

# Ready to begin a new life?



live  
**YOUR**  
*dream*   
education & training awards for women

## You can do it!

Since 1972, the Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards program (formerly the Women's Opportunity Awards) has disbursed more than \$25 million to tens of thousands of women who have overcome poverty, domestic and sexual violence, divorce, the death of a spouse, or other life challenges. They are women—just like you—who had the courage and determination to turn their lives around.

Recipients may use the cash award to offset any costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education, including books, childcare and transportation. The program begins on the club level, where award amounts vary. Club recipients become eligible to receive region-level awards, which are granted through Soroptimist's 28 geographic regions. Currently, each Soroptimist region grants one first-place award for \$5,000.



Most regions grant additional \$3,000 awards. The first-place recipients then become eligible for one of three \$10,000 finalist awards.

Soroptimist also offers awards through its headquarters office to applicants who do not live within the territorial limits of a Soroptimist club.

Each year about \$1.6 million is awarded through the Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards program.



## Get started now!



education & training awards for women

Formerly the Soroptimist Women's Opportunity Awards

# Instructions

**Deadline:** Applications are due each year by **November 15**, and are accepted between July 1 and November 15. Award recipients will be notified between January and June. Not all applicants will be selected for awards. Applications can only be submitted to one club. Your application will be reviewed by a panel of judges, but all information will remain confidential and will not be shared without your prior permission.

## Step 1: Determine if you are eligible

You are eligible if you:

- Provide the primary financial support for yourself and your dependents. Dependents can include children, spouse, partner, siblings and/or parents.
- Have financial need.
- Are enrolled in or have been accepted to a vocational/skills training program or an undergraduate degree program.
- Are motivated to achieve your education and career goals.
- Reside in one of Soroptimist International of the Americas' member countries/territories (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guam, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, United States of America, Venezuela).
- Have not previously been the recipient of a Soroptimist Women's Opportunity or Live Your Dream Award.
- Do not have a graduate degree.
- Are not a Soroptimist member, an employee of Soroptimist International of the Americas or immediate family of either.

## Step 2: Tell us about yourself

Fill out the award application telling us about yourself. Your information will be kept confidential and shared only with the evaluators unless you give us written permission to use your story to publicize the program. You must use Adobe Reader—a free download—to fill out the form. If you do not use Adobe Reader, your answer will not be saved.

- Select the "Hand Tool" that appears as a small white hand.
- Move the "Hand Tool" and click on the area where you want to type.
- A cursor will appear and you can begin typing to complete the application. (Note: You will not be able to change the type size. Please limit your answers to the space allotted.)
- Once all parts of the form are completed, select "Save As" from the "File" menu and change the file name (for example, "LYDApplicationLG," where LG are your initials.) Click "Save."

## Step 3: Ask people to tell us about you

You will need two different people—who are not related to you—to fill out the [reference forms](#) you received with this application. Please email this form to your references and request they email the forms back to you when completed. Only two references will be accepted. Please use the form and do not submit reference letters.

## Step 4: Submit your application

Applications are accepted between July 1 and November 15. Once you have saved your application and reference forms, please visit <http://www.soroptimist.org/awards/apply.html> to begin the submission process.

## Questions

Check out the Live Your Dream Award Frequently Asked Questions at <http://www.Soroptimist.org/awards/DreamAwardsFAQforApplicants.pdf>. If you still have questions, contact the person listed above or Soroptimist headquarters at [siahq@soroptimist.org](mailto:siahq@soroptimist.org).

## Ready to Apply?

Begin your application on the next page now! We wish you the best of luck in achieving your educational and professional goals.



*Start your application now!*



# Ready, Set, Live Your Dream!

*Begin your application now.*

## Part I. Basic Information

|                                                                 |                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Name (first, middle initial, last):                             |                  |
| Address (number and street address):                            |                  |
| City/Province:                                                  | State:           |
| Postal Code:                                                    | Country:         |
| Telephone:                                                      | Email Address:   |
| Date of Birth:                                                  | Marital Status:  |
| Highest level of education achieved:                            | Date Completed : |
| Number of dependents you support (NOT including yourself):      |                  |
| How are they related to you (children, spouse, parents, etc.)?: |                  |
| Ages (if they are children):                                    |                  |

## Part II. What are your education and career goals?

- A. What's the name of the school or training program you are attending or have been accepted to?
- B. What are you studying? (example: Bachelor of Science nursing degree or computer science certificate)
- C. When will you complete your studies (month and year)?
- D. Are you working while you are getting your education? (check one)      YES      NO
- If yes, how many hours per week? \_\_\_\_\_
- E. In 300 words or less, please tell us about your career goals, and give specifics about how your education and training supports these goals.

### Part III. Financial Information

Live Your Dream Award recipients are chosen in part based on financial need. Please share information about your annual income and expenses. Please be as exact as you can.



**A. INCOME:** Please list your ANNUAL household income and savings in the chart below.

|                |                  |                              |                  |
|----------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Employment:    | \$_____ per year | Government Assistance:       | \$_____ per year |
| Savings:       | \$_____ per year | Social Security (U.S. only): | \$_____ per year |
| Child Support: | \$_____ per year | Loans:                       | \$_____ per year |
| Alimony:       | \$_____ per year | Scholarships:                | \$_____ per year |

Please list any additional income, including income other household members receive.

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_ per year

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_ per year

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_ per year

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME: |  |
|----------------------|--|

**B. EXPENSES:** Please list your ANNUAL household expenses in the chart below.

|            |                  |                 |                  |
|------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Housing:   | \$_____ per year | Utilities:      | \$_____ per year |
| Food:      | \$_____ per year | Medical:        | \$_____ per year |
| Childcare: | \$_____ per year | Transportation: | \$_____ per year |
| Tuition:   | \$_____ per year | Books:          | \$_____ per year |

Please list any additional expenses.

Expense: \_\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_ per year

Expense: \_\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_ per year

Expense: \_\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_ per year

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENSES: |  |
|------------------------|--|



## Part IV. Tell us more about yourself

The Live Your Dream Award is all about helping women who have faced economic and personal hardships to live their dreams. Since 1972, the award has provided tens of thousands of women with cash grants to help them achieve their educational and career goals. The program helps women build a better life for themselves and their dependents. Do you think this award could help you live your dream? In 750 words or less, tell us about the challenges you've faced and how you think this award could help you to live your dream.

## Part V. Agreement

Please read the following information carefully. When you type your name below, you are agreeing to what you have read.

- I certify that all the information provided in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I will notify Soroptimist if there are any changes.
- I understand this award is not a scholarship and is therefore taxable for citizens of the United States. (For more information, consult IRS publication 520. Residents of other countries should check their local tax laws.)
- I certify that this is the only application I have made—in any format or to any address—this year for a Soroptimist Live Your Dream Award.
- I understand that my application may be submitted electronically for evaluation.
- I understand that my application becomes the property of Soroptimist International of the Americas. The application will be considered confidential unless the applicant grants Soroptimist written permission to release personal information for the purpose of publicizing the award.

By typing your name below, you adhere to the above requirements.

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Signature of applicant

Date

Thank you for applying for the  
Live Your Dream Award.  
Congratulations on all you have achieved so far!



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of the Americas

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Last page, we knew you could do it!

