

Background: The Cassin-Germanson Fund was established by the Rotary Club of Oak Park-River Forest in 2020 to honor the memory of two of its most dynamic female members. Virginia (Ginie) Cassin was the first female admitted to the Rotary Club of Oak Park-River Forest in 1988 and was recognized throughout the Village for her charm, an upbeat can-do attitude and her skillful persuasiveness. Sister Michelle Germanson, O.P. joined Rotary in 1992 while serving as the President of Trinity High School. She was known for her determination, her energetic spirit and her keen sense of humor. The Rotary Club of Oak Park-River Forest seeks to honor the legacy of these two women by providing an opportunity for young female students, grades 6-8, to explore areas of learning outside of their classroom that will help each girl to form their talents, interest and vision of self, who, without financial assistance, would be unable to have this opportunity. Areas of learning and exploration include multiple categories such as arts, sciences, sports and humanities.

Description: Amounts: up to \$600. This grant fund was established by The Rotary Club of Oak Park-River Forest to help female middle school students to attend specialized programs to develop areas of personal interest. This fund specifically looks to support females, grades 6-8th, explore an emerging interest in hopes of being able to give them valuable experience, education, and guidance as they transition to high school and eventually college and/or career.

Eligibility:

- People who identify as female
- Grades 6th-8th
- Resident of Oak Park, River Forest, and surrounding communities
- In need of financial assistance

Selection Criteria:

- Letter of Recommendation from referring agency, organization, school or other community partner
- Paragraph from the applicant sharing why they picked the avenue they wish to pursue and what having this opportunity will mean to them. It should include the name of the program/area of interest/study, as well as the dates and times.
- Meets demographic requirements
- Meets needs-based requirements
- Applications will be reviewed and grants awarded by members of the Cassin Germanson Rotary Fund committee.

Application Process:

- Applications are due: December 1st for January grants and March 1st for April grants.
- See Application Procedure and Checklist for directions.

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Application Procedure and Checklist

Procedure and Required Documents for Applicant with Parent/ Guardian or Referral/ Mentor	Check
Secure a letter of recommendation from referring mentor, organization, or agency which explains why the student is deserving and what the opportunity could mean to them.	
Fill in all blank spaces on the application. Include signatures from the applicant and parent/guardian (e-signatures are accepted).	
Student Applicant: Write and include a paragraph sharing why you picked the avenue you wish to pursue and what having this opportunity will mean to you. It should include the name of the program/area of interest/study, as well as the dates and times.	
Scan and email 1) the paper application, 2) letter of recommendation, and 3) student applicant paragraph to donorservices@oprfcf.org -OR- Print and mail all documents to Donor Services, Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation, 1049 Lake Street Suite 204, Oak Park, IL 60301 -OR- Complete online version of application and upload all required documents at https://www.oprfcf.org/grants-scholarships/enrichment-grants	
Deadlines: Applications are due: December 1st for January grants and March 1 st for April grants.	



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The REFERRING Agency/Organization (not individual/family) must complete a new form for each child/family and for each program, area of interest, study.

Applicant Information:

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name of program, area of interest, study applicant applying for:

Name of organization that check should be made payable to:

Dates the program will begin/end: _____

Estimated COST OF PROGRAM for area of interest, study \$ _____

Amount the family can contribute \$ _____

Amount of assistance from agency or other source \$ _____ Source: _____

Amount of REQUEST from Cassin-Germanson Rotary Fund Grant \$ _____ (cannot exceed \$600.00)

REFERRAL INFORMATION - Referral must verify applicant's income with a paycheck stub, tax return, or other appropriate document and indicate the income level on the income verification form.

Name of referral person: _____ Phone: _____

Email address of referral person: _____

Family Situation: (Check all that apply.)

Single Parent ____ Part-time Employment ____ Unemployed ____ Applicant Disabled ____ Parent Disabled ____

Other: _____

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Signature of Student Applicant _____ Date _____

(Printed) Name: _____

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian _____ Date _____

(Printed) Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Signature of Referral Person _____ Date _____

Name of referring Agency/Organization: _____

Please upload or email completed application and supporting documents to donorservices@oprfcf.org.

Applications are due December 1st for grants in January and March 1st for grants in April.