WHAT IS THE PROGRAM

The Program offers $500 to $2,000, one-year, grants for students to pursue full-time, post-high school, vocational education in the 2016-17 academic year. The grants carry an option to be renewed for a second year. Vocational education is defined as a two-year or less vocational/technical program, culminating in a terminal associate degree, diploma or certificate, but less than a baccalaureate program (bachelor’s degree). A grant recipient must plan to attend school full time (a minimum of 12 semester credit hours). The course must be a minimum of 60 days up to a maximum of 2 years. The grant may be used only for tuition and fees, books and supplies, and room and board (only if living on campus). It may not be used to cover retroactive charges and may only be applied to expenses in the academic year.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

The Program is open to any prospective student to pursue a vocational course described above. Students planning to transfer to a four-year school to pursue a bachelor’s degree are not eligible. APPLICANTS MUST BE U.S. CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS OF CALIFORNIA, AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION SUBMITTAL. A high school diploma or GED is not required. While graduating high school seniors may apply, the Program is not limited to high school students. It is open to the older, prospective students who require training or retraining to compete in the workplace.

WHO WILL RECEIVE GRANTS

Selection of grant recipients will be based on an evaluation of the submitted application packet, consisting of:

- 2-page application form detailing educational and employment background, vocational objective, and financial need
- statements from applicant, educator and parent or family associate
- official transcript of school grades or work record for the past two years

WHERE CAN INTERESTED PERSONS OBTAIN AN APPLICATION AND MORE INFORMATION

Interested persons should visit www.chesa-elks.org/youth-activities/scholarships/ to download an application, instructions and more information. The completed application packet should be sent or delivered to the local Elks Lodge nearest the applicant’s home. Visit www.elks.org/lodges and enter applicant’s zip code to locate this Lodge.

WHEN IS APPLICATION SUBMITTAL DEADLINE

Completed application packets must be in the hands of the local Lodge no later than three months after application receipt.

Applicants are strongly urged to apply as soon as possible prior to the beginning of the 2016-17 academic year, as grants will be awarded on a first come first served basis.

-- All qualified people are encouraged and welcome to apply --