



CONGRESSIONAL  
BLACK CAUCUS SPOUSES

## Scholarship Program Student Application Guidelines

### What are the Scholarship Programs?

The CBC Spouses Education Scholarship was established in response to federal cuts in spending for education programs and scholarships. This is the foundation's first educational program. The CBC Spouses Educational Scholarship is a national program that awards scholarships to academically talented and highly motivated students who intend to pursue full-time undergraduate, graduate or doctoral degrees. The Educational Scholarship Fund was established in 1988 and has experienced substantial growth. Since its inception, it has disbursed more than \$8 million in education and health scholarships.

The CBC Spouses Cheerios Brand Health Initiative Scholarship was established in 1998 to provide financial assistance to undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students pursuing careers in a health-related profession. Since the inception of the program, General Mills has invested more than \$1,000,000 to underwrite this initiative.

The CBC Spouses Performing Arts Scholarship was established in 2000 as a partnership between the CBC Spouses and Heineken USA. This program was developed in honor of the late Curtis Mayfield to ensure students pursuing a career in the performing arts receive the financial assistance to achieve their goals. The CBC Spouses Performing Arts Scholarship is highly competitive. Only ten \$3,000 scholarships are awarded annually to students who exhibit exceptional skills in the performing arts.

### How do I apply?

Applications are available on the CBCF website at [www.cbcfinc.org](http://www.cbcfinc.org). Students should be encouraged to download the application off the website. Applications should also be available at all of the CBC Member offices.

All applications for CBC Spouses Scholarships must include:

- A completed CBC Spouses Education Scholarship Application.
- An official high school or college transcript with the application.
- A personal statement essay from the student (500 words or more) describing the student's future academic and professional career plans. The personal statement must also address the student's interests, involvement in school activities, community and public service, hobbies, special talents, sports and other highlight areas.
- Two letters of recommendation. One recommendation should come from a community or public service leader (i.e. church leader, community leader).
- If a high school senior, an acceptance letter from the college where the student will enroll in the fall of 2006
- A recent photograph suitable for publication; i.e., a cap and gown picture, or other professional quality and professionally dressed photograph.



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**Scholarship Program: (202) 263-2836 Website: [www.cbcfinc.org](http://www.cbcfinc.org)**

- If the student is applying for the CBC Spouses Performing Arts Scholarship, he/she must also submit a video recording of one of their performances. (THE APPLICANT MUST PROVIDE A VISUAL RECORDING TO BE ELIGIBLE)

Students should submit the completed application and all supporting materials to the Local Scholarship Selection Committee.

### What are the eligibility requirements?

The CBC Spouses program seeks to identify students who will make significant contributions to their communities. Applicants must meet the following requirements in order to be eligible for the CBC Spouses Scholarship Programs:

- High school seniors who intend to pursue undergraduate degrees full-time or current full-time students in good academic standing at an accredited college or university.
- Applicants must have a minimum 2.5 GPA, exhibit leadership ability, and participate in community service activities.
- All applicants must reside or attend a college/university in a congressional district represented by a Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Member.

Upon approval and certification by the Local Scholarship Selection Committee, each recipient will receive a monetary award designated for tuition, fees, books, room and board, computers, health insurance, general living expenses and other college-related expenses. The monetary award is determined by the CBC Spouses member, the CBC Member, the Local Scholarship Selection Committee, the Scholarship Coordinator, or a combination thereof.

### What are the additional eligibility requirements for the CBC Spouses Performing Arts Scholarship?

In addition to meeting all of the eligibility requirements listed above, the recipients of the CBC Spouses Performing Arts Scholarship must also include a video recording of a recent performance. Applications and videos must be submitted to the Local Scholarship Selection Committee for review.

The performing arts include theater, motion pictures, drama, comedy, music, dance, opera, magic, as well as marching bands and other musical ensembles. Artists who participate in these art forms are considered to be performers--including actors, comedians, singers, dancers, and musicians.

The selection process for the CBC Spouses Performing Arts Scholarship consists of three stages.

1. Each Local Scholarship Selection Committee will select one student who demonstrates exceptional talent and academic achievement. The application and supporting material will be forwarded to the CBC Spouses Performing Arts Selection Committee.
2. The CBC Spouses Performing Arts Selection Committee will review the applications with accompanying video and/or DVD. Please make sure your visual presentation best represent you and your work.
3. Ten students will be awarded the CBC Spouses Performing Arts Scholarship. Winners will be announced by the CBC Spouses Office in June. Recipients will receive an award letter and have



their names featured on the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's website and in other CBCF marketing material.

The Congressional Black Caucus Spouses (CBC) Education Scholarship Program is an equal opportunity scholarship provider, which considers all applicants solely on the basis of qualifications and ability without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, disability or even veteran status. Employees and/or relatives of CBC Members, CBC Spouses, the CBC Foundation, the Board of Directors, the Corporate Advisory Council, General Mills Inc. and Heineken USA are ineligible for the scholarship program. Visual presentations are kept on file for up to two years. Visual presentations may be used for CBC Spouses Scholarship Program marketing campaigns.

## How can I find out if I live or attend school in a CBC Member's district?

To verify whether your residential address or school address is located in a CBC Member Congressional District, please visit the following websites:

- [www.cbcfinc.org](http://www.cbcfinc.org)
- [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)
- [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

Students are encouraged visit the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's website at [www.cbcfinc.org](http://www.cbcfinc.org) to download the scholarship application form and learn more about the CBC Spouses Scholarship Program.

## What are the Local Scholarship Selection Committees?

A Local Scholarship Selection Committee is appointed by the CBC Member and/or Spouse and administers the CBC Spouses Scholarship Program at the local level. The Local Scholarship Selection Committee reviews all completed applications and selects candidates for the education and the health scholarship programs.

## Who is the district contact?

In addition to the Local Scholarship Selection Committee, each district should have an agent responsible for scholarship administration at the district level. This agent should be the point of contact for communication between the CBC Spouses office and the CBC Member offices. The district agent should also be the primary contact between scholarship applicants and the CBC offices.

## What is the application deadline?

The application deadline is May 1 of each calendar year.

All applications must be postmarked by May 1 and submitted to the Local Scholarship Selection Committees. Applications received with postmarks after May 1 will not be accepted.

Note: Do not send your application to the CBCF office. Please forward your application to the appropriate Local Scholarship Selection Committee.



## Who are the CBC Spouses?

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Spouses organization is a component of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Inc, a 501(c)(3) non-partisan, tax-exempt organization committed to public policy, research, education, and leadership development. The CBC Spouses founders envisioned a mission to assist the youth of today, while helping to prepare the next generation of leaders. Since 1988, the CBC Spouses have dedicated their time and talents to fulfill their mission by establishing programs which support the educational endeavors of students throughout the nation.

### The CBC Spouses of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Congressional Black Caucus

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