), and note all special awards, recognitions, honors and offices held.

High School Activities	# of Years	Honors, Special Awards or Recognition	Offices Held
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			



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Community Involvement

Please list community service organizations, volunteer organizations or special projects you are now active with or have previously been active with during the past four years, including employment and internships, etc.

Organization	# of Years	Service, Volunteer Organizations, Special Projects, Employment, Internships, etc.	Offices/Positions Held
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

Disclosure

By signing this disclosure, I understand that I am granting AH permission to disclose and discuss the contents of this application with CN staff and the CN Scholarship Selection Committee or third parties such as schools, colleges, universities, and references for the purposes of evaluating my application and eligibility for the CN Scholarship.

I hereby certify that the information provided in this application is to the best of my knowledge, true and correct. I have not knowingly withheld any facts or circumstances that could otherwise jeopardize consideration of this application.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

(If under the age of 18)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

This application form consists of **nine (9)** pages including the essays and affidavit. If you are missing any page(s) please contact Angela Benjamin at angela.benjamin@atlantahousing.org.



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Essay #1:

Referring to Ashview Heights, Atlanta University Center, and Vine City: What is the single fondest memory of your community that makes you proud and why? (250 words max)



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Essay #2:

Please describe your financial need for this scholarship, and how this scholarship will help you to accomplish your career goals. (250 words max)

O.C.G.A. § 50-36-1(f)(2) Affidavit

By executing this affidavit under oath, as an applicant for a(n) [Choice Neighborhood Scholarship](#) [*type of public benefit*], as referenced in O.C.G.A. § 50-36-1, from The Housing Authority of the City of Atlanta, Georgia, the undersigned applicant verifies one of the following with respect to my application for a public benefit:

- 1) _____ I am a United States citizen.
- 2) _____ I am a legal permanent resident of the United States.
- 3) _____ I am a qualified alien or non-immigrant under the Federal Immigration and Nationality Act with an alien number issued by the Department of Homeland Security or other federal immigration agency.

My alien number issued by the Department of Homeland Security or other federal immigration agency is:_____.

The undersigned applicant also hereby verifies that he or she is 18 years of age or older and has provided at least one secure and verifiable document, as required by O.C.G.A. § 50-36-1(f)(1), with this affidavit.

The secure and verifiable document provided with this affidavit can best be classified as:
_____.

In making the above representation under oath, I understand that any person who knowingly and willfully makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation in an affidavit shall be guilty of a violation of O.C.G.A. § 16-10-20, and face criminal penalties as allowed by such criminal statute.

Executed in _____ (city), _____(state).

Signature of Applicant

Printed Name of Applicant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN
BEFORE ME ON THIS THE
___ DAY OF _____, 20___

NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires: