

Montana State Fund Scholarship Program



Montana State Fund (MSF) has created a scholarship program to assist children and spouses of workers who have been fatally injured in a work-related accident. While nothing can replace the untimely loss of a loved one, it is our hope that these awards for higher education may help fulfill the aspirations of those whose lives have been disrupted as a result of a workplace death of a spouse or parent. Recognizing that education is the key to Montana's future, MSF wishes to further serve the employers and employees of Montana by providing scholarship opportunities for education and training programs for spouses and dependents. Montana State Fund plays a unique and important role in Montana. As a public entity, we acknowledge the obligation we have to the citizens of our state and believe this scholarship program allows us to provide an additional benefit for those who are most affected by such a significant loss.

Required Use of Scholarship

Scholarship funds will be used for the recipient's "cost of education" or "cost of attendance" at an accredited institution of higher education or approved program. They are not specifically limited to tuition and fees, and may be used by the student's family to cover its expected family contribution as determined by federal calculations or meeting the student's educational costs. The scholarship may only be used for students enrolled in an undergraduate program of study. If there is a break in attendance, the recipient must reapply. Any previously used eligibility will be applied toward the remaining eligibility at the time of reapplication. Recipients must use their eligibility within 6 years of the initial award year.

Obligations of Recipient

The scholarship is renewable for up to three additional years after the award year (with a cumulative maximum of \$8,000) or until the recipient has received the degree or certificate in their program of study (whichever comes first). The recipient must show satisfactory academic progress in the training/education program of their choice. Satisfactory academic progress will be measured based on the student's grade point average (GPA). The student must maintain a 2.0 GPA to remain eligible for the scholarship. In order to receive the renewal scholarship each year, the OCHE/Student Financial Services will obtain documentation from your school showing satisfactory academic progress.

Recipients must be enrolled in and complete 6 credit hours per semester in a training or certificate program in order to remain eligible for the scholarship.

Applicants must show that the program they intend to enter is accredited by the U.S. Department of Education Postsecondary Education Participants System (PEPS). This includes all private non-profit schools and public schools.

Applicants must submit application for review and approval by MSF if such program is other than at one of the approved accredited schools, such as a for-profit trade school.

Once awarded, the recipient must begin using the scholarship funds within 180 days of award.

Eligibility

- Scholarship recipients must be the spouse or dependents (natural or adopted children) of a worker fatally injured on or after July 1, 1990, in a compensable industrial accident during the course and scope of employment with an employer insured by MSF at the time of the accident.
- Participants need not be a resident of Montana at the time of application.
- Applicants must provide documentation as proof of eligibility for the program. Documentation can include a marriage license, adoption papers, or birth certificate.
- If the spouse was divorced from the insured at the time of the accident, the ex-spouse is not eligible to apply. If the legal spouse has remarried after the date of the accident, the spouse remains eligible.
- Applicants must be seeking a degree or certificate at the undergraduate level.
- Applicants must not have already received or been awarded a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science or similar degree.
- After the initial award year, your scholarship of \$2,000 to attend a 2-year or 4-year college may be available for up to three more consecutive years provided funding for this program continues and you maintain the following eligibility requirements:

Meet satisfactory academic progress requirements. The student must maintain a 2.0 GPA to remain eligible for the scholarship. OCHE/Student Financial Services will obtain documentation from your school showing satisfactory academic progress.

Complete 6 credits or more per semester.

Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled and classified as an undergraduate student. Please note that your scholarship will be terminated if you fail to enroll within 180 days of scholarship award, or if you drop out of college.

Scholarship Funds

After the initial award year, your scholarship of \$2,000 to attend a 2-year or 4-year college may be available for up to three more consecutive years provided funding for this program continues and you maintain the eligibility requirements, with a maximum cumulative award of \$8,000. Funds will be dispersed to the institution and distributed to the student's account.



Selection Process

Once eligibility has been determined, the selection criteria include:

High school or college grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher and community involvement

If this documentation is unavailable the applicant will need to provide proof that he/she has been accepted into a degree-granting or certificate program such as a college acceptance letter

Individuals from the OCHE/Student Financial Services and MSF will make selections. Applications will be reviewed upon receipt and awarded subject to funding availability

Application Process

Interested individuals are required to complete a formal Scholarship Application that is available for downloading on the MSF website: www.montanastatefund.com or by contacting OCHE/Student Financial Services from the information given below. The completed application, along with the applicant's official high school or college transcript showing GPA should be submitted to OCHE/SFS or Montana State Fund. All application materials should be submitted without report covers, loose-leaf binders or plastic sheet protectors. Pictures are not required. The applicant is responsible to assure all materials are properly filled out, signed, and received in order to be considered. A scanned application is acceptable.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION
OCHE / STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES

Montana State Fund Scholarship Program
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