

Frequently Asked Questions

Below you will find details about United Way's **WomenRise** program. If you still have unanswered questions about this program, please contact Kate Bradford at bradfordk@yourunitedway.org.

"Who is eligible for the WomenRise program?"

Applicants will qualify for WomenRise if:

- They are a single female head of household with custody of at least one child,
- They are enrolled or enrolling in an education or career training program that culminates in a degree or credential,
- They have an annual income of \$60,000 or less,
- They reside in the United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg region (Charles City, Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Petersburg, Powhatan, Richmond), and
- They use or plan to use a licensed or voluntary registered child care provider

"How do I apply?"

Once applications are open, applicants must create an account on our online application link and submit an **online application**. The application will require child care provider information, education information and a personal or professional reference. Having trouble with the online application? Here are **step-by-step instructions** and a **video tutorial** for creating an application and using the site. Note: We do not have a paper application. All applications must be submitted online.

"When can I apply? What is the application deadline?"

WomenRise applications will become available online on Monday, May 1, 2023. All applications must be submitted by 11:59 P.M. on Friday, May 31, 2023.

"When will I know if I have received a WomenRise scholarship?"

All applicants will be notified whether they receive a scholarship by Wednesday, July 12, 2023.

"What do I need to have ready before I apply?"

Before applying, applicants must contact their potential child care provider(s) to ensure that they have space and know what is needed to enroll their child(ren). This includes verifying the exact weekly costs for every child. They must also be enrolled or planning to enroll in an education or career training program before August 2023. Applicants will be required to include documentation of their child care costs and the education or training program with their application. Lastly, applicants need to have the email and phone number of one personal or professional reference ready to include on the application.

"When do child care payments begin?"

If all paperwork is received on time, care costs will be covered starting in August 2023. Payments will be made directly to the child care provider.

"Who will review my WomenRise scholarship application?"

Applications will be reviewed by United Way staff and a volunteer committee of Women United donors from a variety of backgrounds, industries and stages of life.

"How long will my child care be covered if I receive a scholarship this summer?"

Individuals have three options for the length of time they are requesting child care coverage based on the length of their training/education program. These options include: 1) Fall 2023 (August-December), 2) Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 (August 2023-May 2024) and 3) Fall 2023, Spring 2024 and Summer 2024 (August 2023-July 2024).

"Can I apply for scholarships multiple years in a row?"

Yes. We will take applications for every year an individual is enrolled in an education or career training program. We will give preference to women who are currently receiving scholarships when it comes time for them to apply for another year with the goal of supporting them throughout their educational career.

"Can I apply for care for more than one child?"

Absolutely. The application allows individuals to submit multiple children and multiple child care providers. Applicants must provide costs associated with each child's care.

"Is there an age limit for the children served?"

There is no defined age limit for the children of applicants. We will cover costs of traditional day care for children who are not yet school-aged, as well as before and after school care costs for school-aged children.

“What are requirements for my selected child care provider?”

Applicants may select any providers that are licensed or regulated with the Virginia Department of Social Services. Recipients may choose family day home providers or center-based care, depending on what works best for them. They may also choose before or after school care if needed. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that a provider has space for their child(ren) and to verify costs of care before listing the provider on the application.

“How do I know if my childcare provider is licensed or regulated?”

You can look up all licensed or regulated providers on the Virginia Department of Social Services [website](#).

“I don't have a provider selected. How do I choose a quality provider?”

Child Care Aware of Virginia provides some great resources for selecting a quality provider. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Current childcare providers that work with our program include: [KinderCare](#), [YMCA](#), [VCU Child Development Center](#), [ChildTime](#), and [Bundle of Joy](#).

“Who will receive the payment - the child care providers or the recipients?”

United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg will pay the child care providers directly.

“What other resources might be available to help me pay for child care?”

We highly recommend that everyone considering the WomenRise program should apply for [Child Care Assistance](#) through the Department of Social Services. Also called Child Care Subsidy, this program will pay part or all of your child care costs directly to your child care center each month. **DSS recently raised the income limit so that more families qualify for assistance.** If you receive child care subsidy, you can also participate in the WomenRise program.

“Do I have to also be employed to qualify?”

While we do not require applicants to be employed in order to qualify, the application does ask about current employment. Applicants who are not currently employed should leave that field blank.

“What are the requirements for my education or career training program?”

Applicants must be enrolled in an education or career training program that is at least 40 hours in length and that results in some sort of degree or certification. Options include traditional degrees like GED, Associate’s, Bachelor’s or Master’s degrees. We are not accepting applications from PHD students at this time. Applicants may also be pursuing an academic certificate, trade certification or other credential. Examples include CNA training, real estate licensure, IT certifications, customer service or hospitality certifications, etc.

If you are just starting out in your educational journey, we recommend that you look into the **Virginia Community College System**. **Brightpoint** and **Reynolds Community College** are the two in our region. Community Colleges offer the lowest tuition rates in the state (**including some free programs**), offer online classes, and have agreements with many 4 year colleges in the state to accept transfer students.

If you have a question about whether your program qualifies, contact Kate Bradford at **bradfordk@yourunitedway.org**.

“Does WomenRise pay for my college?”

WomenRise is designed to assist you with paying for your child's child care (including before/after school care) while you are in school. This program is not able to assist you in paying for your college tuition. If you are looking for assistance in paying for your own tuition, we recommend reaching out to your college's Financial Aid Office.

Looking for a way to get an Associate’s Degree for free? You may be eligible for G3 through Virginia’s Community College System. G3 is a tuition assistance program for any Virginia resident who qualifies for in-state financial aid and whose family income falls below an identified threshold. G3 can be used for designated programs in five of Virginia’s most in-demand industries: Early Childhood Education, Healthcare, Information Technology, Public Safety and Skilled Trades. **Learn more about G3**.

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www.YourUnitedWay.org/womenrise



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