

LYDIA MILLER
ILLINOIS ELKS CHILDREN'S CARE CORPORATION
SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP
College Scholarship Application
2026 – 2027 School Year

Return Completed Application to:

Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation
1201 N. Main Street
Chatham, IL 62629

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE:

3 College Juniors \$2,500.00 Each
3 College Seniors \$3,000.00 Each
3 Graduate Students \$3,000.00 Each

OFFICIAL APPLICATION

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. **YOU MUST BE A LEGAL RESIDENT OF ILLINOIS AND ATTENDING SCHOOL IN ILLINOIS.**
2. You must be a **FULL-TIME** student by your school's standards with a declared major and accepted in a course of studies in the field of **Special Education.**
3. You must be a College: Junior, Senior, or Graduate Student for the Fall Semester/Quarter of 2026.
4. You must have a **B** Average for all College Studies by your school's grading scale.
(No exceptions – a "B-" does not qualify)

APPLICATION:

1. Applicant's Name _____
DOB _____ Age _____
2. Home Address _____
Home Phone # _____ - _____ - _____ Cell Phone # _____ - _____ - _____
3. College Address _____
College Phone # _____ - _____ - _____ Email Address _____
4. Cumulative GPA _____ On School's Scale an A= _____
5. Circle College academic classification for Fall semester of **2026** JUNIOR SENIOR GRADUATE
6. If you are an undergraduate are you planning to go on to graduate school upon completion of undergraduate studies? (Yes or No) _____
If Yes – What will you study? _____

7. Please provide a statement (1,000 words or less) of your goals in the field of Special Education. Explain how you became interested in the field, what you wish to accomplish, any particular area you are planning to concentrate in (i.e.: deaf, physically challenged, mentally challenged). If you have been working in another field, what prompted you to return to school in the Special Education Field?
8. Provide 3 letters of recommendation on **academic letterhead** from Instructors/Academic Advisors who are familiar with your abilities, accomplishments and can assess your future & probability of success. At least one letter must be from a supervisor in a classroom experience and should reference your performance. **If letters are not on academic letterhead and signed, this application will be void.**

_____ Included in Application

9. Provide a list of all other scholarships and financial aid you are currently or have in the past received for college expenses. Include dollar amounts of scholarship-award.
10. Please include an **Official** Transcript of your grades, showing all completed classes. Be certain transcript has your cumulative GPA and the Scale on it. **No copies of Transcripts accepted.**
11. **2024 or 2025 Tax Forms only will be accepted.**
We only need the **front** and **back** page of your main Federal & Illinois Tax Form showing the gross and net taxable income. If you file electronically, please submit a printout of the electronic filing. It must show both gross income and net taxable income for the tax year. Electronic filing company receipts are not acceptable. These forms will be held in strict confidence.
DO NOT SEND: ENTIRE TAX FORM, COPIES OF W-2's, 1099's, PREVIOUS YEAR TAX FORMS, HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS, PAY STUBS, ETC. IF YOUR APPLICATION IS RECEIVED WITHOUT REQUIRED TAX FORMS OR AN EXPLANATION FOR NOT FILING – APPLICATION WILL BE VOIDED.

Filing option: Circle One Option Below.

Option A: If you receive any financial assistance (even if just living at home) from your family, you must submit both your parents and your 2024 or 2025 FEDERAL AND ILLINOIS STATE INCOME TAX FORMS. Note: If your parents are divorced and you live with one and the other claims you as a deduction, you will need to include both parents' forms. **If you or your parents did not file, attach explanation for not being required to file.**

Option B: If you do not receive any financial assistance from your family and do not live at home, you must submit only your 2024 or 2025 FEDERAL AND ILLINOIS STATE INCOME TAX FORMS. Tax forms must prove you are filing as an independent and are head of household. **If you did not file, attach explanation for not being required to file.**

Option C: If you are married submit your joint 2024 or 2025 FEDERAL AND ILLINOIS STATE INCOME TAX FORMS. **If you or your spouse did not file, attach explanation for not being required to file.**

12. Describe any special circumstances or hardships which hinder your families' ability to support your education expenses.

13. Are you working while in school to help with your school expenses? (Yes or No)_____

How many hours each week _____

14. Are you volunteering while in school? If so please provide a statement of what kind of volunteering you are involved in and how much time you spend volunteering.

I here-by grant permission to release any requested information concerning my grades, grade point average and tuition to the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation. I certify all information provided in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and all required tax forms are included with this application.

Applicant Signature

Date

Application and all information must be submitted to Chatham Office by Friday, March 27, 2026.

Should you have any questions, please call the Children's Care Office at 1-800-272-0074.

Hours: 9:00 to 4:00, Monday through Friday - You may also e-mail us at helpkids@elksccare.org or visit our web site at www.illinoiselksccc.org Use "Scholarship Inquiry" as your title.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHECK OFF LIST

QUALIFICATIONS FOR LYDIA MILLER ILLINOIS ELKS CHILDREN'S CARE CORPORATION SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Must be legal resident of Illinois

Must be attending school in Illinois

Must have a minimum of a cumulative B average by your school's grading scale

The student must have a financial need

Must be contained in a two-pocket folder

Left Side

- a. **Official** Transcript
- b. Tax Forms
- c. Reference Letters

Right Side

- a. Completed Application
- b. Statement of Goals

CHECK LIST

1. _____ Provide statement (1,000 words or less) of your goals in the field of Special Education
 2. _____ Provide 3 letters of recommendation on **academic letterhead** from Instructors/Academic Advisors
 3. _____ Provide list of all other scholarships-currently or have in the past received for college expenses. Include dollar amounts of scholarship award.
 4. _____ Provide **Official Transcript** of your grades, showing all completed classes.
Be certain transcript has your cumulative GPA and the scale on it.
 5. _____ Provide copies of the **Front and Back** of your 2024 or 2025 Federal and State Income Tax Forms. Show Gross and Net Income. Explain if you did not file taxes.
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