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Paris Park Board



Marshall Area Soccer Kids



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## Area nonprofits awarded CoBank Sharing Success grants

*CoBank is one of EnerStar's lending partners*

EnerStar Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a 2025 CoBank Sharing Success matching grant totaling \$30,000. The co-op has successfully secured funds every year since 2012. The grant is intended to help cooperatives support causes and organizations that are important to the communities they serve.

This year's recipients are the Marshall Area Soccer Kids, Paris Girls Softball Association, Paris Park Board and Faith in Action.

With support from the CoBank grant, the cooperative has awarded \$215,000 to area nonprofit organizations. Sharing Success grants have been awarded to schools, volunteer fire departments, food pantries, quality-of-life projects and more. For more information about the grant and past recipients, please visit <https://enerstar.com/sharing-success-grant>.

CoBank, a nonprofit, cooperatively owned bank, plays an important role in

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

11597 Illinois Highway 1  
Paris, IL 61944  
800-635-4145  
Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

supporting rural America by providing financial services to agribusiness and rural electricity, water and communication providers in all 50 states. Their matching contributions to the charitable organizations of their cooperative members further demonstrate their commitment to the community. The charitable organizations they support, including schools, churches and government

organizations, must be established as a nonprofit under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service code.

"EnerStar, as a not-for-profit electric cooperative, is guided by seven cooperative principles, which include 'Cooperation among Cooperatives' and 'Concern for Community,'" said EnerStar's Angela Griffin. "We are very proud to be a part of this program and to witness

fellow nonprofits thriving with the financial assistance the grant offers."

Per CoBank's grant application, this grant is specifically designated for 501(c)3 nonprofits, schools and governmental entities within the communities that EnerStar serves. If you know of a worthy organization that meets the grant's criteria, please contact EnerStar at 1-800-635-4145.

# Give a HUG

## Home Utility Gift



**Need a thoughtful holiday gift idea or looking for an anonymous random act of kindness option?**

- Call us at 800-635-4145 to buy an energy gift certificate!
- Purchase a HUG Card, and the amount will be deducted from the recipient's next bill.
- We'll send you a gift certificate to give to your recipient or we can send it anonymously.
- No action is required from the recipient.

## OFFICE CLOSINGS

**CHRISTMAS** Dec. 24 and Dec. 25  
**NEW YEAR'S** Dec. 31 and Jan. 1



# Powering the Future: 17 scholarships, \$3,000 each

At EnerStar, we believe empowering the next generation is the key to a brighter future. That's why electric cooperatives across Illinois are committed to investing in our youth through scholarships that honor the legacy of our cooperative family and fuel the dreams and goals of tomorrow's leaders.

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives will award 17 scholarships, each worth \$3,000, to outstanding students from the electric cooperative family through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

"This isn't just about financial aid – it's also about empowering students," said EnerStar's Angela Griffin. "Illinois' electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to bring about positive change in our communities. Supporting our youth through scholarship programs is a powerful way we help shape the future."

## Here's a brief rundown of the scholarships available.

- **Ten scholarships** will be awarded to high school seniors whose parent(s) are Illinois electric co-op members, giving these students a bright start on their educational journey.
- **The Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship** is reserved for a student whose parent is an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director, honoring the legacy of service within our cooperative family.
- **Five scholarships** are dedicated to students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college, who are also children of an electric cooperative member in Illinois.
- **The LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship** is designed for those ready to light up the world by pursuing a career in linework and are enrolled or plan to enroll at Lincoln Land Community College's lineworker program. This scholarship supports students of co-op members, relatives of employees or directors, and those who have served or are currently serving in the armed forces or National Guard.

The general scholarship application deadline is Dec. 31, 2025, and the lineworker scholarship is due by April 30, 2026. For more information or to apply, visit the community section at [www.enerstar.com](http://www.enerstar.com).



## IEC MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

# Youth to Washington

APPLY TODAY TO REPRESENT ENERSTAR IN D.C.

For more than 60 years, the electric cooperatives of Illinois have given tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to learn from today's public officials, and EnerStar is on the hunt for two outstanding students to represent our co-op at **Youth Tour** this year. EnerStar's **Youth Tour** is actually two separate events: **Youth Day** in Springfield and the Youth to Washington trip.



## YOUTH TO WASHINGTON – JUNE 15-22, 2026

Those individuals selected will also travel by charter bus for an all-expense, week-long tour of Washington, D.C. where they will create lasting memories and visit all the Washington must-see sites including Gettysburg, George Washington's Mt Vernon, Smithsonian museums, Arlington Cemetery, and much more!

## YOUTH DAY IN SPRINGFIELD – MARCH 25, 2026

Each year, nearly 300 outstanding students get an up-close, first-hand look at democracy in action when they meet their elected representatives during Illinois Electric Cooperatives Youth Day.



## HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should be high school freshmen, sophomores or juniors during the 2025-2026 school year. In addition, the students must reside in the EnerStar service territory and receive their electricity from EnerStar.

Visit [www.enerstar.com](http://www.enerstar.com) to find the application in the Community Section.