

## **Reading Housing Authority** **STOKES STITT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Reading Housing Authority (RHA) has established the Stokes Stitt Scholarship for residents who reside in the Oakbrook Homes and Glenside Homes public housing units owned and operated by the agency. The program has been established in appreciation of Mr. Stitt's tenure as a commissioner of RHA, which began on March 17, 1983. Mr. Stitt died on February 25, 2001. Reading Housing Authority offers this scholarship in honor of his contributions to both the agency and the Reading community.

The Stokes Stitt Scholarship is to be used for financial aid to public housing residents to encourage continuing education beyond the secondary (high school) level. The aid will be used in payment for educational costs, billed first against tuition and fees, with any remaining monies available for books. Scholarships may be used for educational costs in an accredited trade school, two-year or four-year institution. A financial relationship will be established between the institution and RHA for direct payment. Preference is given for attendance to an institution located in Pennsylvania.

One scholarship will be granted in each development, for a total of two scholarships offered each year to residents of Oakbrook and Glenside Homes. Eligible applicants must be listed on the lease and reside in public housing which is under the administration of RHA. The scholarship will not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per semester or two thousand dollars (\$2,000) per academic year, considered to be September 1 to August 31. Continued eligibility will be provided on a semester basis for a maximum of four years or eight semesters, provided that the student maintains a 2.5 grade point or a (C+) average the previous semester. The award of this scholarship shall not be included as income or affect the housing eligibility of any person or family.

Applications are accepted between March 1 and April 30. Applications received outside of this time frame will be discarded. Only complete applications will be considered. A selection committee will review and evaluate these applications, and all decisions of this committee shall be final. All applicants shall be notified in writing. Award of the Stokes Stitt Scholarship will be presented at the May meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Reading Housing Authority.

**Application Requirements** - An application shall be considered complete with the following minimum documentation:

1. A completed application form, including attachment of interview questions.
2. An official school transcript for the current or most recent academic year. For non-traditional students re-entering the educational setting after five or more years, this requirement is waived.
3. Two letters of recommendation. Applicants are encouraged to submit one academic reference, such as from a teacher, academic instructors and/or guidance counselor. A second character reference should be submitted by another source able to attest to the applicant's qualifications, such as an employer, coworker or clergy. Non-traditional students unable to satisfy the academic reference requirement should submit two character references.
4. Proof of application to or enrollment in one or more educational institutions.

**Reading Housing Authority**  
**STOKES STITT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

School/Educational Institution(s) at which applicant intends to use scholarship:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Expected major or area of study: \_\_\_\_\_

Applications will be rated on the applicant's: (1) definable goals, (2) evidence of a past ability to achieve goals, and (3) ability to overcome obstacles. Please answer the following "interview" questions by attaching your written responses. Applicants are encouraged to prepare answers that are lengthy enough to communicate the information. Typed or hand-written answers will be accepted.

1. What are your career goals? Why have you chosen this goal? What will you do to achieve this goal? (25 points)
  
2. What steps have you taken to become as self-sufficient or successful as possible? (50 points) Describe, if appropriate:
  - Previous successes in an educational setting or academic awards
  - Explanations of a poor record in an educational setting, if applicable
  - Employment history with dates
  - Community services, volunteerism or extracurricular activities
  
3. What obstacles, if any, have you overcome that have helped prepare you to continue your education? What obstacles, if any, do you face while in pursuit of continuing your education? Why do you feel post high school education is important? (25 points)

I have attached:

- Completed application
- Responses to interview questions
- Official school transcript, if applicable
- Two letters of recommendation
- Proof of application, acceptance or enrollment in school/educational institution.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please send your completed application to: **Reading Housing Authority**  
**Department of Resident Services**  
**125 North 10<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Reading, PA 19601**