

Let's Start Talking Iowa Scholarship Application

Scholarship Purpose

Let's Start Talking Iowa is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in March of 2018 to promote, educate, and support suicide prevention, awareness, and mental health resources in the Cedar Valley area, and beyond. The Let's Start Talking Iowa scholarship will award \$500.00 to one currently enrolled college student to help fund their financial costs when attending a post-secondary school. The scholarship is meant to support and recognize a student who has positively impacted their community.

Eligibility

- Be a **current undergraduate student** attending a college, university, vocational, or trade school in **Iowa**.
- Have demonstrated **exceptional leadership and community service** on and off campus.
- Be a **well-rounded individual**, actively involved in both academic and community activities.

In addition, applicants should also demonstrate one or more of the following qualities:

- **Integrity & Positive Character** – Consistently upholds respect, compassion, and responsibility in their daily life.
- **Proven Impact** – Has made a meaningful difference in their school, workplace, or community through leadership or service.
- **Diversity of Involvement** – Engages in a variety of activities, organizations, or roles that highlight adaptability and openness to new experiences.
- **Future-Oriented Goals** – Have clear aspirations to continue contributing positively to their community (or field of study) after graduation.
- **Recommendation/Endorsement** – Can provide support from a teacher, advisor, mentor, or community leader who can speak to their leadership and advocacy.

Value

A currently enrolled **undergraduate** student will be awarded \$500.00

How to apply

To be considered a recipient of the **Let's Start Talking Iowa Scholarship**, students must submit an application form, an essay explaining their volunteerism and leadership, and one letter of recommendation.

Instructions

- Please complete the form in its entirety
- Mail your application form, essay, and letter of recommendation to **1248 340th Avenue, New Vienna, Iowa 52065**

Deadline

February 9, 2026

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Candidates information

Personal Information

Last name	First Name
Gender	Date of Birth

Street Address

City	State	Postal Code
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Telephone Number	Email Address
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Academic Information

Current secondary school	Graduation date	GPA
Major	Street Address	City
State	Postal Code	Telephone number

List and briefly describe any academic achievements and/or honors (e.g. academic awards, honor roll, etc.)

Achievement	Date Received

List majors/careers you are considering after graduation and briefly explain why.

1)	
2)	
3)	

Are there any personal circumstances you'd like to mention that have affected your participation in volunteer and extracurricular activities at school and in the community?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain:

School Activities

Please describe your non-academic school involvement, starting with the most recent (e.g., clubs, athletics, student government, arts, etc.)

Activity

Responsibilities Position

Dates Involved

List any awards you have received for school extracurricular activities

<u>Award</u>	<u>Date Received</u>

Community Service and Volunteer Activities

Please describe your involvement in your community (i.e., outside of school,) starting with the most recent experience

<u>Activity/Organization</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>	<u>Dates</u>

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Employment Experience

Please describe any employment you have had. This can also include internships.

<u>Business/Organization</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Dates</u>

Personal Statement

Please type your essay response to the questions below on a separate sheet of paper

_____ When did you start volunteering and why? How do you imagine continuing your leadership and community involvement as you continue as an enrolled student and in your adult life? Lastly, how will this scholarship help you achieve your future goals, and what makes you the most deserving candidate?

*Financial need will be taken into consideration; please indicate (if you choose) to what extent this ought to be considered. (Max. 3000 characters)