



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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*President – John Westergaard, Mayor - Lake View*  
*First Vice-President – Pam Henderson, Council Member - Alta*  
*Second Past-President – Vacant*

**DIRECTORS**

*Jamie Lawrence, City Administrator – Sac City*  
*Shae Leinbugh, City Clerk - Odebolt*

*Pete Hamill, City Council - Sheldon*  
*Peg Hinkeldey, City Council - Alta*

**SECRETARY/TREASURER**

*Angela Duitsman, City Clerk - Fonda*  
*PO Box 367, Fonda, IA 50540*  
*(712) 288-4466 [angela@fondaiowa.com](mailto:angela@fondaiowa.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@fondaiowa.com](mailto:angela@fondaiowa.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 1<sup>st</sup> post-secondary semester.
- 1<sup>st</sup> post-secondary semester grades must be submitted to NWILC Secretary, Angela Duitsman, P.O. Box 367, Fonda, Iowa, 50540, or [angela@fondaiowa.com](mailto:angela@fondaiowa.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) \_\_\_\_\_