



REGINA A. FIGUEROA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION

MAY 15 – JUNE 30, 2015

Introduction

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) is committed to supporting our residents by offering opportunities to further their education and make a difference for themselves, their families and their communities.

Established in 2011, the ***Regina A. Figueroa Memorial Scholarship*** honors the memory of a remarkable NYCHA resident, employee and student of The City University of New York (CUNY). This scholarship for NYCHA residents with disabilities is being offered as part of the NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship Program, which encourages residents to attend and remain in college by providing vital financial assistance that can be used to defray college-related expenses.

Regina A. Figueroa was an employee of NYCHA's Department of Communications for ten years, and was also a resident of Throggs Neck Houses in the Bronx. Regina attended CUNY's John Jay College of Criminal Justice, where she studied law in pursuit of a career that would allow her to fight for the rights of disabled citizens like herself. After a valiant fight with cancer, Regina passed away on August 10, 2010, at the age of 32.

In honor of her memory and contributions to the Housing Authority, NYCHA established the **Regina A. Figueroa Memorial Scholarship** to recognize the academic and civic achievements of disabled NYCHA residents who are enrolled at CUNY colleges. Annually, NYCHA awards \$1,000 scholarships to qualifying public housing residents with disabilities who are enrolled full-time at CUNY senior and community colleges.

Eligibility Requirements

Scholarship applicants must:

- ✓ Be an authorized NYCHA resident
- ✓ Have a verifiable disability
- ✓ Be a sophomore, junior or senior student enrolled full-time in a CUNY Associate or Baccalaureate degree program
- ✓ Have a minimum 3.0 GPA
- ✓ Submit a 500-word autobiographical essay



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Application Process

Please review the following application instructions carefully. Incomplete application packages that do not meet the requirements will not be considered. If you have questions or need assistance, contact NYCHA's Resident Scholarship Program Manager at 718-218-1513 or via email at scholarships@nycha.nyc.gov.

Application packages will be available at NYCHA Property Management Offices and Community Centers for download upon request. The application packages can also be downloaded from NYCHA's website: www.nyc.gov/nychacunyscholarship. Completed applications can be submitted to NYCHA by email or postal mail and must be **RECEIVED BY JUNE 30, 2015** to be considered.

How to Submit an Application

Email:

scholarships@nycha.nyc.gov

Postal Mail:

Regina A. Figueroa Memorial Scholarship Program
Attn: Tischelle George / Office of REES
New York City Housing Authority
787 Atlantic Avenue, 2nd Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11238

Please do not drop off/ submit applications in person.



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Documentation Requirements

All participants are required to submit the following as part of the application package:

- College transcript – (unofficial transcripts will be accepted)
- Resume of work experience and community service
- 500-word autobiographical essay: (typed, double-spaced – please include your name in the header and number all pages)
- Reliable disability-related information, which can include the following:
 - Proof of receipt of SSI or SSDI
 - Letter on official letterhead from a doctor or other medical professional, a peer support group, or a non-medical service agency who is in a position to know about your disability.

For the purposes of proving eligibility for the Regina A. Figueroa Memorial Scholarship, medical records or detailed information about the nature of your disability is **NOT** necessary. Any documentation provided will be used for the sole purpose of evaluating your eligibility for the Regina A. Figueroa Memorial Scholarship and will not be used in making any housing eligibility determinations. **NYCHA will keep the information you provide, and any doctor's letters, confidential as required by law.**

Selection Process

The Regina A. Figueroa Memorial Scholarship Program Selection Committee, which is comprised of representatives from NYCHA and CUNY, will review all application packages and select eligible applicants. Selection is based on scoring in three key areas:

- Completeness of application and supporting documents (5 point maximum)
- Extracurricular/Community Involvement (20 point maximum)
- Essay (25 point maximum)

NYCHA residency and a Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher will be verified at the time of selection.

Students who are selected as scholarship recipients will be notified during the summer of 2015. Scholarships will be awarded at a ceremony in September 2015.



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Award Amount

Each scholarship recipient will receive an award of \$1,000.00 made payable to their college to satisfy any balance the student may owe. Any remaining monies may be paid to the student in the form of a refund. Scholarships may be distributed in two installments for fall and spring enrollment for continuing students.

Questions

If you have questions or need assistance, visit NYCHA's website for a list of answers to Frequently Asked Questions, www.nyc.gov/nychacunyscholarship; call NYCHA's Resident Scholarship Program Manager, Tischelle George at 718-218-1513 or email scholarships@nycha.nyc.gov.



NYCHA - CUNY RESIDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION REGINA A. FIGUEROA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

DISABILITY VERIFICATION

To be eligible for the Regina A. Figueroa Memorial Scholarship, all applicants must have a disability. A disability is a physical, medical, mental, or psychological impairment. Examples of impairments include mobility impairments, sensory impairments (e.g., blindness or deafness), chronic health problems (e.g., asthma), and mental health problems.

Answers provided in this section of the application will be used for the sole purpose of evaluating your eligibility for the Regina A. Figueroa Memorial Scholarship and will not be used in making any housing eligibility determinations. **NYCHA will keep the information you provide, and any doctor's letters, confidential as required by law.**

If you have a disability, please submit reliable disability-related information that verifies the disability. Reliable disability-related information can include the following:

- Proof of receipt of SSI or SSDI
- Letter on official letterhead from a doctor or other medical professional, a peer support group, or a non-medical service agency who is in a position to know about your disability.

For the purposes of proving eligibility for the Regina A. Figueroa Memorial Scholarship, medical records or detailed information about the nature of your disability is **NOT** necessary.





**NYCHA - CUNY RESIDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION
REGINA A. FIGUEROA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

EDUCATION BACKGROUND

CUNY College (Please select the name of your college)

College level at time of application
(sophomore, junior, senior)

Major and/or Minor

Cumulative Grade Point Average
(attach transcript)

AWARDS, HONORS, ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

List special honors received within the past two years (Deans List, awards, etc.)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

List any extra-curricular/community activities in which you are currently engaged (e.g., community programs, athletics, student government, Resident Green Committee, Resident Association, Parent Teacher Association, etc.)





**NYCHA - CUNY RESIDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION
REGINA A. FIGUEROA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY

NYCHA and CUNY, as public institutions, are committed to helping low-income New Yorkers realize their full potential through higher education. As a member of both communities, we invite you to write an essay that describes how being a resident of public housing AND attending a CUNY college is helping you to achieve your professional goals while living with a disability. Your essay should not exceed 500 words.

(Attach the essay to the application and include your name on each page of your essay.)

CERTIFICATION

I certify that all of the information I have provided in this application and in the supporting documents is true and accurate.

Print Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

