***SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:***

**Purpose**

The Sioux Rural Water System, Inc., Board of Directors has established this policy to set guidelines for the implementation of the Scholarship Program.

**TERMS OF POLICY**

1. **OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM:**
2. The Sioux Rural Water System Scholarship Program is a grant program for members of the Corporation. It is the goal of the program to provide assistance to worthy grant recipients in improving themselves through the pursuit of higher education.
3. The program is sponsored and administered by the Corporation from all qualified applicants.
4. Grant recipients will be selected by a process determined by the Corporation from all qualified applicants.
5. Two(2) $500.00 grants will be awarded annually at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
6. **ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES**
7. High School seniors or full-time undergraduate college students, who are members or the children of members of the Corporation or who reside in a municipality that is a member of the Corporation, are eligible to apply for this scholarship. The applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school located in South Dakota. The applicant must be a U.S. Citizen. Previous winners of the grant program are not eligible to apply a second time. Children and Grandchildren of Corporation’s staff and Board of Directors are not eligible.
8. Application materials are available:
9. From area school guidance counselors;
10. In the April issue of QOT which is the Corporation’s newsletter;
11. At the Sioux Rural Water office.
12. Applicants must submit the following:
13. A signed application form.
14. Most recent transcript from high school or college.
15. Photo to be used for publicity purposes.
16. 250-500 word essay about what rural water means to the applicant or the applicant’s community and use specific examples to support their position.
17. A list of extracurricular activities.
18. A statement written by applicant outlining their career goals and employment history.
19. A letter of recommendation from a school official and one non-related community person.
20. Applications will be accepted from March 1st to April 1st by 5:00pm. Application must be sent or hand-delivered to the Sioux Rural Water office. The mailing address is: Sioux Rural Water System, Inc., Attn: Scholarship Committee, 45703 176th Street, Watertown, SD 57201-7186.
21. Applications will be rejected if they fail to include required information or are received late. Rejected applications will not be considered.
22. **SELECTION PROCESS**
23. All applications will be assembled by the Corporation’s office manager. A Copy of each application and accompanying materials will be sent to each member of the Scholarship Committee. The Scholarship Committee will be comprised of three members of the Corporation’s Board of Directors appointed by the Board Chairperson. Scholarship Committee 3 members will also select Two(2) alternates in the order of first to last in the event that one of the successful applicants cannot attend their college or vocational/technical school. The Scholarship Committee will inform the General Manager of their selection and it shall be announced to the Board of Directors.
24. Each applicant will be notified they have either been a successful applicant or that their name was not selected. Letters will also be sent to the school they are currently attending so a presentation may be made at their awards event.
25. **AWARDS**

Each recipient will receive a $500.00 scholarship, paid at the start of the second semester after the grant award. Full-time undergraduate college recipient may request scholarship payment as early as start of the first semester but no later than second semester after scholarship award. Checks will be made payable jointly to the student and the schools business office and must be endorsed by both parties.