

**Notice: The CIRI Foundation office is temporarily closed to the public and the TCF team has limited office access. Retrieving previously submitted paper file documents may take more time to process. Please submit applications and other required documents via email to [tcf@thecirifoundation.org](mailto:tcf@thecirifoundation.org) for quickest processing. Go to [www.thecirifoundation.org](http://www.thecirifoundation.org) for COVID-19 related updates.**

## Our Mission

The mission of The CIRI Foundation (TCF) is to promote individual self-development and economic self-sufficiency through education and to maintain pride in culture and heritage among Alaska Natives.

The CIRI Foundation supports the education and career development of eligible original enrollees of Cook Inlet Region Inc. (CIRI) and their direct lineal descendants through post-secondary scholarships and grants. Individuals with inherited or gifted shares do not qualify as original enrollees, but may be eligible if they are a lineal descendant. If you are not a direct lineal descendant of a CIRI original enrollee, but you are an Alaska Native voting CIRI Shareholder – please review TCF’s Raven Fund and CITC’s Scholarship Program administered by TCF for funding opportunities that you *may* qualify for.

## JUMP START AWARDS

For applicants attending a recognized or accredited college, training program, or other authorized post-secondary education course of study **while concurrently enrolled in high school or an equivalent program. Must have a current cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher.**  
*Up to \$2,000 per calendar year (subject to available funding).*

Application Deadlines: March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 1

### APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

**Applications must be received on or before the deadline.** Applications received after the deadline are not considered.

- 1. **Three-page application.** Complete, sign, and date the three-page application provided by TCF.
- 2a. **Proof of eligibility for lineal descendants.** (*new applicants only*) Lineal descendants of original CIRI enrollees must provide the relevant documents to confirm their relationship. (e.g. official birth certificate(s) or adoption decree linking you to the original enrollee.) More than one birth certificate may be necessary. *Sworn statements or affidavits are not accepted as official verification of eligibility.*
- 2b. **Proof of name change.** Any legal name changes must be supported by official documentation (i.e. marriage certificate, divorce decree, etc). *Sworn statements or affidavits are not accepted to verify name changes.*
- 3. **One letter of reference.** The letter must include the signature, date and contact information of the individual who provided the reference (non-family members, please); and is valid for three years.
- 4. **Official Grade Transcripts and/or Certificate of Completion.** Submit a copy of your most current official transcripts for high school/GED work. Your cumulative GPA must be 2.5 or above to be eligible for funding.  
**Note:** Official grade transcripts are signed by the school’s registrar and/or have an official seal from the school.
- 5. **Statement of purpose.** Complete instructions regarding the Statement of Purpose are available in Section F. Your statement is evaluated for clarity of goals, correct use of English language, relationship to community, and overall quality.
- 6. **Proof of acceptance and enrollment.** Applicants must submit a copy of the final letter of acceptance into a post-secondary institution **and** a class schedule.
- 7. **Photograph.** (optional) Please note that your photograph becomes the property of TCF and may be used in print and electronic TCF or related publications. Digital photos may be emailed to [tcf@thecirifoundation.org](mailto:tcf@thecirifoundation.org).

**Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Alaska Time on the day of the deadline.**  
**Applications will be considered in the order they were received – first completed, first awarded.**

**Submit your application and documents to TCF via mail, email, or fax to:**

The CIRI Foundation | 3201 C Street, Suite 506, Anchorage, AK 99503 | Phone: (907) 793-3575

Toll-free: 1 (800) 764-3382 | Fax: (907) 793-3585 | [tcf@thecirifoundation.org](mailto:tcf@thecirifoundation.org) Updated 2/25/21 TKL



**E. EDUCATION PLANS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

|    |  |  |   |
|----|--|--|---|
| 11 | Name of School (where you will be enrolled in post-secondary credits) If awarded, this is where the check is mailed to   |  |   |
| 12 | Financial Aid Office Address   |  | Tel No.       -       -   |
| 13 | City   | State  | Zip Code  |
| 14 | <b>Current program</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> a recognized or accredited college, training program, or other authorized post-secondary education course of study while concurrently enrolled in high school or equivalent program<br><br>(Additional information – if you are enrolled in a specific program i.e. 2-year degree or a certificate program, please include that information here: ) |   |
| 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if your program is <b>online, distance-delivery, study abroad, or correspondence.</b>  |  |   |
| 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> Declared major: If declared, what is your field of study:<br><b>-OR-</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Not enrolled in a specific major   |  |   |
| 17 | Expected date of completion:    mm/yyyy  |  |   |
| 18 | My most recent cumulative grade point average (GPA) is: _____  |  | Students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above to be eligible for funding.   |
| 19 | <u><b>My school calendar is based on:</b></u><br><input type="checkbox"/> semesters<br><input type="checkbox"/> quarters<br><input type="checkbox"/> trimesters<br><input type="checkbox"/> other ( <b>specify</b> time period, weeks, months, year, etc.):  | <u><b>I am applying for the term(s):</b></u><br><input type="checkbox"/> fall term only<br><input type="checkbox"/> spring term only<br><input type="checkbox"/> winter/spring terms<br><input type="checkbox"/> other ( <b>specify</b> time period, weeks months, year, etc.):  | <b>Term start date:</b><br>_____<br><br><b>Term end date:</b><br>_____<br><br><small>*Note: You cannot apply for courses completed prior to the application deadline.</small> |
| 20 | I will be enrolled <input type="checkbox"/> <u>part-time</u> -or - <input type="checkbox"/> <u>full-time</u> for the term dates noted above on line 19.<br><b>*Please immediately send TCF <u>written</u> notification of any schedule or enrollment changes.</b>  |  |   |
| 21 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>I understand that I am expected to complete all of the courses and credits for which I receive funding from The Ciri Foundation (check box).</b>   |  |   |
| 22 | <b><u>PROBATION/INFRACTION POLICY - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY</u></b><br>Recipients who do not maintain the Terms of Funding eligibility requirements during the academic term may be in a probation / infraction situation. The first time a student does not maintain the eligibility requirements, he/she will be placed on probation. Students on probation are eligible to receive one (1) term (defined by TCF as the period between the June 1 or December 1 deadlines) of funding. During the probationary term, a student has the opportunity to improve their academic performance to reinstate their eligibility for funding.<br><br>A student who does not successfully maintain the eligibility requirements at the end of the probationary period will be in an Infraction Status. <b>Students on Infraction Status are ineligible to receive funding for one (1) term (as defined above)</b> , and will sit out for one of the two deadlines from the date determined by TCF. Infraction status determination is made after reviewing official transcripts; therefore, <b>timely submission of transcripts is required.</b> |  |   |
| 22 | <b>CHECK BOX TO INDICATE THAT YOU HAVE READ AND AGREE TO THE PROBATION/INFRACTION POLICY → <input type="checkbox"/></b>  |  |   |

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**F. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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▪ **New Applicants** (at least 500 words) – Please attach a statement of purpose which describes your education and career goals. How does your program fit with your education and career plans? How are you currently or plan to, contribute to a positive Alaska Native community? You may attach your personal history and a summary of accomplishments.

▪ **Repeat Applicants** (at least 300 words) – Please attach a statement of purpose updating your education and career goals. To what extent are you moving toward your goals? What changes might have occurred since your last application and why? What new information do you have about your career and education goals? How are you currently, or plan to, contribute to a positive Alaska Native community? You may attach your a summary of recent accomplishments.

**G. BUDGET**

**Complete your education budget for the term specified on line 19.**

Do not leave any blanks. If the amount is zero, put -0-.

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**While attending school, will you be living in on-campus housing provided by your school?**  yes  no

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| A. EXPENSES  | AMOUNT | B. SOURCES OF FUNDS                       | AMOUNT |
|--|--------|---|--------|
| <b>Direct academic costs</b>                         |        |   |        |
| Tuition  | \$     | Personal/family contribution to education | \$     |
| Student fees   | \$     | Tuition waiver                            | \$     |
| Books & required supplies                            | \$     | Veterans Administration aid               | \$     |
| <b>Room and meal plan costs (♣)</b>                  |        |   |        |
| On-campus housing                                    | \$     | State/Federal social security             | \$     |
| On-campus meal plan                                  | \$     | State/Federal student loans / grants      | \$     |
| <b>Personal expenses (♦)</b>                         |        |   |        |
| (Maximum \$500 per term)                             | \$     | Other scholarships / grants               | \$     |
|  |        | Other tribal scholarships / grants        | \$     |
|  |        | Other (specify):                          | \$     |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                                |        | <b>TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>             |        |
| \$   |        | \$  |        |
| <b>AMOUNT NEEDED= (TOTAL EXPENSES - TOTAL FUNDS)</b> |        |   |        |
| \$   |        |   |        |

♣ Only students living in school-provided, on-campus housing are eligible to use award funds toward room/meal plan costs.  
♦ Examples of Personal Expenses include, but are not limited to, off-campus housing, meals, transportation, and childcare.

**H. STATEMENT OF CORRECTNESS, UNDERSTANDING, AND AUTHORIZATION**

**By signing this statement, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the funding guidelines and terms specified below:**

1. To the best of my knowledge, the information in this application is true, correct and complete.
2. It is my responsibility - not that of The Ciri Foundation (board or staff) or any other party (e.g. parent, spouse, academic advisor) – to obtain and submit the necessary application materials on or before the deadline to receive consideration for any award.
3. This application does not obligate The Ciri Foundation to award an education scholarship or grant or to pay any costs incurred in the submission of this application. All decisions made by the Education Awards Committee are final.
4. If approved for a scholarship or grant, I agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the award. If, for any reason, I am unable to use the award for which I am selected, the full amount or any portion thereof is to be refunded to The Ciri Foundation.
5. I understand that I am required to complete all courses and credits for which I am funded by The Ciri Foundation.
6. All applicant information is kept confidential in accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Information will not be released to another party, including parents or family members, without having written consent of the applicant.
7. I give The Ciri Foundation permission to release, as appropriate, my comments, photo, name, address, e-mail, and telephone number for employment or education referrals and Ciri publications.

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**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## JUMP START AWARD GUIDELINES

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The CIRI Foundation Jump Start Awards are open to direct lineal descendants (either natural-born or legally adopted) of original enrollees of CIRI. Individuals who have inherited or received gifted shares do not qualify as original enrollees. **All scholarships are made subject to available funding and up to the amounts listed below.**

### JUMP START APPLICANTS ARE:

Students accepted or enrolled full-time or part-time at a recognized or accredited college, training program, or other authorized post-secondary education course of study while *concurrently* enrolled in high school or equivalent program.

### AWARD USES

The priority of The CIRI Foundation is to help you meet your direct educational expenses including tuition, student registration fees, course-required books/supplies, and on-campus housing/meal plans. If funds remain after the direct educational expenses are met, then up to \$500 per calendar year.

**JUMP START AWARD PURPOSE:** To promote preparation for successful educational attainment while concurrently obtaining a secondary education

**Eligibility:** must be enrolled in a recognized or accredited college, training program, or other authorized post-secondary education course of study while *concurrently enrolled* in high school or equivalent program. Must currently have and maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average

**Amount:** Up to \$2000 received during a calendar year.

**Duration:** May re-apply each quarter of a calendar year until the grant cap is reached. May re-apply the following calendar year after grant cap has been reached.

**Deadlines:** March 31, June 30, September 30, December 1

### DEADLINES

Applications must be **received by** The CIRI Foundation on or before the deadline to receive consideration. Late applications will not be considered. The stated deadline remains in effect whether the day falls on a weekend or a holiday. Submit your application **before** the start date of your coursework. Courses completed before the application deadline are not eligible for funding.

When TCF receives more eligible applications than the available funding, meeting the minimum selection criteria does not guarantee funding at any level. Applicants are considered for the appropriate award category based on their submitted information.

### NOTIFICATION OF FUNDING DECISIONS

The CIRI Foundation's Education Awards Committee makes the award selections and all decisions are final. Funding decisions are only released in writing; they are not released over the telephone or in person. Funded students are sent an award letter that contains the award terms and the responsibilities of the recipient. It is essential that award recipients read and understand the terms of their financial aid.

### CONDITIONAL AWARDS

If you receive a conditional jump start award, you have thirty (30) days from the date on the conditional award letter to fulfill the award requirements. Funds will be released only if the requested information is provided to The CIRI Foundation by the conditional award deadline. If an application remains incomplete after the conditional award deadline, the award is automatically canceled.

### DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

Award checks are made payable to *both the student and the university/school*, and must be endorsed by both parties to be processed. Award checks are sent directly to the financial aid office at the institution specified on your application. Students are sent a photocopy of the disbursement letter that accompanies the award check. To avoid unnecessary delay in the receipt of your financial aid, please provide accurate payment information on your application. If your educational program requires a different payment procedure (i.e. payable to school only, online program), please indicate on the application.

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**PROOF OF COMPLETION**

Scholarship and grant recipients must submit final official grade transcripts or certificates upon the completion of each semester/term of funding. Proof of completion must be received before any additional funds will be released or future applications can be considered. If you are currently enrolled in classes, TCF will need official transcripts once those classes are completed and grades are posted (it is okay if this is after the TCF deadline.)

**NUMBER OF AWARDS**

An applicant is permitted to receive only one (1) award at a time and for one (1) type of award at a time, up to the maximum amount of grant funding in a calendar year.

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