

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can my club get applications?

The *Live Your Dream Awards* application (including reference form) is [available online](#) as an easy-to-use writeable PDF form in all federation languages. In the US and Canada, clubs can share the link to the online application portal for women to connect to your club and create an application.

How can new clubs get started?

. Clubs new to the awards program should read this toolkit thoroughly and ask their region chair any questions. All newly chartered clubs in the federation will receive an email from SIA with information about new club funding, through which they can receive \$1,000 to fund their first *Live Your Dream Award*. Email LYDAwards@soroptimist.org for more information.

What should we do if we do not receive any qualified applications?

If this happens, contact your region chair as well as SIA Headquarters at lydawards@soroptimist.org, as there are several applications submitted to SIA Headquarters that are available to share with your club. A second option is to contact other clubs in your area to see if they have applications they can share.

When and where do we submit our recipient for the next level of judging?

For clubs with district judging, the deadline for submission to the district is February 1. For those clubs in regions without districts, the deadline is February 15. For information about where to send your applications, please check the [region chair directory](#).

What are the eligibility requirements for the *Live Your Dream Awards*?

For a full list of the *Live Your Dream Awards* eligibility requirements please refer to the [Eligibility Checklist](#).

What kinds of educational programs are eligible for the *Live Your Dream Awards*?

Any type of education or training that will help a woman improve her standard of living are eligible including:

- High school equivalency/G.E.D.
- Undergraduate degree (including a second bachelor's degree, or online programs)
- Certificates/coursework for career advancement
- Vocational/technical training programs

Graduate degrees (Master's, JD, MD, or PhD) programs are NOT eligible for the *Live Your Dream Awards*.

Is a woman still eligible to receive an award if she receives financial assistance or lives in someone else's home?

The *Live Your Dream Awards* provide resources so women with dependents can increase their standard of living and achieve economic empowerment. While working towards their goals, women may receive government support, child support, or live in subsidized housing/in someone else's home. These things do not negate a woman's primary financial responsibility for her dependents or disqualify a woman from being eligible for the program.

What constitutes club participation in the *Live Your Dream Awards* program?

For a club to be counted as participating in the *Live Your Dream Awards* program, the club must give a cash award to a minimum of one eligible woman and then forward her application for district or region-level judging.

Why do we need our *Live Your Dream Awards* recipient to sign a media consent form?

Many clubs and regions create a news release to further honor their recipient, or use their recipient's story on their website or social media to advertise the award to future potential applicants. In order to use your recipient's name and story, you will need her to sign a [media consent form](#) first. Some recipients may not be comfortable with having their personal story shared and will choose to not sign the form. In these cases, clubs must honor the recipient's confidentiality.

Can we give the funding directly to the recipient's school on her behalf?

The *Live Your Dream Awards* is a unique program because we trust women to use the award in the way that is best for them, whether that's paying for tuition, books, transportation, childcare, or another expense. Clubs should only send funding to the school upon the request of the recipient and should keep documentation of this request.