

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

PAUL SHERLOCK ACCESS SCHOLARSHIP

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

Rhode Island Student Loan Authority, pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act, GLRI §42-35-2.12, does hereby promulgate this Guidance Document to explain the eligibility and application requirements and the selection process for the Paul Sherlock Access Scholarship.

I. PREAMBLE

Rhode Island Student Loan Authority (RISLA) is the recipient of funds which the RISLA Board of Directors has earmarked for use for need-based educational grants or scholarships to Rhode Island residents. The RISLA Board has unanimously decided to award scholarships in the name of the late Paul Sherlock to honor his long and distinguished service as a State Representative and as a tireless advocate for those with developmental disabilities, learning disorders, and mental illness. The criteria for eligibility are set forth in this Guidance Document.

RISLA shall determine the size of the scholarship pool as a separate line item in RISLA's annual budget as approved by its Board of Directors.

II. BASIC ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY

An individual is eligible to apply for a Paul Sherlock Access Scholarship if such individual:

- A. Is a Rhode Island resident and either (a) has graduated from an accredited Rhode Island high school, or (b) has completed a recognized home course study, or (c) has a GED.
- B. Is accepted for enrollment at a nationally accredited 2 year or 4 year college, university or postsecondary proprietary school and provides written proof of enrollment.

III. APPLICATION PROCESS

An individual who meets the requirements of Section II above can apply by submitting a copy of their entire Student Aid Report (SAR) with their application. Applications will be available at the Office of the Authority, the College Planning Center of Rhode Island, and at high school guidance offices. Applications will also be available at the Authority's and College Planning Center's web site. Completed applications should be returned as instructed on the application form. The Authority may establish application deadlines. The deadline may be extended if the Authority does not have a sufficient number of eligible applicants.

IV. FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY

Individuals who meet the basic eligibility requirements of Section II above will be considered financially eligible for a scholarship if their SAR clearly displays a valid Expected Family Contribution (EFC) equal to or less than the cost of tuition for the most recent year for in state Rhode Island residents at the University of Rhode Island. Applicants having an EFC of greater than the cost of tuition for the most recent year for Rhode Island residents at the University of Rhode Island will be disqualified from further consideration.

V. SELECTION PROCESS

RISLA shall determine the number of scholarships to be awarded in a fiscal year by dividing the total annual budget amount of Sherlock Scholarships for the current fiscal year by the annual scholarship amount per recipient which is currently \$2,000. RISLA's Board may change the annual scholarship amount per recipient in future years. Scholarships shall be awarded by random draw to the recipients. Scholarships shall be disbursed by RISLA according to the recipient's term of enrollment and following the school's applicable add/drop period. Funds shall be disbursed either by wire transfer to the school or by check payable jointly to the school and the recipient, as RISLA deems fit.

VI. APPEALS

Any applicant who is aggrieved by any application of the provisions hereof or any determination with respect to his or her eligibility for a scholarship may appeal such application or determination in writing to the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority, 935 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02886 within twenty (20) days of said application or determination. The decision of the Executive Director shall be final.

VIII. NONAVAILABILITY OF FUNDING

The Paul Sherlock Access Scholarship Program is subject to being terminated or suspended by RISLA for any year for which there is not available funding for the program.