



Sharon Wandler Scholarship

In 2018, The Yakima Housing Authority established the Sharon Wandler Scholarship in memory of Sharon Lee Wandler, who served 24 dedicated years as the Finance Director at the Yakima Housing Authority. Three scholarships will be awarded, with each receiving \$1,000 and two exemplary applications receiving an additional \$1,000. The scholarship will be awarded to candidates pursuing their first degree.

The YHA Scholarship Committee, will accept and review the scholarship applications and determine the scholarship amount awarded. The Scholarship Committee awards scholarship funds directly to the accredited institution of higher education once proof of registration at the college or university is received.

The rules, procedures and application are below. Please read the rules and application very carefully. If you have any questions, please call the YHA office at (509) 453-3106, extension 114.

Rules and Procedures

Eligibility

1. Scholarship applications are made available to eligible individuals in good standing with YHA.
2. Eligible individuals are current or past tenants, Section 8 voucher residents, and federal/state funded rental assistance residents living in a household or being provided a service managed by YHA.
3. Eligible individuals must be a graduating high school senior, or possess a high school diploma or GED, applying to or attending an accredited institution of higher education. If currently attending college, applicant must be registered for at least two (2) classes.

Application Process

1. The application must be reviewed and evaluated by a representative selected by the Executive/Deputy Director. To be considered complete, all sections of the application must be filled out. If a section is not applicable, put N/A (not applicable) in the area; do not leave any areas blank. An application that is blank or missing appropriate submittals or signatures will be disqualified.



2. The application must include letters of recommendation on character such as a representative from a community organization, employer, and an academic reference (only non-relative recommendations will be considered).
3. The application must include an unofficial transcript of grades from high school or academic institution presently attending (transcript may be forwarded separate from application but must postmarked by deadline).
4. The applicant must include verification of acceptance/attendance to a specific school.
5. The application must include an essay (up to two pages) written by the student that details their educational plans & goals and describe your community service or engagement activities. *Essays showcasing outstanding community engagement may be selected for additional financial awards.*
6. Screening, evaluation, and selection conducted by the Scholarship Committee.
Applicants must submit their application to the designated representative, who will submit to the Scholarship Committee for consideration of the scholarship.

*** Upon award, a high-resolution photo of the Scholarship recipient may be requested.**

1. Three scholarships, each receiving \$1,000 and two exemplary applications receiving an additional \$1,000, will be awarded and paid directly to the accredited institution of higher education.

Please include all documentation in one PDF. All applications and documentation must be sent no later than May 01, 2026 to:

monica.rubin@yakimahousing.org with the subject: **2026 Scholarship Candidate**

Requirements Checklist

- Information Form
- Unofficial Transcript
- Educational History
- Educational Plan
- Honors and Awards (Please list award and date e.g. MM/YYYY)
- Financial Requirement
- Two (2) Letters of Recommendation
- Essay - (up to two pages) detailing educational plans & goals and describe your community service or engagement activities. Essays showcasing outstanding community service will be considered for the additional financial awards.
- Certification Signature

INFORMATION FORM

APPLICANT'S NAME: Enter Full Name

LOCAL ADDRESS: Click here to enter address.

(NUMBER & STREET)

(CITY)

(STATE/ZIP)

DATE OF BIRTH: MM/DD/YYYY

PHONE NUMBER: () - EMAIL: Click here to enter text.

Which housing and or community development agency are you affiliated with? Click here to enter agency.

EDUCATION HISTORY

(Check one) High School Graduate High School Senior GED Recipient

COLLEGES ATTENDED / DATES ATTENDED/ HOURS COMPLETED / DEGREES RECEIVED:

Click here to enter text.

2026-2027 EDUCATION PLANS

What college, university, vocational, or post-secondary school do you plan to attend in 2026-2027

(include city & state): Click here to enter text.

2026-2027 ENROLLMENT STATUS:

Plan to apply

Applied but not yet accepted

Applied and accepted

Anticipated major or vocational goal:

Average length of program (2 years/4 years, etc.):

Estimated cost for entire 2026-2027 school year (include tuition, student fees, books, and school supplies only) _____

HONORS, AWARDS, & COMMUNITY/SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Please list all honors or awards received and any community/school activities in which you have actively participated within the past 5 years (attach extra sheet if needed).

Click here to enter text.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT

Please provide a statement of estimated cost of education for 2026-2027.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Please attach two letters of recommendation from non-family members. The application must include letters of recommendation on character such as a representative from the local housing authority, community organization, employer and an academic reference (only non-relative recommendations will be considered). List the contact information for these people below. Please include their name, address, phone number, and relationship to you, and length of time you have known them.

Reference One

Reference Two

ESSAY

Elaborate in up to two pages detailing your educational plans & goals and describe your community service or engagement activities (8.5 x 11 INCHES). Essays showcasing outstanding community service will be considered for the additional financial awards. If you have any unusual circumstances/hardship that you would like the scholarship committee to consider, please include them in your essay.

CERTIFICATION

Sign Here:

Date: MM/DD/YYYY

BY MY SIGNATURE, I AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING:

- That the information I have given is true to the best of my knowledge.
- To maintain satisfactory educational progress.
- To keep YHA informed of any changes in schools or enrollment status.
- To provide, or respond to YHA requests for, periodic updates on academic progress for the duration of the candidate's receipt of 2026-2027 scholarship funds.
- To consent to the use of my profile, progress, and testimonial, by YHA and its subsidiaries, for marketing and fundraising purposes.
- To authorize the office of financial aid to release my grades and pertinent information to YHA.
- To authorize the release of my contact information to contractor for the college program (if funded).

Signature

Date