



Washington DC Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Centennial Scholarships for Currently Enrolled College Students

As the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter (WDCAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. celebrates 100 years of excellence in 2021, we humbly continue our legacy of building our community through scholarship and service. In that spirit, WDCAC is pleased to offer several scholarships with broad-based appeal in support of the varied educational needs of those in the community we serve and beyond.

Funded by WDCAC's first-ever capital campaign, \$60,000 has been earmarked for use in awarding several distinct Centennial Scholarships on a one-time basis, unless otherwise noted, as described below.

1. **Champions of Change Scholarship** – Two one-time scholarships at \$5,000 each for a total of \$10,000 for two undergraduate students who are breaking new ground and doing extraordinary things in the area of social justice. **(See enclosed scholarship application.)**
2. **New Century of Leaders Scholarship** – Three one-time scholarships at \$5,000 each for a total of \$15,000 for three female graduate students in their second year of graduate school. **(See enclosed scholarship application.)**
3. **Finishing the Dream Emergency Fund** – A pool of \$10,000 to assist graduating college seniors at selected DC-based universities who need assistance with their final spring 2021 tuition bill. The maximum one-time award amount per student is \$1,400. **(See enclosed scholarship application.)**
4. **Overcoming Adversity Scholarship** – Two one-time scholarships at \$5,000 each for a total of \$10,000 for two individuals who have received a GED and who are continuing with their education at the college level and for adult learners who are returning to school to begin or complete their college education. **(See separate application.)**
5. **Scholarship for Graduating High Seniors** – Four scholarships at \$2,500 each for a total of \$10,000 for four graduating high school seniors who will be entering college for the first time. The scholarships may be eligible for renewal subject to WDCAC's continuing scholarship requirements and availability of funds. **(See separate application.)**
6. **Family Scholarship for Graduating High School Seniors** – Two one-time scholarships at \$2,500 each for a total of \$5,000 for two graduating high school seniors who will be entering college for the first time. **(Internal to WDCAC only. See separate application.)**

WDCAC invites you to review this packet and the accompanying scholarship packets to learn more about the application guidelines; and we encourage you to apply. **All scholarship applications must be received by March 31, 2021.** WDCAC will aim to announce award recipients by April 30, 2021. Most scholarship payments will be disbursed over the 2021-2022 school year, with the exception of the "Finishing the Dream Emergency Fund" scholarship. Disbursements will be based on proof of satisfactory academic progress.

Awardees may be asked to attend WDCAC's Community Forum on May 23, 2021, to be recognized for receiving one of the chapter's historic Centennial Scholarships.



WDCAC Champions of Change Scholarship

Two one-time scholarships at \$5,000 each for a total of \$10,000 for two undergraduate students who are breaking new ground and doing extraordinary things in the area of social justice reform.

Eligibility Requirements

| Criteria | Requirements |
|---|---|
| Academic Status | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second-year undergraduate student matriculating full-time at a four-year accredited institution and whose academic field of study focuses on social justice reform, political science, sociology, pre-law, African-American studies, etc. • GPA of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale |
| Demographic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African American |
| Extracurricular Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active membership in at least one university-recognized or community-based organization with a focus on social advocacy and engagement on behalf of underrepresented groups |
| Residency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington, DC |
| Documentation to Include with Application | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official digital copy of college transcript • Two letters of recommendation from university faculty or advisor, activist, organizational leader, politician, or another individual who is knowledgeable of the applicant's perspectives and activities* • Personal essay of no more than 1000 words specifying academic field of study that focuses on social justice reform in the United States, political science, sociology, pre-law, African-American studies, etc. and describing applicant's aims, specific involvement and experience with progressive social action activities, the major groups in which applicant is currently and has been active and the dates of involvement in the groups and activities listed. Personal essay also should include a discussion of applicant's long-range goals and concerns, and explain how applicant's proposed study is expected to benefit movements for social change. Applicant also may provide writings, clippings and other documents pertaining to his/her work if such may assist in assessing the application and demonstrating exemplary involvement and or achievement towards change. |

*Letter of recommendation should highlight the applicant's current involvement, and include the relationship or capacity in which the recommender knows or has observed the applicant; the length of time in which the recommender has known the applicant; a brief description of the service project(s) the applicant currently is involved, the applicant's role and responsibilities, including examples of how applicant demonstrated such skills during involvement with the organization; and a brief explanation on what the organization gained through the applicant's involvement with the organization. Letter of recommendation must be on organization's official letterhead and signed (e-signature or scanned signature for transmission digitally).



WDCAC New Century of Leaders Scholarship

Three one-time scholarships at \$5,000 each for a total of \$15,000 for three graduate students in their second year of graduate school.

Eligibility Requirements

| Criteria | Requirements |
|--|--|
| Academic Status | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second-year graduate student, in any field of study, matriculating at an accredited institution • GPA of 3.3 or above on a 4.0 scale |
| Demographic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African American • Female |
| Residency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington, DC |
| Documentation to Include with Application | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official digital copy of graduate school transcript • 2 letters of recommendation from academic, professional or community contacts within the applicant's network who can address applicant's current contributions and future potential* • Personal essay of no more than 500 words describing why applicant is deserving of this scholarship and how the aim of the scholarship will help uplift and inspire the African-American community |
| <p>*Letters of recommendation may be from the applicant's professor or college administrator, employer, nonprofit, religious, or charitable organizations; for-profit organizations whose mission is to help those in need or improve society; or an individual/family in the community not related to the applicant. Letter of recommendation must be on organization's official letterhead, as applicable, and signed (e-signature or scanned signature for transmission digitally).</p> | |



WDCAC Finishing the Dream Emergency Fund

A pool of \$10,000 available for selected DC-based universities to assist graduating seniors in need of assistance with their final tuition bill. The maximum one-time award amount per student is \$1,400.

Eligibility Requirements

| Criteria | Requirements |
|---|---|
| Academic Status | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduating college senior in good academic standing and enrolled full-time scheduled to graduate in spring 2021 |
| Demographic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African American |
| Participating Accredited Institutions* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American University • Catholic University • George Washington University • Georgetown University • Howard University • Trinity Washington University • University of the District of Columbia |
| Residency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. citizen |
| Documentation to Include with Application | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement of need of no more than 200 words describing how you would benefit from the scholarship • Official college transcript • Proof of U.S. citizenship • Digital copy of student account record showing outstanding tuition balance |

*If you attend one of the participating schools and are interested in this scholarship, please complete and submit the application at the back of this packet, and submit the documentation listed above. Please note that WDCAC, not the participating universities, will determine which students will receive emergency assistance and the amount of each award, which will be made payable to the university on behalf of the student. WDCAC makes no guarantee, expressed or implied, that every student whose submits an application for assistance will receive a scholarship. WDCAC's selections shall be final.



WDCAC Centennial Scholarship Application for Currently Enrolled College Students

The following application is for the “Champions of Change” and “New Century of Leaders” Centennial Scholarships. Also included, beginning on page 11, is an application for the “Finishing the Dream Emergency Fund” Centennial Scholarship. Both applications are in a PDF fillable format and should be completed electronically. Please provide the information requested, in addition to any required documentation, in one completed application packet for submission to WDCAC via email, CentennialScholarship@wdcacdst.org, by the noted deadline.

SECTION I. Type of Scholarship. Please note the scholarship to which you are applying. (You may select only one scholarship.)

- Champions of Change Scholarship** *(Two one-time scholarships at \$5,000 each for African-American second-year undergraduate students with an academic focus on social justice reform and related fields)*
- New Century of Leaders Scholarship** *(Three one-time scholarships at \$5,000 each for African-American female second-year graduate students)*
- Finishing the Dream Emergency Fund Scholarship** *(A one-time pool of \$10,000 for graduating college seniors at selected DC-based universities; see application on last two pages of this packet)*

SECTION II. Applicant Information. Please provide the requested information.

Name _____
Last First MI

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Home phone (____) _____ Cell phone (____) _____

Gender _____ Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year) _____

Current University/College _____ City/State/Zip _____

Undergraduate Student Graduate School Student

Current Academic Year _____ Graduation Year _____ Cumulative GPA _____/4.0

Declared or Planned Academic Major _____

Career Interests _____

SECTION III. Extracurricular Community Service Activities. List extracurricular and community service activities, as applicable based on the scholarship to which you are applying. Please include name of organization/individual where service provided, brief description of each activity, dates involved in each activity, and position(s) held/duties. (Attach additional sheets if needed.)

Name of Volunteer Organization #1 _____

Activity/Activities Performed _____

Dates of Participation _____

Position Held/Duties (Include leadership positions held, if any) _____

Name of Volunteer Organization #2 _____

Activity/Activities Performed _____

Dates of Participation _____

Position Held/Duties (Include leadership positions held, if any) _____

Name of Volunteer Organization #3 _____

Activity/Activities Performed _____

Dates of Participation _____

Position Held/Duties (Include leadership positions held, if any) _____

SECTION IV. Honors and Awards. List academic, professional, and related honors and awards. Please include the date you received each honor and award.

Honor/Award #1 _____

Date Received _____

Honor/Award #2 _____

Date Received _____

Honor/Award #3 _____

Date Received _____

SECTION V. Please list below the names of those who have provided letters of recommendation that are included in your application packet.

| Name | Relationship |
|-------------|---------------------|
|-------------|---------------------|

1. _____

2. _____

Note: The recommendation letters must be sent from the recommenders directly to the applicant for inclusion in the applicant's scholarship application packet. Please allow ample time for the applicant to receive and include this required recommendation. The completed packet is due to WDCAC no later than March 31, 2021.

SECTION VI. Applicant's Personal Statement. Please write and submit an essay *of no more than 500 or 1000 words* based on the criteria previously noted for the scholarship to which you are applying.

[PERSONAL STATEMENT]

SECTION VII. Certification and Terms/Conditions. Please acknowledge your understanding of the terms and conditions as set forth below and certify the accuracy of your application.

I certify that I am a Washington, DC resident. In certifying such, I have provided two proofs of residency as checked off from the list below. (Note: Applicants must provide two of the documents listed below that are not from the same business, company, or agency, in which the address matches exactly on both documents, to satisfy proof of current District of Columbia residency. Documents must be original and contain a valid DC address. PO boxes not acceptable. Computer printouts of online bills are considered original.)

- Official documentation, on official letterhead, from school/university certifying or otherwise showing proof of applicant's DC residency for at least the past six months.
- Student loan statement with applicant's name and address from at least the past six months.
- Unexpired DC driver's license or DC identification card with applicant's name and address.
- Utility bill (water, gas, electric, oil, or cable) with applicant's name and address from the past six months. (Disconnect notices/bills are not accepted.)
- Telephone bill with applicant's name and address from the past six months. (Disconnect notices/bills are not accepted.)
- Car/personal loan statement (no coupon books/vouchers accepted) with applicant's name and address from the past six months.
- Medical bill issued with applicant's name and address from the past six months. (An Explanation of Benefits is not a medical bill and will not be accepted.)
- Deed, mortgage, or settlement agreement showing at least six months of residency with applicant's name and property address.
- Unexpired lease or rental agreement showing at least six months of residency with applicant listed as the lessee, permitted resident, or renter (may be a photocopy). The unexpired lease or rental agreement must be signed by all parties.
- Unexpired sublease accompanied by the original unexpired lease showing at least six months of residency with name and address of applicant as sub-lessor.
- DC property tax bill or tax assessment issued within the last 12 months with applicant's name and property address.
- Unexpired homeowner's or renter's insurance policy showing at least six months of residency with applicant's name and address.
- Home security system bill showing at least six months of residency with applicant's name and address.

I understand that applying for a scholarship does not guarantee I will receive an award and that there will be a selection process to determine the award recipients. I understand that if I am awarded a scholarship, the funds will be made payable to the college/university I attend and me. I also understand that the funds will be sent directly to the college/university once the proper verification forms have been completed and returned to the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Further, I understand that if I am awarded a scholarship, I may be asked to attend WDCAC's Community Forum on May 23, 2021.

I agree to waive all personal claims, causes of action, or damages against the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, its officers, National Board of Directors, employees, members, representatives, agents, and assigns from any and all claims, costs, suits, actions, judgments, and expenses from my application and/or participation in the Centennial Scholarships.

I certify that all information provided is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I give the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. permission to verify any information contained in my application packet, as necessary. I understand that misrepresentation of any information or the submission of inaccurate or incomplete information will result in disqualification to be considered for a scholarship or forfeiture of any award that I may receive.

Printed Name of Applicant

Signature of Applicant

Date

SECTION VIII. Photograph, Media and Video Authorization Release. Please read and sign below if you agree to the release as described.

I hereby grant the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. the unrestricted right and permission to use and re-use my name and likeness in any and all publications, including photograph, television broadcast, video recording, internet sites, audio- recording or any other form of electronic or print communication (the Promotional Materials), for its own purposes without payment or any other consideration to me, in perpetuity. I understand and agree that any material produced using my likeness is the property of the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Printed Name of Applicant

Signature of Applicant

Date

Email your completed and digitally signed application to WDCAC at CentennialScholarship@wdcacadst.org. For the “Champions of Change” and “New Century of Leaders” scholarships, a completed application must be received via email by March 31, 2021, and should include the following items:

- Completed application form**
- Personal statement (as included on the application form)**
- Official digital copy of school transcript**
- Two letters of recommendation (see specific requirements as described under each Centennial Scholarship listed in this packet)**
- Proof of Washington, DC residency (and U.S. citizenship, if applicable)**

SECTION IV. Applicant's Statement of Need. Please write and submit a statement of need *of no more than 200 words* describing how you would benefit from the scholarship.

[PERSONAL STATEMENT]

SECTION V. Photograph, Media and Video Authorization Release. I hereby grant the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. the unrestricted right and permission to use and re-use my name and likeness in any and all publications, including photograph, television broadcast, video recording, internet sites, audio- recording or any other form of electronic or print communication (the Promotional Materials), for its own purposes without payment or any other consideration to me, in perpetuity. I understand and agree that any material produced using my likeness is the property of the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

SECTION VI. Certification and Terms/Conditions. I understand that applying for a scholarship does not guarantee I will receive an award and that there will be a selection process to determine the award recipients. I understand that if I am awarded a scholarship, the funds will be made payable to the college/university I attend and me. I also understand that the funds will be sent directly to the college/university once the proper verification forms have been completed and returned to the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Further, I understand that if I am awarded a scholarship, I may be asked to attend WDCAC's Community Forum on May 23, 2021.

I agree to waive all personal claims, causes of action, or damages against the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, its officers, National Board of Directors, employees, members, representatives, agents, and assigns from any and all claims, costs, suits, actions, judgments, and expenses from my application and/or participation in the Centennial Scholarships.

I certify that all information provided is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I give the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. permission to verify any information contained in my application packet, as necessary. I understand that misrepresentation of any information or the submission of inaccurate or incomplete information will result in disqualification to be considered for a scholarship or forfeiture of any award that I may receive.

Printed Name of Applicant

Signature of Applicant

Date

Email your completed and digitally signed application to WDCAC at CentennialScholarship@wdcacadst.org. A completed application for the "Finishing the Dream Emergency Fund" scholarship must be received via email by March 31, 2021, and should include the following items:

- Completed application form**
- Statement of Need (as included on the application form)**
- Official digital copy of school transcript**
- Official digital copy of student account record showing outstanding tuition balance**
- Proof of U.S. citizenship**