



## **Opportunities, Inc. Vocational Scholarship Program January 2008**

It is the mission of Opportunities, Inc. to provide services to our consumers that will maximize their success and enhance their abilities as they strive to achieve their life goals. This purpose led to the development of commercial divisions that assist in the funding of this vision.

In 2006 changes in the county funding stream left many individuals without funding for their vocational services. An unofficial scholarship fund was instituted at that time wherein these individuals were allowed to continue in their programs unfunded with costs being covered by income produced through our commercial operations. With additional changes in funding eminent in the coming year a criteria outlining the purpose and eligibility for these monies has been developed.

Opportunities, Inc. will make available \$300,000 annually for the scholarship fund. The amount awarded to individuals from this fund will vary, depending on their need and the availability of funds.

Opportunities, Inc. Vocational Scholarship Program dollars are targeted for programs that are not funded by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Specifically individuals interested in the following programs may be eligible for scholarship funds:

Center Based Employment  
Supported Employment Follow-up

Transportation for work is not provided by Opportunities, Inc. so is not an expense covered by the Vocational Scholarship fund.

To be eligible for the Opportunities, Inc. Vocational Scholarship individuals must be:

- A Jefferson County resident.
- Ineligible for or on a wait list status for county funding.
- Unable to pay out-of-pocket for services. This will be determined by assets. Those with assets over \$2000 will be expected to self-pay for services.
- Diagnosed with a significant disability that makes competitive employment a challenge to establish and/or maintain.
- (In case of Supported Employment Follow-up) ineligible for Social Security Work Incentives.

All individuals currently in an unfunded status at Opportunities, Inc. are required to apply for service at the county to confirm their status and/or get on a wait list for services.

Opportunities, Inc. Vocational Scholarship dollars are available for partial funding if needed (e.g., county funding is available for two days of Center Based Employment when four days is preferred).

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