**Deadline: June 20**

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| **REVIEW THIS LIST FIRST and read the** [**FAQs on our website**](https://steptraining.org/educational-support/scholarship/)**!** |

1. **Check to see if your family member is eligible to sponsor you!**  To be eligible to sponsor you, your sponsor (the union member) **must be**:

* Currently employed by a UNITE HERE Local 23 employer that is participating in the STEP Fund.
* Have had benefits paid by the participating employer into the Fund on their behalf for 12 of the last 18 months. *Please note that if your parent/grandparent worked part time, they might not be eligible to sponsor. Union dues do NOT pay for the scholarship!*

Not sure if your parent/grandparent is eligible to sponsor? Email us at [scholarships@unitehere.org](mailto:scholarships@unitehere.org), or **Text** (do not call) 301-876-4419, and ask to check your sponsor’s eligibility BEFORE you do the application!

1. **You are eligible if:**
   1. You are 21 years of age or under when you apply for a new scholarship
   2. You are a child or grandchild (includes stepchild or grandchild) of an eligible sponsor
   3. Have a High School GPA of 3.0 or higher\* OR
   4. Have a University/College GPA of 2.7 or higher\*

(\*Please refer to FAQs for exceptions to the GPA requirement)

1. Find a teacher or professor **now** to write a recommendation letter for you. The teacher must email the letter **directly** to [scholarships@unitehere.org](mailto:scholarships@unitehere.org). DO NOT forward a recommendation letter, or copy and paste one.
2. The Statement of Study AND Essay are both required. They are an important part of the application.
3. **BEFORE** the deadline make sure you have requested your transcripts:
   1. Your university/high school should email a link and passcode, or the transcript, to: [scholarships@unitehere.org](mailto:scholarships@unitehere.org).

**FOR HS transcripts ONLY: If your final HS transcript will probably not be available by the scholarship application deadline, send us your complete transcript through your Fall 2024 semester.**

* 1. Only if necessary: paper transcripts can be sent directly to:

STEP Scholarships Committee

P.O. Box 7633

Silver Spring, MD, 20907

Please make sure that you email us at [scholarships@unitehere.org](mailto:scholarships@unitehere.org) to let us know that you will be having a paper transcript mailed.

**Questions? We are here to help.**

Text: 301-876-4419

Email: scholarships@unitehere.org

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| **All supporting documents and application items must be submitted by the deadline!**  **Required Documents:**   1. Completed application form. 2. Proof of relationship to sponsor: birth certificate(s) or statement(s) of adoption (and statement if stepdaughter/stepson). 3. Acceptance letter to **accredited** university/college *if applicable. Community colleges and some universities may not issue acceptance letters.* 4. Statement of Major **and**  Essay 5. High school or university transcript 6. Letter sent **directly** from teacher. **Student should not copy and paste into application or**   **forward email.**   1. Optional: Separate written explanation about a GPA that is lower than 3.0 (HS) or 2.7 (College/University). Other letters or documents that support your claim (tutor, doctor, etc.) | Submit this application via email to:  [scholarships@unitehere.org](mailto:SCHOLARSHIPS@unitehere.org)  If needed, mail hard copy to:  STEP Scholarships Committee  P.O. Box 7633  Silver Spring, MD, 20907  Please inform us by email if you have **mailed** either your application or supporting documents. |

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

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| **PART ONE. SPONSOR INFORMATION** |

Be currently employed with an employer who is participating in the benefits fund

**AND**

Have had contributions made into the Fund on your behalf by your employer for at least 12 of the last 18 months. The exact rules for contributions depend on your Collective Bargaining Agreement!

Last Name:       First Name:       Middle Int.:

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Soc. Sec. #

Address:       Apt.#:

City:       State:       Zip Code:

Name of Your Employer Company:       Work Location :

Date of Hire at Current Employer: Month Year

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Cell Phone Can we text you? Yes ☐ No☐

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Home Phone (if you have one)

Country where you were born:       Your first language:

Your highest level of education (check ONE):

Elementary ☐ Middle School ☐ Some high school ☐ High School Grad or GED☐

Some college ☐ Associates or Technical degree ☐ University degree ☐

How did you hear about the program?

Co-worker ☐ STEP recruiter ☐ Flyer at work ☐ Text ☐ Facebook☐ Union Rep☐

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| **PART TWO. STUDENT INFORMATION** |

Last Name:       First Name:       Middle Int.:

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Soc. Sec. #:

Address:       Apt.#:

City:       State:       Zip Code:

Email:       Age

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Date of Birth:

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Phone Number: Can we text you? Yes ☐ No☐

Country where you were born:      \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Your first language:       Languages spoken at home:      \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Did either parent graduate technical/community college or university? Yes ☐ No☐

IF your answer was YES: Was the college/university in the US? Yes ☐ No☐

**Student Relationship to Sponsor:**

*You must provide documents that prove your relationship to your sponsor such as birth certificate(s) or proof of adoption. If a grandparent is sponsoring you, we will need your parent’s birth certificate/adoption along with yours. If you are a stepson/stepdaughter and were not officially adopted by your sponsor, please include a note explaining the relationship along with your birth certificate.*

Continue on the next page

**Educational Status**

Have you started university or college yet? Yes ☐ No ☐

* + If you answered “Yes”: fill out **A and B** below.
  + If you answered “No”: fill out A and skip to Part Three, University Information.

1. High School Information:

Name of high school:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address of high school:

City:       State:       Zip Code

High School Cumulative GPA:      \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date or Anticipated Date of High School Graduation/ GED:

1. College/University Information (Fill this out **only** if you have completed at least one semester of college).

Name of College/University Currently Attending:

How many semesters have you completed?      GPA from previous semester:

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| **PART THREE. UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE INFORMATION** |

Please list the name of the College, University, Community College or trade school you plan to attend. It must be **accredited and not-for-profit**. *For exceptions,* ***contact us before you submit your application*.** Please make sure the address is one to which a scholarship check can be sent. Check with your university/college.

Name of Institution:

Student University ID# (if applicable):

Address of Institution:

City:       State:       Zip Code:

How many credits do you plan to take Fall semester?      \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How many credits does your university consider to be full-time?      \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a DC resident? Yes ☐ No ☐

**Answer this question only if you are a DC resident**:

Have you applied for DC Tuition Assistance Grant? (<http://osse.dc.gov/dctag)>

YES ☐ NO☐

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| **PART FOUR. TWO STATEMENTS: (1) AREA OF STUDY (2) STUDENT ESSAY** |

There are two (2) parts and **both are required:**

* A statement about what you intend to study/what you are studying, and why.
* A longer essay.

Please include both the statement of major and the essay as separate attachments to your application. They can be Word documents or PDFs.

1. **Statement of Major/Area of Study:**

What do you plan to major in and why? (Maximum 400 words). If you have not decided, please describe your general academic interests, what inspires you, and what you hope to get out of university/college.

1. **Essay:**

Please write a short essay and attach it on a separate sheet of paper. Limit your essay to 1000 words. Answer ONE of the following questions:

* If you were president what would be your top agenda item?

OR

* What have you created, produced, or designed that makes you especially proud, and why? (Feel free to include an image if it helps you describe your creation).

OR

* What book/movie/video/song/work of art or dance has had a big impact on you and why?

OR

* What scientific, engineering, or medical discovery or research most interests you, and why?

OR

* You have one day to do anything you want, anywhere, regardless of the expense. What do you do?

**Continue on next page**

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| **PART FIVE. TEACHER RECOMMENDATION** |

Please print this page and give it to the teacher/professor who will be writing your recommendation letter.

Dear Teacher/Professor,

Your student is requesting a letter supporting her/his application for a scholarship from Service Workers Training and Education Partnership (STEP), their parent or grandparent’s union training and education fund. The purpose of the scholarship is to help lower-wage union families afford college or university for a child or grandchild. STEP recognizes that even the brightest students face numerous obstacles in graduating from university, and to that end, endeavors to provide on-going financial support to its top applicants.

*Please note that our fund has limited resources, so teacher recommendations often help the committee choose between the top candidates.*

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Please tell the Scholarship Committee about this student. STEP will not share this letter with the student.

* How long have you known her/him and in what capacity?
* What makes her/him a good candidate for university or college?
* What do you anticipate being an obstacle? How have they overcome obstacles in the past?
* What improvements have you seen in her/his performance, attitude, or overall approach to academic work?

Please email your letter to: [scholarships@unitehere.org](mailto:scholarships@unitehere.org) and include a way to reach you if we have questions (a phone number, alternate email).

* Include the name of the student in the subject line.
* If possible, please send your recommendation from your work email address.