



LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND – ST. LOUIS CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM

GUIDELINES

LHB is currently providing financial awards to legally blind individuals to assist in continuing education. Awards will be granted in the areas of adaptive equipment (to facilitate education), college tuition, and training which enables an individual to succeed in their academic endeavors. Equipment will typically be for home use and/or use in the community.

A qualifying example of this would be: A student with aspirations of becoming a music teacher may receive a scholarship towards attending a summer music school program.

Examples of what does not qualify are: Purchasing eye glasses, purchasing bicycles, purchasing of swings/swing-sets, etc.

This grant is not intended to replace school district funding required under IDEA or Rehab Services for the Blind Funding. IDEA 2004 requires IEP teams to consider the assistive technology needs of all children with disabilities. (20 U.S.C. 1414(d)(3)(B)(v))

The IEP team makes decisions about assistive technology devices and services based on your child's unique needs so that he can be

more confident and independent. The law requires schools to use assistive technology devices and services "to maximize accessibility for children with disabilities." (20 U.S.C. 1400(c)(5)(H))

If the IEP team determines that your child needs assistive technology devices and services, the school district is responsible for providing these and cannot use lack of availability or cost as an excuse.

ELIGIBILITY

Who is eligible to be considered for an
LHB Continuing Education funding?

Legally blind* residents in Missouri (excluding the counties of Holt, Andrew, DeKalb, Caldwell, Carroll, Ray, Clay, Clinton, Buchanan, Lafayette, Jackson, Cass, Johnson, Henry and Bates) or the surrounding Western Illinois counties of Calhoun, St. Clair, Monroe, Madison or Jersey.

Applicants that are pre-school age through 26 years old.

Educational Criteria:

Applicant must be enrolled as a full time student (pre-school, elementary, middle, high school or college/trade school).

**(The definition of legal blindness is as follows: Visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better corrected eye (best corrected visual acuity, BCVA) or a visual field of 20 degrees or less in the better corrected eye. We will also accept "Functions at the Definition of Blindness" as a visual measurement for those that are cortically impaired.)*

The applicant must submit a completed application and all required supporting materials to be considered for this program.

The applicant must be a legal resident of Missouri or Illinois residing in the area served by the Lighthouse for the Blind (counties listed above).

WHEN ARE AWARDS AVAILABLE?

1. Applications for awards are available from the LHB office or the LHB Website at www.lhbindustries.com/contined.htm.

2. A legally blind resident of Missouri and afore mentioned counties wishing to request an application may call (314) 423-4333x132; or by e-mailing: ayorke@lhbindustries.com; or by writing to

Lighthouse for the Blind
10440 Trenton Ave.
St. Louis, Mo 63132
Attn: Education Funding Committee

3. Continuing Education funding will be awarded on a first come – first served basis.

FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

A. The Committee's first and foremost consideration in awarding assistance for continuing education shall be that of merit. The applicant shall maintain a high degree of success in their chosen area of study. The applicant, who is awarded a post-secondary award, shall maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.0 in the applicant's field of study to receive continued support beyond the initial award. If the award is for a student is not in post-secondary studies, reference letters from teachers or counselors will be considered as well as academic performance where such performance can be measured.

B. For legally blind applicants, the selection committee may consult with the Missouri Department of Rehabilitation Services or Illinois Rehabilitation Services to determine the agency's assessment of the applicant and the amount of assistance which will be provided by that agency (assuming the applicant has an open case with one of these agencies).

C. Other considerations include: demonstrated achievement, ambition, drive and dedication, volunteer record, and demonstrated leadership.

D. Individual personal interviews may be arranged to further assess a candidate's qualifications and need.

E. Awards will be made at the sole discretion of the Selection Committee.

WHICH DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION?

- A. Application: Must be complete.
- B. Certified transcripts from the school you are presently attending or most recently attended. (Entering freshmen please include high school transcripts, graduate students please include undergraduate transcripts.)
- C. Two letters of recommendation from a current or recent instructor, counselor, employer, community leader, etc.
- D. Proof of acceptance in a post secondary school (This requirement for those entering post-secondary students only). Entering and transferring students must submit notice or letter from the admissions office stating that you have been accepted or are under consideration for admission.
- E. Authorization and Release of Information Form
A signed release of information form must be enclosed with your application.
- F. Print the Vision Assessment and have this form completed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist. Form must contain visual acuity and field of vision or a statement of legal blindness. (Must be completed within the last three years).
- G. Copy of Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- H. Must have the signed documentation from requested school personnel if technology is being requested.
- I. Autobiographical Summary