2024 FCB SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The 2024 Florida Council of the Blind Scholarship Program consists of awards totaling $7,250.00, offered to outstanding students who are enrolled in academic education, professional or technical training beyond the high school level.

• $2,000.00 Gayle M. Krause-Edwards Scholarship – Offered to an applicant who demonstrates superior leadership and outstanding academic performance, and who is enrolled full-time, in a college, university, or technical institute, in a course of study which will increase advancement potential in his/her chosen field

• $2,000.00 Nancy Burgess-Hall Advocacy Scholarship – Offered to an applicant who demonstrates disability-related advocacy involvement and academic proficiency, and who is enrolled full-time in a college, university, or technical institute (this is the only FCB Scholarship that does not required for applicants to be blind or visually impaired in order to be considered)

• $1,500.00 Teresa Blessing Scholarship – Offered to an applicant who demonstrates leadership skills and academic proficiency, and who is enrolled full-time in a college, university, or technical institute

• $1,000.00 Timothy Turpin Scholarship – Offered to a high school student exhibiting leadership skills and academic proficiency, and who is planning to attend college, university, or a technical institute full-time

• $750.00 Bobbie Probst Scholarship – Offered to an applicant who demonstrates leadership skills and academic proficiency, and who is enrolled in a technical or vocational institute

All applicants must have at least a 3.0 grade-point average (GPA), or its non-GPA equivalent, with the exception of the Gayle M. Krause-Edwards Scholarship.

To be considered for the prestigious Gayle M. Krause-Edwards $1,500.00 scholarship, an applicant must have a minimum of a 3.2 GPA, or its non-GPA equivalent, and have completed one semester in a college, university, or technical institute.

While an applicant may be qualified for either the Gayle M. Krause-Edwards or the Teresa Blessing, he/she can only receive one of these scholarships in any given year. An applicant may not apply for any FCB scholarship if he/she was awarded an FCB scholarship in the immediately preceding year.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Applicant must be legally blind. That is, the applicant must have vision in the better eye of no more than 20/200 with corrective lenses OR may have vision greater than 20/200 in the better eye, but with a restricted field of vision of no more than 20 degrees. This requirement does not apply to the Nancy Burgess-Hall Advocacy Scholarship since applicants do not have to be blind or visually impaired to be considered for this specific Scholarship.

2. Applicant must be a current resident of the State of Florida. However, the college, university, or technical institute doesn’t necessarily have to be in Florida.

3. Applicant must have a high school diploma or a high school equivalency diploma. (High school students who are graduating this term may also apply.)

4. Applicant must be enrolled in an accredited college, university, or technical institute, or be accepted for enrollment. A letter of acceptance is required.

5. Applicant must be seeking a college degree or certificate.

6. Undergraduate applicants must carry at least 12 credit hours per semester/quarter or present proof of being considered full-time by his/her institution. Applicants attending a technical institute or pursuing a Masters, PhD. or other post-graduate degree must be considered full-time by their institution to qualify for a full-time scholarship (There is no minimum hour requirement).

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS WHICH MUST ACCOMPANY THIS

APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. An explanatory or descriptive statement regarding vocational objectives and outlook for employment in your chosen field. A brief description of how you heard about the Florida Council of the Blind and its Scholarships program; and how you foresee your involvement with FCB moving forward. Additionally, please include any awards or scholarships you have received or that are pending.

2. Two letters of recommendation highlighting academic and/or leadership skills. Two letters of recommendation highlighting involvement in disability-related advocacy if applying for the Nancy Burgess-Hall Advocacy Scholarship.

3. Sealed or electronic official transcript from school currently or most recently attended.

4. Letter of acceptance from accredited college or university.

5. Certification of visual status from eye physician or DBS Counselor. This document MUST be sent electronically or via mail directly by certifying entity (this requirement does not apply to the Nancy Burgess-Hall Advocacy Scholarship).

Certification of visual status and transcript(s) MUST be postmarked no later than March 15, 2024 if sent via mail.

Please forward Certification of visual status and transcript(s) to:

Florida Council of the Blind

C/o Gabriel Lopez Kafati

6371 Pent Place

Miami Lakes, FL 33014

Please e-mail application packet, all recommendation letters and supporting documents electronically to: fcbscholarships@gmail.com

(No handwritten applications will be considered.)

The Education, Leadership, and Scholarships Committee will review all applications and will hold phone/virtual interviews with all applicants. The Committee will select the five winners, and all recipients will be notified prior to the state annual convention. The winners will be announced during the Awards Ceremony on May 17, 2024 at the annual state convention to be held in Jacksonville, FL.

All scholarship winners will be invited to attend the annual convention and given hotel accommodations for one night for two persons and two tickets to the Awards banquet. Additional banquet tickets may be purchased by the scholarship recipients if desired.

The Florida Council of the Blind will pay transportation costs by train or bus. Mileage by automobile to the convention will be reimbursed on the following basis: $0.445 per mile.

For more information about our Scholarship program, you may contact Gabriel Lopez Kafati at fcbscholarships@gmail.com or by phone at 786-547-5465.