



Education Justice Project (EJP)

**Education Justice Project Scholarship Packet (Returning Citizen)
Due November 1, 2016**

WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in participating in the EJP scholarship program! Because the application process is competitive, we ask that you carefully review the instructions, deadlines, and eligibility requirements so that we may give your application full consideration. **We appreciate receiving your application and look forward to reading your essay!** This scholarship application packet is also available at: www.educationjustice.net

About the EJP Scholarship Program

The Education Justice Project (EJP) of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has offered courses to incarcerated students at Danville Correctional Center since 2008. In keeping with our efforts to promote higher education, we have a scholarship program. In Fall 2016 we will host the following four scholarships competitions:

- One \$500 scholarship to a family member of an EJP student;
- One \$500 scholarship to a family member of a Danville CC staff person;
- One \$500 scholarship to a family member of someone incarcerated in the general population of Danville CC (not an EJP student);
- Two \$500 scholarships to returning citizens who have been paroled from an Illinois prison within the last 5 years (No earlier than November 1, 2011).

This is the scholarship packet for returning citizens that have been incarcerated within the past five years in an institution of the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Scholarship funds must be applied towards attendance at an accredited program of higher education, [e.g. applied to registration costs, books and supplies, fees,] or other costs directly associated with participating in a higher education program.

Your final application will consist of the following materials:

- 1.) The 2 page Cover Sheet (completed and signed),
- 2.) 500-word essay, and
- 3.) Verification of enrollment in a higher education program at an accredited academic institution

Please submit all materials by November 1, 2016 to:

Attn: Scholarships
Education Justice Project
403 E. Healey St.
Champaign, IL 61820

For questions about EJP scholarships, please contact scholarship@educationjustice.net
For general inquiries, please contact EJP at info@educationjustice.net or 217-300-5150



Education Justice Project

**EJP Returned Citizen Scholarship Packet
Due November 1, 2016**

INSTRUCTION SHEET

The Education Justice Project will award a \$500 scholarship in December 2016 to a person who has been released from an IDOC correctional center within the last five years (no earlier than November 1, 2011). If you are a person who has returned to the community after having been incarcerated in IDOC and are enrolled in an accredited higher education program, please apply! We encourage you to read the application packet in its entirety to ensure that your application is complete and submitted by the **deadline of November 1, 2016**.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible applicants are persons who have been released from an Illinois prison within the last five years (no earlier than November 1, 2011), and demonstrate financial need. The funds must be applied to an accredited higher education program. U.S. citizenship is not required.

Instructions for Applying

Complete and sign the cover sheet in the application packet and return it with verification of enrollment at an accredited academic institution and a 500-word typed essay. Appropriate essay topics may include reasons for attending school, economic or career goals, or why the scholarship funds are needed. Because the scholarships must be awarded to those needing assistance with the cost of education, **the essay must address or describe financial need in addition to another chosen topic.**

Selection Process

Each application will be reviewed by a committee that consists of both EJP members and non-EJP University of Illinois instructors. The committee members will review applications blind; i.e. they will not know whose applications they are reviewing. This is to ensure a fair selection process. The criteria for awarding the scholarship are financial need and strength of essay. **EJP alumni will receive preference for one** of the two scholarships awarded to returning citizens.

Notification

After your application packet has been received, EJP will send an email to confirm its receipt. EJP anticipates making decisions in early December 2016, and will notify all applicants of their status. Always, feel free to contact the scholarship program at scholarships@educationjustice.net!

WHAT YOU ARE AGREEING TO BY SIGNING THE COVER SHEET

- The information provided in the application is accurate and truthful.
- If awarded a scholarship you will complete a one page essay describing how the funds were used before December 31, 2017.
- You are willing to participate in a scholarship award ceremony (if asked) and are willing to allow EJP to use your photograph or excerpts from your essay within its publications, website, or social media account.

- Acknowledgment that EJP would like to stay connected to its scholarship applicants, and appreciates the ability to contact participants annually.
- If awarded a scholarship, you will contact EJP immediately if you withdrawal from your educational program and reimburse EJP any amount of the initial award requested.



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COVER SHEET

Applicant's name _____

Years of Incarceration _____ to _____

DOC # _____

Applicants must have been released from an IDOC facility no earlier than November 1, 2011 to qualify. If you have any questions, please contact info@educationjustice.net or 217.300.5150.

Applicant's Address _____

Applicant's Email _____

Applicant's Phone _____
(cell) _____ (home) _____

Name of accredited program to which funds would be applied:

You must provide verification of enrollment in the program. Acceptable forms of verification include a copy of your letter of acceptance, course registration confirmation, recent transcript, or correspondence sent to all enrolled students. If you have not yet been accepted to the program, we will require confirmation of acceptance before dispersing any funds. EJP reserves the right to rescind the award if such confirmation is not forthcoming in a timely manner.

By signing this Cover Sheet, you agree that any funds received will be applied towards attendance at an accredited program of higher education in 2017 and to write a 1 page letter explaining how you used the funds. This letter is due before December 31, 2017. You also agree to notify EJP immediately in the event of disenrollment.

Applicant Signature _____

Date _____

Please be sure your application is complete. The application should include the completed and signed 2 page Cover Sheet, a 500-word essay, and verification of enrollment in an accredited academic program.

Please submit materials to:

Attn: SCHOLARSHIPS
Education Justice Project
403 E. Healey St.
Champaign, IL 61820

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