



WomenGive was created more than 13 years ago in response to a community need for increased childcare access for single mothers pursuing higher education. It has always been a priority of United Way of Larimer County to continually adjust the WomenGive program to meet the needs of our community. WomenGive is proud to announce that in the start of *Fall 2019*, new eligibility criteria will be implemented for our scholarships.

During the previous scholarship cycles, many requests for childcare scholarships were coming from individuals who did not meet the current eligibility criteria. As a result, the WomenGive Navigator developed a survey to help better understand the needs associated with these individuals and why they did not meet the scholarship eligibility criteria. A combination of survey responses and anecdotal data from childcare and other service providers lead to the identification of two areas of need WomenGive has chosen to address:

1. **Not being a resident of Larimer County**
2. **Being enrolled in a graduate school program**

After discussion of survey results and possible solutions, the WomenGive Scholarship Committee made recommendations to the WomenGive Leadership team and United Way of Larimer County staff who approved the following eligibility changes for the *Fall 2019* scholarship cycle.

Current Criteria	New Criteria	Rationale
Larimer County Resident	Member of Larimer County: If an individual does not live in Larimer County, they must meet two of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in Larimer County • Attend school in Larimer County • Children attend daycare/school in Larimer County • Receive benefits in Larimer County <p><i>Documentation may be requested to show these criteria.</i></p>	With understanding that the cost of living in Larimer County makes living here difficult, WomenGive would like to support individuals who are a part of the Larimer County community as a whole in the workforce, educational or economic arenas.
Undergraduate Degree Programs Only	WomenGive will open up scholarships to support up to 5 Master’s degree students. These students must meet all other eligibility criteria and align with semester and credit based courses. Awards to Master’s Degree students will be distributed based on available funding. Undergraduate students pursuing their first degree will have priority.	Larimer County is a highly educated community, and for some single mothers, a Master’s degree is necessary for them to make a self-sufficient wage. This is one way that WomenGive can support increased levels of education for women.

Due to our generous WomenGive Members, we are able to adapt to the changing Larimer County climate and grow our program to impact even more lives. WomenGive looks forward to continuing to broaden horizons and open doors for single mothers to achieve higher education and self-sufficiency!

If you have any questions about these changes, please don’t hesitate to contact our WomenGive Navigator, Hannah Bade at hbade@uwaylc.org.