



AHFA Solution Partners Education Fund Scholarships

The Solution Partners Education 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.

The Fund 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.

Scholarships are \$2,500 for one year of full-time study. Recipients may re-apply in subsequent years for additional scholarships. Awards are granted for study leading to a first undergraduate degree only.

The Solution Partners Education 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 award is to be made.

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?

Awards are made primarily on the basis of financial need. Consideration will be given to the family's contribution – what the family can reasonably be expected to provide

towards the student's education – and the anticipated educational costs of the student.

Past educational performance, the student's potential to succeed in the chosen educational program and the following factors may also be considered in the award:

- Scholastic aptitude based on standardized test scores such as the SAT or ACT, if available.
- Scholastic performance based on grade point average and class rank.
- Outside interests and activities, including work experience and leadership roles in extracurricular activities.
- Applicant's statement of educational and career aspirations and goals.
- Any unusual family or personal circumstances.
- Recommendations of the student by a high school counselor, college adviser, clergyman, instructor, professional person or supervisor.

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

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.

In most cases, 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, are eligible to re-apply for a Solution Partners Scholarship in subsequent years.

HOW MANY AWARDS ARE MADE EACH YEAR?

A total of eight awards are made.

HOW ARE THE AWARDS DISTRIBUTED?

Awards made on behalf of the Solution Partners Education Fund 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 selection for the scholarship.

Except as described in the application procedure for the Solution Partners Education Fund, no obligation of any kind will be imposed upon a Scholarship holder or assumed

by the American Home Furnishings Alliance or its Divisions or the Solution Partners Education Fund in connection with the granting of the scholarship.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications for the scholarship may be made in the senior year of high school/or any year after completion of secondary school (unless the applicant is in the final year of the program, or over age 21 at the time of application). Eligible students who wish to apply for the scholarship should submit all of the following:

1. **Student Application**
2. **Current Transcript or Grades**
3. **Most recent 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ Tax Form of the parent(s) claiming the student as a dependent**
4. **Parent Employment Verification Letter**
5. **All Support Material (work experience, activities, goals, etc.).**

APPLICATION DEADLINE

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

Solution Partners Education Fund
American Home Furnishing Alliance
P.O. Box HP-7
High Point NC 27261

Incomplete application packets will not be processed or returned.

The applicant is solely responsible for gathering and submitting all information necessary to the application process. The AHFA Solution Partners Education Program reserves the right not to process 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 is answered as completely as possible.

Awards are announced in April.

WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

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

Mary O'Keefe
Executive Director, AHFA Solution Partners
AHFA Solution Partners Education Fund
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