



Ready2Work Award and Graduation Award Fact Sheet

Were you the recipient of a scholarship from the Fremont Area Community Foundation from May 2010 to present? If so, you may qualify for a Ready2Work Award or Graduation Award!

Ready2Work Award (\$250)

The Ready2Work Award is designed to assist in removing barriers to employment (e.g. work boots, interview apparel, tools, state certification exams) of previous Fremont Area Community Foundation scholarship recipients who have achieved a degree/credential and live or work in West Michigan's Prosperity Zone 4. Prosperity Zone 4 is defined by the State of Michigan to include the counties of Mason, Lake, Osceola, Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Muskegon, Montcalm, Ottawa, Kent, Ionia, Allegan, and Barry.

Graduation Award (\$50)

The Graduation Award is for previous Fremont Area Community Foundation scholarship recipients who have received a degree/credential regardless of residency.

**Both awards are subject to annual funding by the Community Foundation Board of Trustees.*

AWARD DETAILS

What is the difference between the Ready2Work Award and Graduation Award?

The primary difference between the two awards is your place of residency.

- The Ready2Work Award is available to scholarship recipients from May 2010 to present who received a higher education degree/credential and *live or work in one of West Michigan's Prosperity Zone 4 counties.*
- The Graduation Award is available to scholarship recipients from May 2010 to present who received a higher education degree/credential, *regardless of residency.*

May I receive both awards?

No. You can receive the Ready2Work Award *or* the Graduation Award, not both.

May I receive another award in the future?

No. The Ready2Work and Graduation Awards are one-time awards. Even if you earn another degree or credential you will not be eligible to receive another award.

What is Prosperity Zone 4?

Prosperity Zone 4 is defined by the State of Michigan to include the counties of Mason, Lake, Osceola, Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Muskegon, Montcalm, Ottawa, Kent, Ionia, Allegan, and Barry.

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ELIGIBILITY

Do I qualify?

In order to be eligible for either award you must meet the following two requirements:

- You must have received a scholarship from the Fremont Area Community Foundation from May 2010 to present.
- You must have earned a higher education degree, credential, or certificate.

Note: Ready2Work applicants must also live in West Michigan as defined by Prosperity Zone 4.

Does it matter when I received my Fremont Area Community Foundation scholarship?

Yes. You must have received the *first year* of a one-year or renewable scholarship from May 2010 to present.

Does it matter if I did not use my scholarship?

No. If you were awarded a scholarship you are eligible, even if you did not use any or all of the scholarship funds.

Does it matter when I earned my degree/credential?

Yes. From August 2015 to December 31, 2016, we will honor any degree/credential earned since your initial scholarship award. *(For example if you received a Community Foundation scholarship in 2011 and earned a certificate or associate degree in 2013, you are eligible.)*

You must have earned your degree/credential within one year of applying for either award. A copy of the certificate or diploma will be required in your application.

How long am I eligible?

Applications for the Ready2Work Award or Graduation Award must be submitted within 10 years of receiving your scholarship. *(For example, if you received a Community Foundation scholarship in May 2010, you must submit your application for either of these awards by May 2020.)*

APPLICATION

When is the application available?

Applications are accepted year-round and will be awarded while funds remain available. Applications will be approved or denied by the last day of the month following submission.

How do I apply?

Complete the online application at facommunityfoundation.org/scholarships. Only complete and accurate applications will qualify for the award.

Why is the Community Foundation offering these awards?

The intent is to reward the accomplishments of our scholarship recipients. These two awards will also enable the Community Foundation to learn about barriers facing graduates as they enter the workforce and to collect data on the impact of our scholarship program.

Whom do I contact with questions?

Contact Robin Cowles at 231.924.5350 or rcowles@facommunityfoundation.org.

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