

What is an Authority?

Authorities are governmental bodies created to finance and/or operate specific public works projects (i.e. water, wastewater, stormwater, solid waste, recycling, transportation, parking, etc.) without tapping the general taxing powers of the municipality. An authority can be organized by any county, city, borough, incorporated town, township or school district of the Commonwealth and are established under the Municipality Authorities Act (53 Pa.C.S.Ch.56) or the Parking Authority Law (53 Pa.C.S.Ch.55). It is estimated that more than 2,600 municipal authorities exist in the Commonwealth.

Purpose:

The purpose of this scholarship is to increase knowledge and awareness of authority service in Pennsylvania and the need for qualified employees in the industry. Authorities operate with employees trained in business, management, operations and the trades with authority service areas including, but not limited to, public water, wastewater, stormwater, solid waste and recycling, airports, transportation, parking, redevelopment, recreation, etc.

Award:

Scholarship(s) at a minimum of \$1,000 and up to \$3,000 each will be announced for recipient(s) by the end of April 2026. Recognition of winner(s) will formally occur at the 2026 PMAA Annual Conference in September or another predetermined PMAA event.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicant must be a student enrolled in a high school, technical school, undergraduate or graduate college or university,
OR
an employee of a PMAA member municipal authority pursuing continuing education or credentialing/certification.
- Applicants must be a resident of Pennsylvania, attending school in Pennsylvania, or currently working in the industry in Pennsylvania.
- The scholarship may be used for education-related expenses such as tuition, books, or enrollment/registration fees for professional development or credentialing coursework.
- The scholarship may not be used to cover stipends or wages.
- Previous applicants may reapply in subsequent years as long as they meet eligibility requirements above.

Selection Criteria:

- Explain how you foresee progressing within authority employment or contributing to the advancement of authority or industry-related operations via a personal essay. Include how your field of study, continuing education, credentials or future pursuits would benefit the work of an authority. Illustrate your understanding of the structure and work of municipal authorities in Pennsylvania and the impact they have on the community.

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- Include a resume showing interest in or pursuit of a field of study related to authority service and/or interest in entering the industry.
- Describe how you intend to use the funding. If you are a current authority employee, please indicate if your authority provides tuition assistance or reimbursement opportunities.

Application Procedures:

- Application must be submitted with the following:
 - A Personal Essay (to include goals/objectives, how the scholarship will be used to attain future goals related to authority advancement, and your understanding of authority service);
 - A Resume (to include community involvement, internships and other experiences); and,
 - A minimum of one letter of recommendation.
- Application should be submitted directly to glantz@municipalauthorities.org or mailed to:

Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA)
Attn: Mandi Glantz
1000 North Front Street, Suite 401
Wormleysburg, PA 17043

- Applications must be received by **March 15, 2026**.
- Except for the Selection Committee's information verification process, all information on your application will be handled confidentially by the Selection Committee.



2026 The Authorities Future Leaders Scholarship

Applicant Information

Full Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

_____ County: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Are you a resident of Pennsylvania: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you currently: ☐ an enrolled student of a high school, technical school, college or university located within Pennsylvania, or

☐ an employee of a PMAA member municipal authority.

Have you: ☐ applied for The Authorities Future Leaders Scholarship in a previous year, or
☐ been awarded The Authorities Future Leaders Scholarship in the past.

Education

High School/Technical School: _____

Address: _____

From: _____ To: _____ Did you graduate? YES ☐ NO ☐ Diploma: _____

College/University: _____

Address: _____

From: _____ To: _____ Did you graduate? YES ☐ NO ☐ Diploma: _____

Other: _____

Address: _____

From: _____ To: _____ Did you graduate? YES ☐ NO ☐ Diploma: _____

Current Employment (if employed by a PMAA member authority)

PMAA Member Authority Name: _____

Address: _____

Employment Start Date: _____ Position: _____

Does your authority offer a tuition reimbursement program: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Manager/Supervisor Name: _____ Phone: _____

References

Please list at least one professional reference.

Full Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Full Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Marketing

Where did you hear about this scholarship opportunity (social media, website, reference from educational institution, family or friend employed by a PMAA member authority, etc.). Please provide detail so we can continue to spread the word:

Do you know anyone else who might be interested or who we can contact to provide information on next year's scholarship program?

Disclaimer and Signature

I hereby authorize all of the information listed above to be verified by the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA) Future Leaders Committee, for use in consideration of the 2026 Scholarship Award.

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

If I am the recipient of a scholarship, I understand that false or misleading information in my application may result in forfeiture of the award.

If I am the recipient of the scholarship, I agree to provide permission for the use of my name as the scholarship recipient for PMAA publications and future promotions. PMAA will discuss where the name will be used prior to publication.

If I am the recipient, I will provide information for the scholarship monies disbursement to be provided on my behalf directly for the payment of tuition, books, enrollment/registration fees for professional development or credentialing coursework.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____