Scholarship Policy

NOTE: Any person wanting or needing assistance in reading or understanding this NEACCY policy or assistance in completing the application process should direct their request to the NEACCY office, by phone, in writing, or by electronic mail.

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I. PURPOSE:
The NEACCY Scholarship Policy has been established to make scholarships available to a parent or guardian of a children or youth with a disability who are covered under IDEA and who are enrolled in a Nevada school.

The full scholarship will provide all books and meals as provided in a paid registration for a parent or guardian of a child or youth with a disability. The intent is to provide parents/guardians opportunities to advance advocacy for Nevada’s children and youth with disabilities. It is expected that participation will increase the attendees’ knowledge of disability issues, improve their skills as advocates for children and youth with a disability/disabilities and allow them to share the benefits of the conference with others.

II. DEFINITIONS:
The following definitions will apply throughout this policy:

Applicant – individual/family member/guardian applying for/requesting a scholarship

Attendee – an awardee who has attended an event.

Awardee – who has received written notification that NEACCY’s Scholarship Committee has approved their application requesting a registration scholarship.

Event – conference, seminar, training, workshop, summit or other event that is coordinated and implemented by NEACCY at which attendees gain information, knowledge, resources and networking opportunities, and which exceed general socialization.

NEACCY – Nevada Educational Advocacy Center for Children & Youth

III. ELIGIBILITY:
A. General Eligibility
Scholarships will be awarded to a parent or guardian of a children or youth with a disability who are covered under IDEA and who are enrolled in a Nevada school.

B. Limitations to Eligibility
1) All applicants must agree to abide by the regulations, limitations and responsibilities for awardees set forth by the NEACCY in this document.
2) Accommodation for a disability and assistance with the application process and responsibilities for follow-up will be made available upon request.
3) Priority will be given to applicants who have not previously received a NEACCY scholarship.
4) When and if an attendee(s) who has previously received a full scholarship from the NEACCY is/are approved for repeat funding, there must be a span of at least two years between events.

5) Awardees are prohibited from transferring an award to another individual.

6) Awards expire on the date of the conference.

7) If selected, and you accept the scholarship, you must attend the conference except in the case of an emergency. If you have to cancel for an emergency, you must contact NEACCY at 855-645-5297 as soon as possible.

8) Scholarships are to be used for the sole purpose of attending a NEACCY’s 2016 Wrightslaw Conference.

C. Exclusions to Eligibility

1) Any applicant who does not complete the follow-up requirements as set forth later in this policy and provide documentation of their participation (receipts, etc.) will be disqualified from future participation in any future NEACCY Event Scholarship.

2) The Scholarship Committee may on a case-by-case basis, consider an extension to the follow-up requirements.

3) Any persons who currently work for, are employed by, serve on a school board, have worked in such capacity within the last five years, or receive more than 25% of their individual income from state, intermediate or local education agencies, as those terms are defined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (this includes teachers, administrators, or other school personnel).

4) Attorneys who represent such state or local educational agencies or who have represented such agencies within five years from the date of their application for a scholarship

5) Advocates or related professionals who provide representation, advice or consultation to such state or local educational agencies or who have provided such services within five years from the date of the application for scholarship.

6) Individuals that volunteer, are employed by, serve as an independent contractor or serve as a director or officer with a for-profit or nonprofit organization that offers advocacy services, advocacy training or similar services are not eligible.

7) Professional scholarships are not available.

IV. USES OF THE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS:

Scholarship funds are for the exclusive use of the parent/guardian for the purpose of that specific scholarship. The attendee will not be provided a check
for the fee but a receipt that their registration has been provided in full from the NEACCY Scholarship Fund. The scholarship includes all the rights and privileges awarded a paid parent/guardian registration fee. If the parent has already registered for the conference and is awarded, and accepts the scholarship, NEACCY will refund their full registration fee to them within two weeks of accepting the award.

V. **AWARDEE RESPONSIBILITIES:**
A. Attend a NEACCY’s board of directors meeting where they will share their experience of having attended the conference. If the awardee lives outside of the Reno/Sparks area, a phone meeting shall be arranged.
B. The attendee shall provide NEACCY with written permission for their name and photo to be used on the NEACCY’s marketing and promotional, funding or educational materials.
C. Provide NEACCY with proof of Nevada residency as evidenced by signature on the scholarship acceptance form.
D. Should the awardee fail to fulfill the requirements outlined above, they will be disqualified from receiving any future NEACCY Scholarships.

VI. **FUNDING LIMITATIONS:**
A. Funding Capacity
   1) All awards are subject to availability of NEACCY Scholarship funding. For the September 15, 2016 Wrightslaw conference, NEACCY will provide five (5) scholarships for parents/guardians from rural counties and five (5) scholarships for parents/guardians residing in Clark or Washoe counties.
   2) The maximum allowable amount is stipulated in the scholarship agreement.
B. Approval Process
   1) Only complete applications will be considered.

VII. **APPLICATION PROCEDURES:**
A. Application form can be found at NEACCY.org
B. The NEACCY Scholarship Committee will review all completed applications.
C. All applicants will receive notification of award or denial promptly by email after the Scholarship Committee has made its decision.
D. Only mailed applications will be accepted.
E. All applicants will be notified by email in late August of awards.

VIII. **PAYMENT**
A NEACCY Scholarship Award is a non-cash bearing award.
IX. THE NEACCY SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:
A. The NEACCY Scholarship Committee shall consist of three community members and the Board President or Executive Director. The Board President or Executive Director shall coordinate the committee and complete all administrative duties. They will not be a voting member of the committee.
B. The Scholarship Committee shall review all complete applications received by the deadline.
C. The Scholarship Committee shall make the determination of scholarship awards and all decisions are final.
D. The Scholarship Committee reserves the right to establish an ad hoc subcommittee should discretionary funds becomes available to provide for additional scholarships.
E. Decisions will be based on the applicant's responses to the short answer questions. Responses are limited to 150 words per question.

1. Why the applicant wishes to attend the conference, workshop or training (what difference will make in your life and the life of your child). Include all advocacy efforts you have done on behalf of your child such as filing a state complaint, mediation etc.

2. How the applicant plans to share the information they receive from the conference, workshop or training with others.

3. How the applicant will use the information they gained from the conference to advocate for the educational needs for children and youth with disabilities in their community in the coming year.

X. NEVADA GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES / NGCDD
This conference is made possible in part by a partnership with NGCDD. The Council engages in advocacy, systems change, and capacity building activities for people with developmental disabilities and their families in order to promote equal opportunity, self-determination, and community inclusion.

NGCDD offers a Consumer Leadership Development Fund. The CDLF was established to make funds available to help offset the costs for self-advocates and/or parents/family/guardians of children/adult children with developmental disabilities to participate in conferences, workshops, and other training opportunities, that will increase their knowledge of disability issues and increase their skills as advocates. Funds are reimbursable up to a set limit determined by the NGCDD Executive Committee.

Additional information can be found at http://www.nevadaddcouncil.org/2016/04/19/consumer-leadership-application/
XI. DISCLAIMER:
   A. NEACCY’s Scholarship Fund is not an entitlement.
   B. NEACCY reserves the right to use discretionary judgment, as it deems appropriate, on any and all applications.
   C. NEACCY is not and cannot be held responsible for damage or loss of property, injury or bodily harm, or expenses incurred due to unforeseen circumstances related to travel to/from events, participation of the event, or associated with travel or participation.
   D. NEACCY reserves the right to make changes as deemed necessary to the policy as needed.

XII. CONTACT NEACCY
   Applications are available by request at www.neaccy.org. Submit applications to:

   NEACCY
   Attention: Registration Scholarship Committee
   59 Damonte Ranch Parkway, Ste. B # 143
   Reno, NV 89521

   Questions may be directed to the Susan Zeiter at Susan@NEACCY.org or by calling the office at 855-654-5297.

   NEACCY prohibits any form of discrimination or harassment, either written, verbal or physical, based on race, color, sex, religious beliefs, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, marital status, sexual orientation or veteran status. January 2016