Who is eligible?

Every year the Massachusetts AFL-CIO publishes a scholarship brochure describing the eligibility criteria for each award. Students with a union affiliation are eligible for both the Massachusetts AFL-CIO awards and those awards listed under their specific local union/central labor council. Massachusetts students that do not have union affiliation are eligible for the Massachusetts AFL-CIO scholarships only. Students from other states are only eligible for scholarships offered by their affiliated local union that meet the union’s criteria. If you are unsure as to the specific criteria of your affiliated local union, see the Scholarship Book for more information.

Who gives scholarships?

The Massachusetts AFL-CIO, along with our affiliated local unions and labor/non-labor organizations, offer a scholarship program providing hundreds of scholarships totaling over one million dollars to union members, their children/step children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and non-union Massachusetts high school seniors. Please note that for union scholarships, each scholarship that is offered has its own criteria set by the donor. Students must meet the criteria in order to be eligible for that scholarship.

There is a sample Scholarship Book on our website where you can see the different scholarships that are offered by the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, as well as other local unions and non-profit organizations and the amount and criteria for each scholarship set forth by the local union.

What are Type I and Type II Scholarships?

The brochure is divided into 2 sections describing the two types of scholarship programs. Section 1 (Type I) lists those scholarships requiring the student to take the Massachusetts AFL-CIO Labor History Exam in February.

Section 2 (Type II) lists those scholarships offered by local unions/central labor councils that select their own winners either through a lottery or exam of their own (to qualify for these scholarships students do not need to take the Labor History Exam in February). Please contact your local union for more information.

What are the requirements?

The brochure is divided into 2 sections describing the two types of scholarship programs. Section 1 lists those scholarships requiring the student to take the Massachusetts AFL-CIO Labor History Exam in February. Section 2 lists those scholarships offered by local unions/central labor councils that select their own winners either through a lottery or exam of their own (to qualify for these scholarships students do not need to take the Labor History Exam in February).
After reviewing the scholarship brochure, students eligible for local union/central labor council scholarships listed in Part 2 of the scholarship brochure should contact their local union/central labor council for application information and further eligibility requirements. Some unions have their own applications that have to be submitted to the individual local. Make sure that you send the MA AFL-CIO an application as well. Most local unions an CLC’s use our application found on our webpage.

All Massachusetts AFL-CIO scholarships and local union/central labor council scholarships listed in Section 1 of the scholarship brochure are awarded solely on the basis of the multiple-choice exam and essay score. Awardees are selected by the Scholarship Committee, which reviews and scores the essay question, and combines this score with the multiple-choice exam. Students that comply with the guidelines and rate highest on the exam shall be judged the winner of local union/central labor council awards. Students sponsored by a local union are eligible to receive no more than 2 scholarships.

How do I apply for scholarships offered by my local union or central labor council?

After reviewing the scholarship brochure, students eligible for local union/central labor council scholarships listed in Part 2 of the scholarship brochure should contact their local union/central labor council for application information and further eligibility requirements. Some unions have their own applications that have to be submitted to the individual local. Make sure that you send the MA AFL-CIO an application as well. Most local unions an CLC’s use our application found on our webpage.

For more information, contact Carla Connolly, Massachusetts AFL-CIO Scholarship Coordinator at (781) 324-8230 Ext 10 or cconnolly@massaflcio.org