

NAHRO National Merit Scholarship Program Administered by Housing America

In 2016, NAHRO President Steve Merritt envisioned a national scholarship fund. He wanted a pilot program for the first year of \$15,000. He asked Senior Vice President Carl Richie to take the lead and raise funds for such a program. The funds have been raised for the first years and some funds have been raised for the second year. President Merritt charged the Housing America Task Force with the creation of the NAHRO National Merit Scholarship Program. The goal of the program is for it to work in conjunction with the already established regional awards. Applications for the awards program will be submitted by each region and a panel comprised of Housing America Task Force members will review the submissions and make the awards selection. Submissions will be accepted starting in April. The scholarships will be presented in July, with the money being directed to the various academic institutions for fall enrollment. Eight scholarships will be awarded, one from each region, with eight applicants receiving \$1000 and two exemplary applicants receiving an additional \$2,000 and \$5,000 respectively.

As mentioned previously, money for 2017 has been raised and solicitations for future years will begin shortly using the attached solicitation letters. The Housing America Task Force is also finalizing a checklist/application process which the regions will need to follow when submitting their candidates for consideration. They are asking the Member Services Committee to approve their concept for the NAHRO National Merit College Scholarship Program so they can continue their work in developing this new service.