



## **MERIT-BASED APPLICATION INFORMATION**

In 2019, the Solution Partners Scholarship Program added four merit-based scholarships to their program. The Fund is designed to benefit the children of employees working full-time at AHFA member companies, including its subsidiaries, the International Casual Furnishings Association and the Solution Partners division.

The Program awards scholarships to students age 21 or under who are enrolled in or planning to enroll in a two-year or four-year college, university or approved vocational/technical school. Recipients must be full-time students.

Merit-based scholarships are \$2,500 for one year of full-time study. Awards are granted for study leading to a first undergraduate degree only. Any field of study will qualify.

The Solution Partners Scholarship Program is administered without regard to race, creed, sex or national origin.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

The applicant must be a dependent child of an individual working full-time at a company that is a member of the American Home Furnishings Alliance or its subsidiaries. A dependent child is defined as one who qualifies as a dependent on the employee's federal tax return for the year in which the scholarship is to be awarded.

The employee must have at least one year of continuous employment with the member company before a dependent child is eligible. Further, the employee must be working for the same member company on the date of the scholarship application and the date of the scholarship award.

Applicants for the scholarship may be in their senior year of high school at the time of application. Also, students age 21 or under already in college or a vocational/technical school may apply, unless the student is in the final year of his/her post-secondary studies at the time of application.

## **HOW ARE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS SELECTED?**

Four scholarships are awarded based solely on academic performance. Financial need is not considered in this selection.

The merit evaluation includes the following for a total of 100 points:

- GPA (50 points)
- Essay (25 points)
- Involvement/Leadership/Volunteerism (25 points)

Each application is completely confidential and is reviewed initially by the American Home Furnishings Alliance, which is the Fund administrator, and subsequently by a selection committee appointed by the Solution Partners Board of Directors.

Recipients will be notified of their award in April of the year the award is effective. Non-recipients will also be notified in April. Applicants who are selected, as well as those who are not selected, may reapply for a Solution Partners Scholarship in subsequent years.

The Solution Partners Scholarship Program reserves the right to discontinue the scholarship during the course of the academic year if the student's efforts, achievements or conduct is unsatisfactory.

## **HOW MANY SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AWARDED?**

A total of four merit-based scholarships are awarded each year.

## **HOW ARE THE AWARDS DISTRIBUTED?**

Awards made on behalf of the Solution Partners Scholarship Program are issued in two equal installments in July and December of the year in which the award is granted. Checks are made payable directly to the educational institution.

Awards may be used to pay for tuition, books, lab fees, room and board or other educational expenses.

## **WHAT ARE THE RECIPIENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES?**

The recipient is solely responsible for making arrangements with and fulfilling the requirements for admission to the educational institution of the student's choice. The recipient must enter a post-secondary educational institution no later than the fall term following the scholarship selection.

Except as described in the application procedure for Solution Partners Scholarship Program, no obligation of any kind will be imposed upon a scholarship winner or assumed by the American Home Furnishings Alliance, its Divisions or the Solution Partners Scholarship Program, in connection with the granting of the scholarship.

## **APPLICATION PROCEEDURE**

Eligible students who wish to apply for the merit-based scholarship should submit the following (all information must be typed):

- **Completed Student Application**
- **All Support Material (awards, activities, goals, etc.)**
- **Letter of Recommendation**
- **Essay (500 words)**
- **Current Official Transcript**
- **Parent/Legal Guardian Employment Verification Letter**

The Applicant is solely responsible for gathering and submitting all information necessary to the application process. The AHFA Solution Partners Scholarship Program reserves the right not to process or return applications found to be incomplete as of the application deadline. Because applications will be evaluated on the information supplied, it is important that every question be answered as thoroughly as possible.

**YOU CAN ONLY APPLY FOR ONE SCHOLARSHIP; EITHER THE FINANCIAL-BASED OR THE MERIT-BASED. YOU CANNOT APPLY FOR BOTH.**

## **APPLICATION DEADLINE**

Complete application materials must be postmarked **by midnight on January 31** and mailed to:

American Home Furnishings Alliance  
Solution Partners Scholarship Program  
P.O. Box HP-7  
High Point NC 27261

## **WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?**

Any additional questions pertaining to the scholarship should be directed to:

Mary O’Keeffe, Executive Director  
AHFA Solution Partners  
336/881-1010  
[mokeeffe@ahfa.us](mailto:mokeeffe@ahfa.us)