

**OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA**  
**SHERYL FRIEDLEY SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS WITH**  
**INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES**

**1. BACKGROUND**

The Optimist Club of Greater Vienna is offering a \$2,500 scholarship to assist students with documented Intellectual Disabilities (ID) from the greater Vienna area with certificates of completion to continue their education in post-secondary educational/training programs. There is one award per year. The scholarship award will be in the form of a check payable to the educational/training institution that the applicant will attend. The student may use an award at any time from the date of award, until and including the fall semester or quarter of the calendar year following the announcement of the award.

**2. ELIGIBILITY**

2.1 – Documented Intellectual Disability

The scholarship will be available to students with documented Intellectual Disabilities and who are enrolling in a recognized training or educational program for preparation into the workforce.

For the purpose of this scholarship, an Intellectual Disability (ID) will be defined as per the Virginia Department of Education definition, and as it appears on the FCPS web site:

<https://www.fcps.edu/academics/academic-overview/special-education-instruction/procedural-support-disability-categories>

This is summarized below:

**Intellectual Disability:** means significantly below-average general intellectual functioning, existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior, and manifested during the developmental period, that adversely affects a student's educational performance (deficits in cognitive ability and adaptive behavior that are not primarily caused by visual or auditory deficits; motor deficits; emotional disability; learning disability; environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage; and/or limited English proficiency).

2.2 – Residency Requirement

Students eligible for consideration for the scholarship must have resided in the areas served by Madison, Marshall, and Oakton High Schools at the time of obtaining certificates of completion from high school. Student eligibility to participate will be based on residence within the "pyramids" established by FCPS for Madison, Marshall, and Oakton High Schools, as verified by the FCPS boundaries used in the FCPS school locator tool at:

<https://boundary.fcps.edu/boundary/>

2.3 – Post-Secondary Programs

Examples of eligible post-secondary programs are:

- University or community college-based programs for students with ID document (e.g., GMU LIFE; VCU ACE-IT, other out-of-state programs designed for the ID population)
- Work-based training programs
- Transitional training for independence and/or Job Coach services
- Community-based training and services for the ID population

The awards will be restricted to those persons who have not been granted a post-secondary school degree of any sort and who have earned a certification of completion from a secondary education institution no more than one academic year prior to award of this scholarship.

If you have questions as to whether an applicant meets the three eligibility requirements above for the purposes of this scholarship, please contact the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna at [idd@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org](mailto:idd@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org).

### **3. APPLICATION**

Applications must include a statement of educational/training objectives and how the proposed training or education will serve to meet said objectives. At least one letter of recommendation from a current teacher or ID program administrator working directly with the applicant is required. The recommendation letter should further present the applicant's qualifications for the award.

The following documentation must be submitted with each application:

- A letter from a school official confirming the student's Intellectual Disability;
- A copy of the student's IEP cover page;
- The most recent Special Education Eligibility form.

### **4. SCHEDULE**

Completed applications (student application, recommendation letter(s), and required supporting documentation) may be submitted to the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna any time after April 1, 2023, but no later than May 5, 2023. Electronic submission via email as PDF attachments is preferred and should be sent to [idd@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org](mailto:idd@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org). If mailed, they should be sent to the following address, postmarked no later than May 5, 2023:

Optimist Club of Greater Vienna  
P.O. Box 411  
Vienna, VA 22183

The Optimist Club of Greater Vienna will review applications after the May 5, 2023 deadline. The winner will be announced by May 24, 2023, and the club will notify the winner and school referenced by email. The winner and school staff will be invited to attend a meeting of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna on May 31, 2023 to be formally acknowledged and congratulated by the club.