



January 14, 2026

Dear Northwest Iowa Communities,

I am pleased to announce the **Northwest Iowa League of Cities (NWILC) High School Senior Scholarship Program!** This scholarship is open to any high school senior living in a NWILC member community who plans to pursue post-secondary education that may lead to service in city government. For the 2026 application period, we plan to award **up to five scholarships of \$1,000 each.**

I encourage you to share this exciting opportunity with the high schools in your community. Supporting tomorrow's leaders is essential—it brings fresh ideas, energy, and long-term vitality to our region. By helping students explore careers in public service, we strengthen our communities for years to come.

The Northwest Iowa League of Cities, founded by community leaders across 27 counties, is dedicated to helping local governments operate more effectively and efficiently. Through ongoing education, networking, and shared experiences, our members work together to achieve regional success. With more than 100 cities currently involved, we invite any community not yet a member to join us in this mission.

All scholarship funds come from private and commercial fundraising. Attached, you will find the application and detailed instructions for potential candidates. **We also invite you to join us each November for our annual scholarship auction, where we raise the funds that make these awards possible. Donations of auction items or cash contributions to the scholarship fund are always welcome and greatly appreciated.**

Thank you for helping us invest in the future of our communities—together, we can inspire the next generation of leaders.

Sincerely,

John Westergaard

John Westergaard
President of Northwest Iowa League of Cities

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*Angela Duitsman, City Clerk - Fonda
PO Box 367, Fonda, IA 50540
(712) 288-4466 angela@fondaia.com*

Northwest Iowa League of Cities



2026 Regional Scholarship

Due Date: April 15, 2026

Eligibility

- High School Senior
- At least one city in the school district is a member of the Northwest Iowa League of Cities

Criteria

- Intent to enroll in a post-secondary program that may result in employment by city government (examples: public administration, water/wastewater, law enforcement, firefighter, EMS, code enforcement, planner, public engineer, city attorney, etc.).
- Acceptance and enrollment in post-secondary institution (community college, 4-year college, university, or trade school.)

Scholarship Application Requirements

- Complete and return the application form provided (see attached).
- Submit a 400-500 word essay highlighting candidate's interest in pursuing a career related to city government.

Northwest Iowa League of Cities is an organization founded by community leaders throughout the region working to improve the effective and efficient operation of public service. The organization provides on-going education and networking opportunities - sharing experiences leading to regional success.

All funds used for the scholarship program are generated through private and commercial fundraising.

Applications shall be submitted to NWILC Secretary, Angela Duitsman, P.O. Box 367, Fonda, Iowa, 50540. E-mailed applications may be sent to: angela@fondaiaowa.com



Information:

Applicant: _____

Home Address: _____

| | | | |
|--------|------|-------|-----|
| Street | City | State | Zip |
|--------|------|-------|-----|

Phone #: _____

e-mail: _____

High School Name: _____

HS Address: _____

| | | | |
|--------|------|-------|-----|
| Street | City | State | Zip |
|--------|------|-------|-----|

Guidance Counselor/School Contact: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Post-Secondary Plans (School Name and major): _____

ACT or SAT score: _____ GPA: _____ Class rank: _____ of _____

Attachments:

- List of Extracurricular Activities and Organizational Memberships
- List of Awards and Accomplishments
- 400-500 word essay highlighting candidate's interest in pursuing a career related to city government.

Terms & Conditions

- Awards are made after completion of the 1st post-secondary semester.
- 1st post-secondary semester grades must be submitted to NWILC Secretary, Angela Duitsman, P.O. Box 367, Fonda, Iowa, 50540, or angela@fondaiaowa.com showing a GPA of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale.
- Application must be e-mailed or postmarked no later than April 15, 2026.
- Scholarship amount is \$1,000.
- Awards will be announced by May 1, 2026.

By signing this application, the candidate (or legal guardian) agrees that information may be confirmed by contacting the Guidance Counselor or School listed above. Candidate also gives permission to be included in media announcements of scholarship winners.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature of parent or Guardian (if candidate is under 18) _____