

OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION
2021 - STUDENT DEBT REDUCTION PROGRAM

ELIGIBILITY:

AN APPLICANT MUST BE:

- A member or an associate member of OPEIU in good standing on the date the application is submitted to their local union.
- Must have completed an Associate Degree or Undergraduate Degree program at a College, University or a recognized Technical or Vocational post-secondary school as a full-time or part-time student.
- Must demonstrate that applicant has at least \$10,000 in outstanding student debt and is making regular student loan payments to a recognized student loan provider or debtor organization.
- Must submit documentation that student loan payments are up to date.
- Members who received an OPEIU Howard Coughlin scholarship award within the last five (5) years are not eligible for this program.

STUDENT DEBT SCHOLARSHIPS:

Five (5) \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded in July of each year. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements and comply with the Rules and Regulations as established by the OPEIU Executive Board.

Applicants are eligible to receive only one \$2,500 lifetime award.

PAYMENTS OF AWARDS:

Each scholarship award shall be granted with a one-time payment of \$2,500 to a recognized student-loan provider or debtor organization, or if not accepted by the debtor organization, the scholarship program may make an alternate arrangement with the awardee.

All awards are taxable income to the awardee.

PROCEDURES:

Each applicant must file an official OPEIU Student Debt Reduction application.

Application forms must be endorsed by the Local Union President, Secretary-Treasurer or other authorized officer attesting that the member or associate member is in good standing. Such endorsement must be obtained **BEFORE** the application is submitted.

FORMS:

Application forms may be obtained at your local union office, the Secretary-Treasurer's office of the International Union or from the OPEIU website at **www.opeiu.org**. Once logged into the site, click on OPEIU Member Resources/OPEIU Membership Benefits link.

REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants must provide proof (Copy of Associate Degree OR Copy of Undergraduate Degree) that they have completed an Associate Degree or Undergraduate Degree program at a College, University or a recognized Technical or Vocational post-secondary school as a full-time or part-time student.

APPLICATION:

All applications are due in the Secretary-Treasurer's office of the International Union no later than **June 30, 2021**.

SELECTION OF WINNERS:

Qualified applications will be entered into a drawing. All applicants will be notified in the month of July **via email** with the results of the drawing.

OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

2021 - STUDENT DEBT REDUCTION APPLICATION FORM

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 30, 2021

Name of Member: _____
Last First Middle

Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Email: _____ Telephone: _____
(Will be used for all correspondences)

Member/Associate Member Employed By: _____

OPEIU Local Union Number: _____ Balance of Loan as of the date of this application: _____
(Must be \$10,000 or more in outstanding debt)

Signature of Member: _____ Date: _____

Applicant must be a dues paying member of OPEIU for at least one year and the application must be endorsed by the Local Union President, Secretary-Treasurer or other authorized officer, attesting the member or associate member is in good standing, having paid dues for 12 out of the past 14 months, on the date of the application.

Endorsement must be obtained BEFORE the application is submitted to the International.

Signature of Local Union President, Secretary-Treasurer or other authorized officer:

Date: _____
(Signature)

Local Union Number: _____
(Print Name and Title of Signing Officer)

Application must include the checklist of items below to qualify:

- Loan Statements (4 months)
Statements must be recent, showing up to date consecutive payments on your **undergraduate** loan.
Forbearance related to Student Loan Payment Suspension – Provide the loan statements prior to the suspension with a current account status
- Proof of completion (Copy of Associate Degree OR Copy of Undergraduate Degree)
Applicants with Graduate School Degrees or Graduate School debt will be ineligible.
- Signature from Local Union President or Secretary-Treasurer or other authorized officer

Due to the volume of applicants we receive, incomplete applications will be disqualified.

After the application is signed by a local union officer:
EMAIL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:
STOFFICE@OPEIU.ORG