



Providing National Leadership for the Advancement of Latino Behavioral Health Services

## **2018-2019 Josie Torralba Romero Scholarship GUIDELINES**

Application Deadline: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 5pm MST

### **PURPOSE**

The Josie Torralba Romero (JTR) Scholarship Fund seeks to honor its namesake, who was the first President and one of the founders of the National Latino Behavioral Health Association (NLBHA); an organization dedicated to bringing attention to the great disparities that exist in Latino behavioral health access and utilization of services, research and behavioral health workforce development.

Josie Torralba Romero, who passed away in 2004, had enormous dedication and love for the Latino community. Through her work as a social worker and advocate, she worked to help improve the country's mental health, social and child welfare systems for Latinos and other populations.

The JTR Scholarship Fund pays tribute to Josie's legacy of "growing our own" by providing academic scholarships to Latino students interested in pursuing a college degree in behavioral health related academic areas in the college where the student has been admitted. This includes the following disciplines: social work, counseling, psychology, psychiatry, or substance abuse or mental health programs.

### **SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

The JTR Scholarship Fund is managed by NLBHA who awards scholarships on an annual and competitive basis. They are awarded based upon the availability of funds and qualifying criteria determined by the NLBHA Board of Directors. Selection criteria for all scholarships include, but are not limited to the following: community service, leadership and academic accomplishments, commitment to behavioral health; three letters of reference and support; and demonstrated financial need.

Scholarships are awarded for one year of academic study. Awardees shall not assume they are eligible for renewal or additional scholarships from NLBHA, however, students are eligible to apply in subsequent years. Scholarship awardees will provide 10 service hours for every \$1,000.00 scholarship increment to NLBHA programs during the scholarship year. NLBHA pays scholarship funds directly to students in three payments: one at the start of Fall 2018 semester; the second at the beginning of the Spring 2018 semester contingent on maintaining a 3.0 GPA (or above) along with proof of grades from the

previous semester and maintained full-time enrollment; and the end of the Spring 2019 semester contingent on maintaining a 3.0 GPA (or above) along with proof of grades from the Spring 2019 semester and maintained full-time enrollment. The scholarship recipient will submit their official Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 grades to NLBHA to admin@nlbha.org. Students who disenroll from school or enroll in less than full-time coursework will be deemed ineligible and shall repay NLBHA for any disbursements received.

The JTR Scholarship Fund awards scholarships without regard to race, age, creed, religion, disability, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, but due to the primary mission and purpose, priority is given to individuals who self-identify as Latino/Hispanic/Chicano.

- 1. DEADLINE for scholarship applications is Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. MST. (NO EXCEPTIONS)**
2. Scholarship amounts are awarded for the entire 2018-2019 academic year beginning the Fall 2018 (does not include summer sessions/semesters/quarters).
3. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Refer to application below for a list of the supporting documents needed.
4. Award notifications will be done via email by June 1, 2018.
5. You can download the JTR Scholarship application and guidelines at [www.nlbha.org](http://www.nlbha.org), click on JTR Scholarship Fund.
6. Scholarship recipients must plan on attending the scholarship award ceremony in September 2018 in Santa Fe and plan accordingly.
7. If you have any questions or need assistance in completing the application, please call, email or text Fred Sandoval, MPA, at admin@nlbha.org or by calling 505-980-5156.

#### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

- Applicant must have and maintain residence in the state of New Mexico.
- Non-U.S. citizen, e.g. DACA, students enrolled in high school or college are eligible to apply.
- Applicant must be accepted and continue to be enrolled as a full time (12 credit hours or more) student at a college or university program for the 2018-19 academic year.
- Students must attend the same college or university for the entire academic year to be eligible to receive a scholarship.
- Applicants must demonstrate financial need for scholarship assistance.
- By submitting this application, the applicant understands they must provide voluntary service hours to NLBHA if they are awarded a scholarship in ten hour increments for every \$1,000.00 scholarship amount awarded, e.g., 20 hours for a \$2,000.00 scholarship.
- Student must have applied for the 2018-2019 school Federal Student Aid Application (FAFSA).
- Student must submit a copy of their 2018-2019 school year Student Aid Report (SAR).

- Students awarded scholarships agree to the conditions of the award and to authorize use of photographs, images and student pictures, biographies for use by NLBHA to promote, publicize and advance the JTR Scholarships via website, social media, public outlets & marketing material and to recognize awardees and their accomplishments.
- Scholarship recipients must report any changes to [admin@nlbha.org](mailto:admin@nlbha.org) in their academic, enrollment and residency, name or address changes within 3 days of change in status.
- Scholars agree to be mentored by a NLBHA representative during the course of the school year and to meet at minimum of once a month via call or in person.

## **TIMELINE**

- Completed and signed scholarship applications and attachments are due no later Tuesday, May 1, 2018 by 5:00 pm MST and emailed to the attention of Fredrick Sandoval, MPA, Executive Director at [admin@nlbha.org](mailto:admin@nlbha.org). An email reply will be sent to applicants to verify that the application was received.
- *No applications will be received by facsimile.*
- Award notifications will be sent by email by June 1, 2018.
- Scholarship recipients will receive their first disbursement on July 1, 2018 and their second disbursement **only** after their grades from the Fall 2018 semester have been received by NLBHA and the third disbursement only after their grades from the Spring 2019 semester have been received by NLBHA. An electronic verification of grades issued by the university or college are acceptable.

Contact Fred Sandoval at [admin@nlbha.org](mailto:admin@nlbha.org) for more information.

## **APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

### **ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS MUST PROVIDE:**

- A complete and signed JTR Scholarship application.
- Proof of residence in the State of New Mexico. (May include a state issued identification or valid drivers' license, utility bill, rent receipt, or documentation where the student physically resides).
- Official high school or college transcript in a sealed envelope from the institution must be mailed directly to NLBHA at 6555 Robin, Cochiti Lake, NM 87083.
- Two academic letters of references (e.g., from a guidance counselor, teacher, school administrator or professor).
- A letter of support from an employer or other community member.
- Proof of acceptance/enrollment at an academic, community college or university for the academic year the applicant is applying for and must remain enrolled full-time to maintain eligibility.

- Demonstrated financial need. (Must report income, living expenses, and other financial circumstances).
- A written description of their commitment to work in the behavioral health field (i.e., social work, counseling, therapy, psychology, psychiatry, substance use and mental health) and their scholastic, community and volunteer achievements. This particular section is very important and students are strongly encouraged to go into sufficient detail.

## **SERVICE HOURS REQUIRED OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

- If an applicant is awarded a scholarship, NLBHA requires that a student provide voluntary service hours during the academic year with NLBHA. Service hours are provided throughout the 2018-19 academic year.
- Scholarship awardees will provide 10 service hours for every \$1,000.00 scholarship increment to NLBHA programs during the scholarship year, e.g., 20 service hours in a year for a \$2,000.00 scholarship.
- All scholarship recipients will coordinate a plan with NLBHA on how they will meet their service hours with the NLBHA Executive Director after accepting the scholarship and before beginning their college/university studies.
- Scholars may opt to serve as a NLBHA college intern through their respective university or college to substitute for the service hours.

Final Guidelines – February 9, 2018 frs