

# ***Scholarships Available***

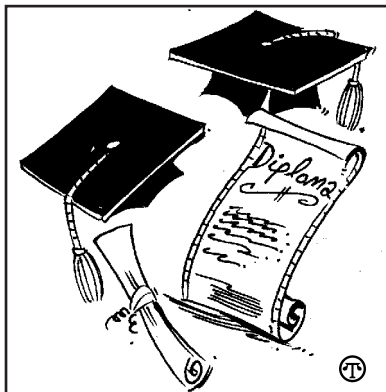
## **Scholarship Available For African-American And Hispanic Students Affected By Hepatitis C**

(NAPSA)—A new scholarship program is available to help African-American and Hispanic communities that are disproportionately affected by hepatitis C—a blood-borne viral infection of the liver which chronically infects more than 2.7 million Americans.

The Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund (TMSF) and Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) have joined together to establish the New Horizons Scholars Program to provide college scholarships to African-American and Hispanic students who have hepatitis C or are dependents of a person with the disease. The New Horizons Scholars Program is funded by The Roche Foundation.

These scholarships will help support the educational imperatives of African-American and Hispanic students in this country. According to a recent report by American Council on Education's Office of Minorities in Higher Education, the college participation rate for African-American high-school graduates (ages 18 to 24) was 39.4 percent in 2000, while the rate for Latinos reached 36.5 percent.

"The New Horizons Scholars Program is a first of its kind partnership that aims to create additional financial resources to cover the costs of higher education for Hispanic and African-American students impacted by hepatitis C," said Heriberto Rios, programs manager for the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund (TMSF). "This innovative program will allow both organizations to reach more students with scholarship opportunities and thereby have an even greater impact on the number of young people entering the nation's colleges and universities."



The New Horizons Scholars Program will provide 50 scholarships per year to students planning to enroll for the first time in a four-year college during the 2003-2004 or 2004-2005 academic years. For each of those two classes, 50 students will be eligible for \$2,500 per year for four years. Students must maintain the program's academic standard of 3.0 GPA. Scholarship winners will be notified in late spring 2003.

"The higher education of Hispanics and African Americans is critical to America's future and investment in these students leads to significant measurable returns," said Mario De Anda, HSF director of scholarship programs. "The New Horizons Scholars Program is a strong partnership with the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund to help break the cycle of under-education in our communities and make a difference in the lives of our students."

For more information on this program or to apply, contact 1-866-3HORIZON. To download an application, visit [www.hsf.net](http://www.hsf.net) or [www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org](http://www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org). Applications are also available through HCV treating physician offices.