



Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc.
96 Pitkin Street
East Hartford, CT 06108
860-282-9881



GAIL BURNS-SMITH SCHOLARSHIP/STIPEND AWARD

ABOUT CONNSACS:

Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. (CONNSACS) is a statewide association of individual sexual assault crisis programs working to end sexual violence through victim assistance, community education, and public policy advocacy. CONNSACS actively seeks and administers funds to develop and support its member organizations; participates in collaborative efforts to promote social change with national, state and local organizations; provides a forum for the exchange of skills and information regarding the response to, and prevention of sexual assault; and serves as a mechanism for the development and maintenance of appropriate standards of services for sexual assault crisis centers.

ABOUT THE ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP/STIPEND:

The Gail-Burns Smith "*Dare to Dream*" Fund was established in 2004 upon the retirement of the former Executive Director of CONNSACS, Gail Burns-Smith, after 22 years of service dedicated to ending and preventing sexual violence in the state of CT. The Fund is comprised of voluntary contributions received from supporters and donors who wish to honor Gail's dedication to this cause. It has been agreed upon by the Board of Directors of CONNSACS that an annual scholarship or stipend will be granted to an individual whose work or study in the field of sexual violence most exemplifies Gail's commitment to its public awareness, education, prevention and advocacy on behalf of individual sexual assault victims as well as via public policy advocacy. Monetary gifts will be solicited and accepted annually to perpetuate the Fund.

Name:

The name of the award is "The Gail Burns-Smith *Dare to Dream* Scholarship/Stipend Award". One scholarship or stipend award will be presented to one recipient at the *CONNSACS Annual Awareness Event* held each spring.

Amount of Award:

The annually granted scholarship or stipend will be \$1000.00. This amount or number of scholarships/stipends awarded may change at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Important Dates:

For each year:

1. Applications will be made available to applicants by November 1
2. Closing date for receipt of completed applications will be March 1
3. Notification of scholarship/stipend recipient will be April 1
4. Award to be granted at *CONNSACS Annual Awareness Event* held each spring (date determined annually).

Eligibility Criteria:

To qualify for consideration of this award an applicant:

1. Must be a resident of Connecticut or attending a Connecticut based school.
2. Must show paid or volunteer work experience in the field of women's issues or sexual violence.

Selection Process:

The Scholarship/Stipend Committee of CONNSACS will receive and review all applications. The final selection will, in all cases, be made by the Committee.

Selection Criteria:

In selecting a recipient, the Committee will be guided by consideration of the following information to be provided by the applicant:

1. Is actively involved in sexual assault awareness activities
2. Demonstrates leadership in the area of women's issues, sexual violence prevention or advocacy, either on behalf of individual victims or via public policy advocacy.
3. Shows a planned commitment to continuing work in the field of sexual violence prevention and/or advocacy, either on behalf of individual victims or via public policy advocacy.

Each applicant will be asked to submit the following:

1. Application form provided by CONNSACS
2. Two essays in response to questions listed on application
3. Two character references, submitted as Letters of Recommendation on behalf of applicant.
4. The committee reserves the right to require an in-person interview for applicants.

Conditions of Award:

The scholarship/stipend shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. There shall be no restrictions by race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, familial status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental retardation, mental disability, learning disability, sexual orientation or physical disability of any applicant.
2. Any applicant may apply annually for this award.
3. The selected recipient of the scholarship/stipend will provide a report to CONNSACS one year after receiving the award indicating how the funding was used and how it made a difference for the awardee.

Other Provisions:

The scholarship/stipend guidelines may be amended by CONNSACS prior to the annual announcement of its available applications.