



FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION OF BROWARD COUNTY

**Adopted
2004**

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FIREFIGHTER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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INTRODUCTION

The Firefighter Scholarship Program was developed by the Fire Chiefs' Association of Broward County to assist students with funding to complete their education needed for a career in the Fire Service. The Fire Chiefs' Association will make their scholarship support available to students attending Emergency Medical Technician, Paramedic, or Fire Academy programs.

In the State of Florida, and across the nation, the fire service is experiencing a shortage of qualified trained personnel. In South Florida, with the combination of a cross-trained workforce and the turnover of existing personnel due to retirements, Broward County is feeling the effects of the shortage.

Due to the increasing cost of education and the amount of time required to complete the necessary training, the Fire Chiefs' Association feels that its commitment and financial support to the Firefighter Scholarship Program can make a difference.

The main purpose of the Firefighter Scholarship is to provide financial assistance to needy students.

The Fire Chiefs' Association believes this program will help students to meet the educational requirements needed for employment in fire services within Broward County.

The purpose of this program is to assist students interested in a future with the fire services in Broward County and to expose students to a rewarding career in the field of Fire Rescue Service.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The Fire Chiefs' Association of Broward County has approached the following organizations to determine that the program's concept meets their requirements. The Association's intent is a partnership with local publicly funded community school that are able to provide quality fire and emergency medical training. They are:

- Broward College
- Broward Fire Academy
- Coral Springs Fire Academy

Announcement of program will be by Fire Chief's Association web site, public speaking at Fire Academy's, and Broward College.

The Associations web site, www.FCABC.com will host information about this program and become the starting point of the application process.

SCHOLARSHIP

Application Process

- All interested individuals who meet the requirements as announced would complete the Firefighter Scholarship application. Applications will be reviewed by the Fire Chiefs review Panel and forward to the Executive Board for recommendation. The application can be found on the Association's web site located at www.FCABC.com , under the category of Programs.
- A minimum of two applicants will be chosen each budget year to receive financial aid. The number will depend on the amount of applicants and the funding available each year.
- All recipients must pass a physical agility test from an approved publicly funded Fire Academy before being accepted into the program.
- All recipients of the scholarship program will receive funding, paid to the selected, publicly funded educational facilities as determined by the Fire Chiefs' Association of Broward County Firefighter Scholarship Fund.
- It is recognized that the program would have participant/ recipients at different stages of the program: fire academy, EMT, or paramedic program.
- Paramedic and EMT students will be required to complete school ride hours on a rescue unit located in Broward County. This would allow on-duty personnel the time to evaluate and tutor individuals in the areas of firefighting, EMT and paramedics skills.
- Scholarship recipients are required to maintain a passing grade, per the approved educational institution's standards, in order to continue their eligibility in the program.
- Recipients will be evaluated throughout the program in order to maintain their status in the program. Scholarship recipient can be expelled from the program for just cause. Examples are: failing a class, lateness, or not following fire department rules and regulations, or other guidelines set fourth by the educational institutions or Fire Chiefs' Association. See attached Appendix-C

CONCLUSION

This Firefighter Scholarship Program is an exceptional program. This kind of financial support and commitment is well worth the effort. The program is a partnership between the Fire Chiefs' Association, publicly funded educational institutions and the community. The members of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Broward County are committed to providing the best possible service to the community and believe this type of program enhances that commitment.

We believe the resources that will be needed are within Broward County and an effort must be made to tap into this wealth. The Fire Chiefs' Association of Broward County believes we need to be the leaders in preserving the high level of service that is provided to our residents and visitors, and we must also set the example.

Appendix-A

Applicant Requirements:

All candidates applying for the Firefighters Scholarship program must meet all the requirements set forth by the Fire Chiefs' Association of Broward County.

Applicants must complete a Fire Chiefs Application for Admission available online at www.FCABC.com.

Note: Application will only be accepted from February 1st until April 30th of each calendar year.

Applicants must:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Posses a High School Diploma or Equivalent.
- Pass the agility test from a Publicly Funded Sate approved Fire Academy.
- Have documentation of Citizenship or VISA.
- Be a resident of Broward County.
- Not be a tobacco user prior to one year of application date.
- Applicant must pass a complete background check.
- Include letters of reference in the application packet.
- Include a copy of current State of Florida Drivers License
- Be able to meet all requirements of the State of Florida as it pertains to becoming a Firefighter/Paramedic.

Preference can be given to applicants that meet the requirements of financial need, or are covered under federal guidelines of a protected class.

Appendix-B

Funding:

The Fire Chiefs' Association of Broward County maintains funding for this program. Proceeds for these scholarship accounts are raised through donations, fundraisers, Association conferences and the sale of Association memberships to fire rescue trade groups. These funds are earmarked for approved recipients that become part of the Firefighters Scholarship Program.

The Fire Chief's Association will announce the amount that will be awarded annually, but the intent is to fund at least two, one thousand-dollar scholarships each year to qualified applicants depending on the number of applicants and the amount of funds available.

Scholarship funds can be used to pay for registration, tuition, books, lab fees and associated costs of each section of the program that the recipient has been enrolled. The Fire Chiefs executive board will determine the amount and area funded.

Appendix-C

Conditions for discipline or dismissal from program:

All scholarship recipients must conduct themselves in a professional manner. Any conduct that reflects negatively on the program and/or the Fire Chiefs' Association shall result in the loss of Scholarship funds and the student can be expelled from the program.

Any violation of the medical ethics for patient care or patient confidentiality will result in an investigation conducted by the educational institutions involved. This investigation will determine the proper course of action and may include loss of Scholarship funds.

Examples of infractions are:

- Dishonesty Cheating in any form
- Vulgarity during class, clinical, or field internship
- Disruptive behavior in class, clinical, or field internship
- Harassment of instructors, fellow students or field personnel
- Inappropriate "attire" worn while attending training
- Breach of patient confidentiality, copying trip run reports or hospital records
- Falsification of any information on scholarship application, records or program related documents
- Failure to meet the minimum scholastic, clinical, or field internship as required by this program (Passing grade of 2.5 "C" or better)
- Unexcused absence from class, clinical, or field internship
- Reporting late or leaving a class, clinical, or field time without permission
- Theft of hospital, school, or fire department property
- Unprofessional conduct or derogatory language of any kind
- Behavior indicating drug or alcohol abuse will be expelled immediately as with any subsequent arrest, driving or background incident