

# Illinois Valley Economic Development Corporation

223 S. Macoupin St., P.O. Box 88 - Gillespie, IL 62033-0088  
Ph. (217) 839-4431 Fax (217) 688-1868

Stephanie Stahlhut  
Executive Director



Helping People  
Changing Lives

Linda Davidson  
Board Chairwoman

January 02, 2025

Dear Guidance Counselor and/or Prospective College Student:

Illinois Valley Economic Development Corporation is pleased to announce its 2025 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Scholarship Program. Eligible candidates **residing in Macoupin, Jersey, Greene and Calhoun Counties** may apply for a \$1000 scholarship (five total awards) and must **demonstrate financial need** (attached income guidelines). Award recipients must be planning to attend a full-time post-secondary course of study, leading to a career and/or employment at an Illinois Institution. Scholarships are available to for the 2025-2026 academic year and may be renewed depending on availability of funds and overall performance.

**Applications deadline is March 31, 2025.**

Scholarship consideration is a two-step process for applicants:

1. Schedule an appointment with the closest Illinois Valley Outreach Office to complete a CSBG Program Application and provide FCD with the Scholarship forms. The Outreach offices may be reached by calling:

Gillespie	(217)839-4431
Jerseyville	(618)498-9521
Carrollton	(217)942-6824
Hardin	(618)576-2218

2. Complete the CSBG Scholarship Application (see attached CSBG Scholarship Application).
  - A. Three (3) personal and/or academic letters of reference from any unrelated individuals.
  - B. Copy of high school transcript or GED Certificate.
  - C. Letter of acceptance from the school you are planning to attend or schedule of classes for which you have accepted.

Once the CSBG Program Application is completed at your local outreach office, your local FCD Specialist will submit the Scholarship Application along with the above items to Paige Hanks, Community Services Director. All Scholarship Applications need to be submitted by **March 31, 2025**.

Thank you in advance for interest in the Illinois Valley CSBG Scholarship program and we wish you/your students a very successful future.

Sincerely,

Paige Hanks  
Community Services Director

405 Mounds St.  
Jerseyville, IL 62052  
(618) 498-9521

101 E Main  
Hardin, IL 62047  
(618) 576-2218

320 Fifth St  
Carrollton, IL 62016  
(217) 942-6824

Illinois Valley Economic Development Corporation  
Community Services Block Grant  
*CSBG – Scholarship Program*

Complete this scholarship application if you wish to-be-considered for financial assistance. To an Illinois institution-approved for full-time post-secondary course of study, leading to a career and/or employment at any 2 to 4 year **Illinois** institution. This assistance will be for the current academic year and may be renewable, depending on availability of funds and your record of performance.

**CSBG Eligibility Guidelines.**

**In order for your application to-be-considered, these guidelines apply:**

1. You must be income-eligible according to current poverty income guidelines (copy of current guidelines attached). Before proceeding with the application, please review the guidelines to determine income eligibility.
2. You must be a resident of one of the four (4) counties served by Illinois Valley Economic Development Corporation (Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Macoupin).

**Instructions**

1. Please include **three** personal and/or academic letters of reference from any unrelated individuals with this application. These letters may-be-emailed to the address below with attention to **Paige Hanks**.
2. If currently attending school, please submit a copy of your current transcript to Illinois Valley Economic Development Corporation at the address listed below.
3. If you are not currently attending college or are a transferring student please include a letter of acceptance for the Illinois College, you are planning to attend, or a schedule of classes for which you have been accepted.
4. Complete the following application and return it together with the items requested above to the address provided below, or via email to: [phanks@ilvalley-edc.org](mailto:phanks@ilvalley-edc.org)

**Illinois Valley Economic  
Development Corporation  
P.O. Box 88  
Gillespie, IL 62033**

**IMPORTANT: A formal CSBG Application needs to be completed and attached to the completed scholarship form to make sure program guidelines are met.**

**Personal Data**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Address) (City) (Zip)
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home Phone) (Work Phone)
4. Marital Status: (circle one)    Single    Married    Separated    Divorced    Widowed
5. Number of dependents \_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you reside with one or both parents? \_\_\_\_\_

**Academic Data**

1. High School last attended \_\_\_\_\_  
(City & State)
2. Date of High School Graduation \_\_\_\_\_ OR completion of GED \_\_\_\_\_
3. Previous College Attendance:  
Name of Institution \_\_\_\_\_  
Location \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates of Attendance \_\_\_\_\_

**Previous Work Experience (if applicable)**

Please list jobs held, names and addresses of employers, and dates of employment for two of your most recent jobs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Job Title) (Employer)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address) (Dates)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Job Title) (Employer)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address) (Dates)

**References**

List two persons who are not related to you and may be contacted as a personal character reference.

	Name	Address	City	State	Phone
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**Narrative**

Please write a brief narrative as to your education and career goals and reasons you have chosen to pursue the goals. (This may be done on separate pages and attached to this application)

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)  
Income Guidelines

Eligibility for the CSBG Scholarship Program is limited to households whose income does not exceed 125% of the Poverty Income Guidelines. Eligibility is determined by annualizing a household's most recent 90-day income.

**CSBG Documentation Requirements**

- Social Security Cards for the entire household
- State ID/Driver's License for everyone over 18 years of age
- Proof of 90-day income for the entire household
- High School Transcripts
- Proof attending a 2-year or 4-year Illinois College fulltime for Spring 2023
- 3 letters of recommendation
- All CSBG forms completed with attached required documentation and scholarship forms