



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Offered to African American students and International students of African descent with permanent residency seeking terminal degrees at Western University of Health Sciences, University of California, Riverside School of Medicine and Keck Graduate Institute School of Pharmacy

Application Deadline: April 30, 2021

About Ujima, Inc.

Ujima, Inc. is a 501 (c), (3) non-profit organization, which seeks to improve health outcomes in the African American community. We provide health education, outreach and advocacy and a scholarship fund to ensure that African Americans remain visible, viable and impactful in the health sciences. Ujima, Inc. was established in 2010. The scholarship fund is community based, as we believe the combined economic power of the African American community can impact those health issues, which most affect the African American community. Ujima is the third principal of Kwanza and means, “The collective work and shared responsibility of the village”.

Enclosed in this packet are the Application Instructions and the Application Form. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ujima, Inc. at

UJIMA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Application Instructions

The **Ujima Scholarship Fund** is available to **African American** students and International students of African descent currently attending Western University of Health Sciences, University of California at Riverside, School of Medicine and Keck Graduate Institute School of Pharmacy. Students who are eligible may apply for an award

The purpose of the Ujima Scholarship Fund is to: 1) increase the number of eligible students in health science professionals; 2) encourage **African American** students pursuing advanced degrees in health science professions to practice direct patient care in a Medically Underserved Area (MUA), as defined by the US Department of Health and Human Services. and 3) achieve improved health outcomes in the **African American** community. Scholarships must be used for required fees, tuition, books, supplies, and educational equipment costs related to the applicant's health science education. All awards are subject to the availability of funds.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection for the Ujima Scholarship Fund is based solely on information contained in the application, supporting documentation and the in-person interview. Incomplete and ineligible applications will not be considered. Selection for awards is based on the following criteria:

- **Financial Need** - actual or potential financial difficulty in completing education in the absence of the scholarship.
- **Career Goals** - professional goals for the next five (5) to ten (10) years.
- **Community Service** - documented volunteer service and/or activities, particularly in a MUA.
- **Family Background** - life experience, family structure, economic background and community where applicant was raised; for example, rural, inner-city/urban, suburban, or MUA.
- **Academic Performance** - prior and current academic performance; potential for future academic success. Priority will be given to students who will complete their healthcare program within the next two years. Awards are made on a competitive basis.

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a scholarship, students must agree to the following terms:

- **Must be a current full time student** at Western University of Health Sciences, University of California at Riverside, School of Medicine or Keck Graduate Institute, School of Pharmacy.
- **Must be a full-time student** at Western University of Health Sciences, University of California at Riverside, School of Medicine or Keck Graduate Institute, School of Pharmacy for the upcoming 2021-2022 academic year.
- **Must be in good academic standing in your program.**
- **Must be a US citizen or a permanent resident and plan to practice in the United States.**
- **Immediately following completion of academic training and or post-graduate training, plan to complete a one (1) year work service obligation working in a MUA (Medically Underserved Area as defined by the US Department of Health) or plan to volunteer to complete 100 hours providing direct patient care in an MUA.**

Priority will be given to applicants whose community (family) background and commitment indicate a likelihood of long-term employment in an MUA, even after the service obligation ends. Awards are made on a competitive basis. Each part of the application must be completed and supporting documentation must be submitted by the appropriate deadline. **Only complete applications will be considered. Ujima, Inc. will not notify individuals if their application is incomplete.** Applicants are encouraged to email Ujima, Inc. at support@ujimascholarshipfund.org to verify their application status.

If you like receipt confirmation of your application packet, you are encouraged to send your application via US Priority Mail with a return receipt request.

All questions or concerns must be directed to Ujima, Inc. at support@ujimascholarshipfund.org

Selection Process

Once your completed application is received, it will be scored based upon the Selection Criteria. You will then be scheduled for a **VIRTUAL** interview by a panel Selection Committee members. The interview will also be scored. Based upon the combined scores, applicants will be ranked and the top applicants will receive an award

SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING

1) Completed Application

Complete all entries and pages of this application to be considered eligible.

2) Official Transcript(s) Related to Your Health Science Education

If you are a student in your first year of the program and your transcripts do not reflect your health science education, submit your most current transcript.

The transcript must be marked “official” by the University and mailed directly to Ujima, Inc. from your school registrar to Ujima Inc. P.O. Box 201, Upland, California 91785. Ujima, Inc. will not accept unofficial transcripts, copies or print outs of transcripts, or transcripts in open/unsealed envelopes.

3) Essays

Attach your essays to the application. Your statement must be typed, doubled-space and no more than 300 words per response. Restate and number each question along with a comprehensive response to each question. Personal statements that lack detail may be considered incomplete and therefore ineligible.

4) Two Professional Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation must be signed and dated within six (6) months of the application deadline. Letters must be submitted with application in a sealed envelope. The letters must be on letterhead and include the author’s name, title, name of employer, mailing address, phone number and how the author is acquainted with you. It is recommended that at least one (1) letter be from a faculty member, who can attest to your scholarship worthiness. The letters must indicate a first hand knowledge of you, your career goals and potential for success, involvement in extracurricular activities, demonstrated leadership ability, initiative, and your interest in the health needs of the African American Community. If you are a first year student, a letter from a faculty member in your previous degree program is acceptable. Letters of recommendation that confirm community service are encouraged

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Application must be received by April 30, 2021. In order to be reviewed, each part of the application must be completed and all supporting documentation must be post-marked by the deadline. Ujima, Inc. will not notify applicants if their application is received incomplete. Applicants are urged to contact Ujima, Inc. at support@ujimascholarshipfund.org prior to the deadline date to verify their application was received complete. Do not bind or submit applications in a loose-leaf binder. Carefully review and follow the application checklist provided.

NOTIFICATION OF AWARDS

Ujima, Inc. will notify applicants by US mail of their award results within 60 days of the deadline date. If you are selected as a finalist, you will be asked to provide a professional headshot/photograph prior to distribution of scholarship funds.

DEADLINE: April 30, 2021

Submit completed applications to:

Ujima, Inc. P.O. Box 201, Upland, California 91785

- or -

**Contact your school's financial aid representative to find out if
they will be receiving completed applications**

UJIMA SCHOLARSHIP CHECKLIST

- _____ Completed Application
- _____ Official Transcript
- _____ Essays
- _____ Letter of Recommendation #1
- _____ Letter of Recommendation #2

Applicant Name: Last name, First Name

UJIMA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Complete all fields. Application and supporting documents must be received or postmarked by application deadline. Late or incomplete application packets will not be accepted.

1) Western University of Health Sciences

For students at Western University of Health Sciences, please indicate the program in which you are currently enrolled:

- ☐ Osteopathic Medicine
- ☐ Physical Therapy
- ☐ Dental Medicine
- ☐ Pharmacy
- ☐ Podiatric Medicine
- ☐ Optometry

2) University of California at Riverside School of Medicine

3) Keck Graduate Institute School of Pharmacy

Personal Information

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

☐ Yes ☐ No Are you a US citizen?

☐ Yes ☐ No Are you a permanent resident?

Please describes your ethnic background? (*Check all that apply*)

☐ African American

☐ African descent

**Please indicate the program in which you are currently enrolled
(*Check all that apply*)**

- ☐ Medicine (MD or DO)
- ☐ Pharmacy (PharmD)
- ☐ Dental medicine (DDS or DMD)
- ☐ Podiatric medicine (DPM)
- ☐ Physical therapy (DPT)
- ☐ Optometry (OD)

☐ Yes ☐ No Will you be providing direct patient care?

☐ Yes ☐ No Do you live in an economically disadvantaged community or was your family of origin economically disadvantaged?
(Example: Income below the federal poverty level; Received subsidized housing, income, food or healthcare; Or lived in a medically underserved area for at least two (2) years of your life?)

Essays

Please **attach** your essays to the completed application. Must be typed and double-spaced. Limit 300 words per response to each question.

1. Describe your family background and how that may have influenced your decision to pursue a career in healthcare. Do you see your background as an advantage, disadvantage or both?

Consider factors such as parent or guardians' occupation(s), marital status, family size, where you were raised, first in family to attend college, English as a second language, and any other factors that help describe your family's socio-economic status or give us a sense of how your early life influenced your career aspirations.

2. What kind of work would you like to do immediately following completion of your training?

3. What are your long-term professional goals for the next five to ten years and how do you plan to make an impact?

4. Describe any relevant community service, volunteer activities or club memberships within the past three years. Do not include experience for which you received academic credit or other compensation.