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## Illinois Medical District Commission (IMDC) Scholarship Policy

### 1. Purpose

The IMDC Scholarship Program aims to recognize and support students from the 22 zip codes of hardship who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership, and a commitment to community development. This policy outlines the eligibility, application process, selection criteria, and award administration to ensure a fair and transparent process.

The 22 zip codes are defined as 60605, 60607, 60608, 60609, 60612, 60616, 60620, 60621, 60622, 60623, 60624, 60629, 60632, 60636, 60639, 60641, 60642, 60644, 60647, 60651, 60652, and 60661.

### 2. Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for the IMDC Scholarship, applicants must:

- Be enrolled in or accepted to an accredited academic institution.
- Demonstrate a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent).
- Exhibit leadership qualities and a strong commitment to community service.
- Submit a completed application within the designated timeline.
- Live in the 22 zip codes identified above.
- Submit three (3) letters of recommendation.
- Complete responses to three (3) short essay prompts.

### 3. Application Process

Applicants must submit the following materials:

- Proof of enrollment or letter of acceptance from an accredited academic institution.
- Completed application form.
- Three letters of recommendation from school, church, community organization or workplace.
- Essay responses, which include a personal statement (500-750 words) detailing academic goals, leadership experience, and community involvement.
- Copy of GPA/transcript verification.

All submissions must be received by the posted deadline. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

### 4. Selection Process

- Applications will be reviewed by a jury panel composed of IMDC staff and community stakeholders.



- The jury will include a **non-voting member** who will blind all applications for the rest of the panel and serve as an observer to ensure fairness and adherence to the policy guidelines.
- The jury will evaluate submissions based on academic performance, leadership qualities, community impact, and personal statement.
- Finalists may be invited for interviews at the discretion of the panel.
- Up to 10 awardees may be selected based on eligibility requirements, the application package (including any interviews), overall merit, and alignment with IMDC values.
- Applicants will be provided with the application and the supporting questions along with the IMDC Mission, Vision, and Values.
- There will be no notification to individuals who do not receive a scholarship. No information will be returned to applicants.

## 5. Scholarship Awards

- Award amounts and disbursement timelines will be determined annually.
- Scholarships will be paid directly to the awardee or to the institution where they are enrolled.
- Recipients are expected to use the funds for tuition, books, or other educational expenses.
- Recipients may be invited to attend an awards ceremony.

## 6. Responsibilities of Recipients

If awarded a scholarship, recipients will be required to submit a brief summary (no more than 250 words) outlining how the scholarship funds were used and how it contributed to their educational progress.

## 7. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure alignment with IMDC's mission and objectives. Any updates will be communicated to all stakeholders.

**For any questions regarding the scholarship policy, please contact:**

[scholarships@medicaldistrict.org](mailto:scholarships@medicaldistrict.org) or write to:

IMDC Scholarships  
2100 W. Harrison Street  
Chicago, IL 60612