



Good Beginnings Alliance Scholarships

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Good Beginnings Alliance Scholarships?

The Good Beginnings Alliance (GBA) Scholarship compliments other scholarships offered by private non-profit agencies such as PATCH, the Hawaii Community Foundation and the University of Hawaii Foundation for early childhood practitioners.

Scholarships administered by GBA provide financial assistance to early childhood practitioners completing general education courses that are 100 level or higher and is required for their Associate or Bachelor Degree in early childhood or related program. While GBA has requirements for its scholarships, it can be used in combination with other scholarships to further ease the financial burden of continuing education.

Who funds the scholarships administered by GBA?

GBA scholarships are funded, in part, through an endowment made possible by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, member corporations of the Hawaii Business Roundtable, and through private donations made to Hawaii Early Education Fund.

Who is eligible for a scholarship?

Applicant is required to be:

- A resident of Hawaii,
- An early childhood education and care practitioners who work directly with children. These practitioners include teachers, director/teachers, associate teachers, aides, family childcare providers, family child interaction learning leaders, and home visitors;
- Working 20+ hours a week,
- Working for their current program for a minimum of 6 months,
- Pursuing an associate or bachelor degree in early childhood, child development, or related program from an accredited university or college (public or private) recognized by the Hawaii Careers with Young Children Registry.

When may individuals apply for a scholarship?

Fall semester: Applications must be post marked by July 1st prior to the Fall semester.

Spring semester: Applications must be post marked by October 1st prior to the Spring semester.

Where can I get a scholarship application?

A scholarship application can be obtained directly from the GBA web site located in the *Schools and Teachers* sidebar under *Professional Development*. Website is www.goodbeginnings.org. Otherwise, call 808-531-5502 or toll free: 1-866-531-5502 or email gba@goodbeginnings.org for an application or for other GBA Scholarship Program information.

An application is considered completed when all required documents are submitted with the GBA Scholarship Program Application. Required documents are:

- Copy of a transcript (unofficial) that includes the most recent completed term OR a copy of acceptance letter which documents your major in early childhood, child development or related field,
- A written or typed personal statement essay up to 500 words describing your career goals in the next five years and how the degree you are seeking will help you to achieve those goals.
- A letter of recommendation by a supervisor, employer or college instructor who best knows of your work and commitment to the early childhood field. Not more than two letters.
- Family Child Care providers must provide verification of employment: Statement of monthly income/number of children in care.

An incomplete application will not be processed. On page three of the GBA Scholarship Program application, there is a checklist of the required documents. Please review and be sure you have all required documents accompanying your application.

How much scholarship money will be awarded to each recipient?

The recipient will receive \$500 for each general education course, 100 level or higher, a semester at a maximum of two courses.

What happens if the recipient does not pass the course?

It is the recipient's responsibility to pass all of his/her courses. Recipients are required to submit final grades at the end of their scholarship semester. However, in the event that the recipient does not pass a class, it will then become the recipient's responsibility to repay the scholarship.

Which colleges can a recipient attend?

A recipient is required to be a student at an accredited college or university (public or private) that is recognized by the Hawaii Careers with Young Children Registry, and offers an associate or bachelor degree in early childhood, child development or in a related field.

How are the scholarships awarded?

Each application is reviewed anonymously by a panel made up of early childhood professionals and GBA staff. GBA will send congratulatory award letters to each recipient. Then, it is the recipient's responsibility to meet with an academic adviser and register for his/her general education class or classes.

What are some other scholarship parameters?

Scholarships are limited. Applications are reviewed on a first come, first served basis. Applicants will receive notification if a scholarship is awarded or not. Recipients are required to write a thank you letter to the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation at the end of the semester.

GBA reserves the right to reject an application if it does not meet the stated criteria. We also reserve the right to share scholarship information with other organizations awarding similar scholarships. GBA reserves the right to make changes to the scholarship on an annual basis.

What do I do if I want more information?

Call 808-531-5502 or toll free: 1-866-531-5502 or email gba@goodbeginnings.org