

## Scholarship Description

This \$20,000 scholarship (\$5,000/year for four years), is available to a graduating student from Wilde Lake High School who demonstrates a commitment to community involvement and plans to attend a four-year college or university.

## About Vision Financial Group



Vision Financial Group, based in Columbia, Maryland, was founded by three long-time Howard County residents and graduates of Howard County Public Schools. Two brothers and a lifelong friend had a goal of creating a wealth advisory firm that was focused on building long-term relationships within their community. The founding members remain extremely involved in the local community and this scholarship is a way for them to give back to the Howard County community.

## Eligibility Criteria

Candidates for the **Vision Financial Group Scholarship** must:

1. Attend Wilde Lake High School in Howard County, Maryland;
2. Demonstrate a commitment to community involvement;
3. Plan to attend a four-year college/university; and,
4. Have an unweighted 3.0 or higher cumulative grade point average through Grade 11. In addition, an unweighted grade point average of 3.0 or higher must be maintained through the first semester of Grade 12.

## Application Materials

Applications for the **Vision Financial Group Scholarship** must include:

1. A complete and signed application;
2. A response to the following questions/statements, using examples drawn from life experience:
  - a. Describe your career goals;
  - b. List the top three schools to which you have applied and describe the “college experience” you expect to have. Include the schools’ academic experience plus the extra-curricular and/or other school/pre-professional/community-based opportunities you may pursue;
  - c. What impact will this scholarship have on your educational plans and career goals;
  - d. Describe a situation where you faced adversity and how you overcame it;
  - e. Describe an experience that reflects your commitment to community involvement and the impact the experience had on you; and,
  - f. Provide a statement of financial need;
3. A resume that highlights the applicant’s volunteer/community services, non-academic awards and achievements, and extracurricular activities from Grade 9 through 12.

4. One confidential letter of recommendation;
5. An unofficial high school transcript through Grade 11.
6. An unofficial report card for first semester of Grade 12.

Students are responsible for ensuring that all components of the application are submitted by the due date.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

The Community Foundation of Howard County, and from time to time representatives from Vision Financial Group, will evaluate all applications based on the following criteria:

1. Compliance with eligibility criteria
2. Essay Questions
3. Resume
4. Confidential letters of recommendation
5. Strength of student's transcript
6. General Impression
7. Financial need will be considered in the case of a tie

## **Award Notification and Acceptance**

The Foundation will provide applicants with updates and award decisions via the online application system.

The selected applicant will receive a certificate at the school's Senior Awards Ceremony and, upon receipt by the Foundation of the required materials, the first installment of the scholarship will be sent to the accredited institution. Subsequent installments will be released upon receipt by the Foundation of an annual update highlighting the previous year's challenges and accomplishments.

The selected applicant and their guests will be invited to a celebration hosted by the partners of Vision Financial Group.

## **Questions?**

The Community Foundation of Howard County can address questions about this scholarship program.

### **About the Community Foundation of Howard County**

Founded in 1969 as The Columbia Foundation, the Community Foundation of Howard County has awarded more than \$18 million in grants to Howard County nonprofit organizations delivering human service, arts and cultural, educational and civic programs. Money for the grant programs comes primarily from income generated by the Foundation's endowment supported by more than 300 funds established by Howard County businesses, families and individuals.