

## **NORTH CAROLINA LIONS EDUCATION GRANT POLICY**

The North Carolina Lions, Inc. recognizes the need for education beyond a High School diploma. Further education is necessary for an individual to be competitive in today's job market. With the rising cost of education, many visually impaired parents find it difficult to fund the total cost of their children's education. The North Carolina Lions Education Grant Program was created to provide funding for these individuals.

Grants up to \$1,500 per year are available to sighted children of Blind or Visually Impaired parent(s). Grants will be awarded based on the economic need of the family and the scholastic record and character of the applicant. Applications and all required information must be received in the NC Lions, Inc. Office by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

The North Carolina Lions, Inc. will make the check payable to the college designated by the recipient. The check will be applied to the recipient's college expenses. In the event the recipient drops out of school, any unused balance will be returned to the North Carolina Lions, Inc. No funds will be made available for studies beyond a Bachelors Degree.

### ***ELIGIBILITY***

To be eligible for an Educational Grant, the family income of the applicant cannot exceed the following amounts:

One (1) dependent child	\$40,000 annually
Two (2) dependent children	50,000 annually
Three (3) dependent children	60,000 annually
Four (4) dependent children	70,000 annually

\$10,000 will be added to the family income for each additional dependent child.

The unencumbered assets of the family including, stocks and bonds shall not exceed Seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000). Personal real estate is excluded.

### ***REQUIRED INFORMATION:***

- Completed Application
- Scholastic Information including Class Rank, SAT, GPA
- Character Reference letters (Minimum 2)
- Certification of parents visual impairment
- Letter of acceptance from college, community college, trade or technical school (request may be approved subject to receipt of acceptance letter)
- Current year tax return and statement of assets

**APPROVAL:**

If an applicant is accepted in a community college, trade or technical school or a four year college, and the above requirements have been met the student will automatically be eligible and can be approved by the Educational Grant Coordinator. Should an applicant not meet the requirements listed above, the Blind and Sight Service Committee or the Executive Committee would have to approve the applicant.

**RENEWAL:**

Once awarded, Educational Grants may be renewed year by year, contingent upon the recipient making passing grades with an overall average of 2.0 on his academic courses. Students are required to carry a minimum of 12 semester or 15 quarter hours to be eligible for renewal. The Sight Conservation and Services for the Blind Committee on an individual basis will give special circumstances consideration for approval. Grants may be renewed four times.

If a student drops out of school for less than one scholastic year due to qualifying circumstances, that student will be eligible for additional grant moneys upon written request to North Carolina Lions, Inc. stating the reasons for dropping out of school. Qualifying circumstances will include (1) family emergency, (2) legitimate long-term illness of the student, (3) accidental injury, and (4) financial need requiring full-time employment by the student to pay tuition/school expenses.

Students who have been out of classes for more than one (1) year will be required to make a new application for the grant. Written explanation of the reasons for stopping studies will be required with the application. In addition, the student must have met all previously outlined criteria to renew the grant. If the student is approved for continuation of the grant, the student will receive the balance of renewals not previously used