



TO: All Voting Member Systems

FROM: Illinois Rural Water Association

DATE: 12/19/2025

The IRWA Scholarship Program continues to grow and produce success stories as more and more young people further their education by attending college. In 1997, IRWA introduced this very rewarding program, and we are pleased to once again inform you that our Associate Member Scholarship Program will be awarding scholarships for the fall of 2026. The scholarship funds are a direct result of contributions made by the Association's Associate Membership throughout the country. As a reminder, this program is only for the children of IRWA Water and/or Wastewater Voting member systems' employees, mayors, board members, and administrative staff.

We ask that you provide each eligible person of your system who has a child that is considering college for the Fall of 2026 a copy of this letter and application. The application is also available to download at www.ilrwa.org.

Please note that the application ***must be RECEIVED*** by January 27, 2026. All instructions must be followed and the application must be completed in its entirety when it is submitted in order to be considered.

ESSAY

ON A SEPARATE PAGE IN 500 WORDS OR LESS, WRITE (**Please Type**) A BRIEF ESSAY ON “Explain what an “Aquifer” is, and How do Aquifers get their water? Are the water levels in the Illinois Aquifers adequate? Do you get your water from an Aquifer or surface water?”

OFFICIAL RULES:

This scholarship of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) will be made to a student to defray the cost of tuition, books, or room and board at an accredited institution of higher learning approved by the Illinois Rural Water Association (IRWA). Disbursement of the money will be made in August of 2026 upon presentation of winner’s college or university full-time enrollment form for the Fall 2026 semester. The scholarship money will be paid directly to the college or university. The scholarships will be awarded to the children of IRWA Voting member employees or other eligible person. In order to be eligible for a scholarship, applicants must complete the application form in its entirety by completing all blanks. If item is not applicable, please place a N/A in the blank. Upon completion return this to the IRWA Scholarship Committee. Entries must be received in the IRWA office by January 26, 2026. Applicants will be evaluated on a comparative basis at the sole discretion of the committee. Should the parent of the scholarship award applicant leave the employment or the affiliate system for any reason, the student will no longer qualify for the award.

ILLINOIS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION 2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Please return this portion to:

mail: IRWA, P.O. Box 49, Taylorville, IL 62568, e-mail: ilrwa@ilrwa.org, or fax: 217-824-8638

Personal Data

NAME:

Last First Middle

ADDRESS:

CITY: _____ IL ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE #: _____ MALE OR FEMALE (Please circle)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Eligible Voting Member (Person working for Voting System) Data

NAME: _____ JOB TITLE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ IL ZIP: _____

SYSTEM NAME: _____ TELEPHONE #: _____

RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT: _____

High School Data

SCHOOL NAME: _____ GRADUATION DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ IL ZIP: _____

YOUR CLASS RANK: _____ NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN CLASS _____

YOUR GRADE POINT AVERAGE: _____

TRANSCRIPT MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION.

LIST BELOW ANY ACADEMIC AWARDS, MEMBERSHIPS OR OTHER SPECIAL RECOGNITION YOU HAVE RECEIVED DATING BACK TO YOUR SOPHOMORE YEAR.

College/University Data

IS THIS YOUR FIRST YEAR OF HIGHER EDUCATION? YES _____ NO _____

If "NO", College Transcript Required

IF "NO", INDICATE CREDIT HOURS COMPLETED: _____

NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE: _____

COLLEGE GRADE POINT AVERAGE: _____

SCHOOL NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Please indicate:

- _____ 4 Year College/University
- _____ 2 Year Community/Junior College
- _____ Vocational Technical School
- _____ Graduate School

MAJOR COURSE OF STUDY: _____

PLEASE ADD OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDING THOSE THAT ARE WORK RELATED:
