

2026 marks the 39th year that the Pennsylvania Association of Housing & Redevelopment Agencies (PAHRA) is offering scholarships. A total of \$12,000 in scholarship monies will be awarded to encourage higher education, develop self-sufficiency, and increase self-esteem for:

- residents of a federally-subsidized **public housing** (PH) community or **RAD conversion** under ownership / management of a public housing authority (LIHTC or other affordable housing is not eligible)
- participants in the Section 8 **Housing Choice Voucher** (HCV) program
- persons **residing in an area directly served** by a PAHRA member city or county redevelopment authority

Scholarships are offered in one of two categories as follows:

- **L. DeWitt Boesel Memorial Scholarship** – *eligible applicant must be a high school senior*
- **Paul G. Pecharko Memorial Scholarship** – *all other applicants who are currently enrolled in or have been accepted into a post-secondary educational or training program*

Additional requirements to determine scholarship eligibility are listed below.

1) Applicant must be a PAHRA member agency's PH or RAD conversion resident, HCV participant, or resident of an area served directly by a redevelopment authority for **at least 12 months** immediately preceding the date that scholarship applications are due to PAHRA.

2) Eligible applicants must be pursuing post-secondary education in an **accredited** vocational/technical course, trade school certification, college, university, online or distance learning degree program. Graduate programs are eligible.

3) With the exception of online or distance learning institutions, the school must be located within the state of Pennsylvania. Applicants must be registered as a full-time student.

4) Annual income of the applicant's family must fall within the current Section 8 low-income guidelines as certified by the local agency. Please note that scholarships are required to be reported for tax purposes.

5) Applicants who were awarded a scholarship through PAHRA in 2025 are not eligible to apply in 2026, but may apply again in subsequent years.

6) A list of schools to which the applicant has applied / been accepted must be provided. Scholarship award is subject to proof of acceptance and confirmation of enrollment to the school of the applicant's choice.

7) Scholarship award will be paid in two installments: 50% in June/July upon award notification; the remaining 50% in January of the following year. **Payment is conditional upon proof of continued enrollment or completion of courses.** PAHRA will contact the scholarship recipient to obtain proof of continued enrollment or completion of courses prior to payment of second installment.

8) L. DeWitt Boesel Memorial Scholarship applicants must have maintained a 2.5 grade point average (C+) or higher during their entire high school years. GPA must be certified by the high school through the latest marking period along with high school transcripts.

9) Paul G. Pecharko Memorial Scholarship applicants must provide a copy of their high school diploma or equivalent. In addition, any applicant already enrolled in an accredited program must verify their current or most recent GPA.

10) All required materials as outlined on the Scholarship Application must be submitted with the application and shall become the property of the PAHRA Scholarship Committee. It is important to note that if any required materials are missing from the application package, the application will be eliminated from consideration. Please note that if it is determined that application materials / responses are AI-generated, this is cause for disqualification.

All applications must be submitted through and recommended by a PAHRA member agency. Each member agency may submit **up to two applications in each category.**

The agency is responsible for verifying all application requirements and collecting all application materials, as well as local promotion of the scholarship program within their jurisdiction.

Applications must be submitted to the PAHRA member agency by **March 1, 2026.**

The PAHRA member agency must submit their selected application/s electronically to PAHRA via email by **March 15, 2026.**

Member agencies should forward selected application packages to the PAHRA Scholarship Committee via email to kelly@pahra.org.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print Clearly or Type – Page 1

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Date of Birth _____ Male _____ Female _____

Name of Head of Household _____

Which scholarship category are you applying for? *(see preceding page for detailed definition of each category)*

L. DeWitt Boosel Memorial Scholarship _____ **OR** Paul G. Pecharko Memorial Scholarship _____
(High School Seniors) (Adult Education)

List any College, University, Accredited Vocational/Technical Course, Trade School Certification, Online Degree or Distance Learning Program to which you have applied or been *accepted* *(please note that with the exception of online or distance learning, the school must be located within the state of Pennsylvania)*

Scholarship award is subject to proof of acceptance and confirmation of enrollment

Vocational goal or major course of study _____

Upon completion of my schooling I will receive: Certificate _____ Diploma _____ Degree _____

Length of course of study or training program _____

Start Date _____ Anticipated Completion Date _____

Summarize your academic accomplishments (scholarships, awards, etc.)

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print Clearly or Type – Page 2

List extra-curricular activities in which you have participated (playing, coaching or managing sports, clubs, etc.)

List civic or community activities in which you have participated (church groups, community service organizations, fund raisers, etc.)

List specialized training, continuing education courses, or seminars which you have attended

List your hobbies or special interests

List jobs that you have held during the past 5 years. Positions may be full-time or part-time.

Employer Name & Address

Position

Dates

APPLICANT & AGENCY – IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please check the Applicant Checklist and/or the Agency Checklist to ensure that all required application materials are included and that the application is complete. If any required criteria are missing from the application package, the application will be eliminated from consideration.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION - CHECKLISTS

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APPLICANT CHECKLIST

Please make certain that the following items are complete before you submit your application to the local housing or redevelopment authority. Do **not** submit your application to PAHRA directly.

- _____ High school transcript, high school diploma, or equivalent
- _____ L. DeWitt Boesel Memorial Scholarship applicants: grade point average of 2.5 (C+) or better through entire high school years, which has been certified by the high school through the latest marking period
- _____ L. DeWitt Boesel Memorial Scholarship applicants: two (2) teacher / counselor recommendations and one (1) personal / character recommendation
- _____ Paul G. Pecharko Memorial Scholarship applicants: three (3) personal / character recommendations
- _____ List of schools applied to and proof of acceptance. Confirmation of enrollment will be required
- _____ Detailed list of academic achievements, extra-curricular activities, civic or community services, employment history, and other accomplishments as requested on the application form
- _____ Responses to interview questions. Please do not submit AI-generated responses. If it is determined that responses are AI-generated, this is cause for disqualification.

NOTE: If awarded a scholarship, your Social Security Number will be required to process payment and IRS Form 1099

APPLICANTS: Please submit your completed application package to the housing or redevelopment authority by March 1, 2026.

PAHRA MEMBER AGENCY CHECKLIST

Please make certain that the application you are submitting is complete and that the following criteria are met.

- _____ Your agency is a current member of PAHRA in good standing
- _____ Your agency may submit up to two (2) applications for each category
- _____ Your agency has verified all application requirements and materials prior to submitting to PAHRA
- _____ Your agency has certified in your cover letter that the applicant or his/her household meets the current residency requirements and published Section 8 low-income guidelines
- _____ This application is being submitted by the Agency, not by the applicant
- _____ If any required criteria are missing from the application package, the application will be eliminated from consideration. Also, if it is determined that application materials / responses are AI-generated, this is cause for disqualification.

AGENCIES: Please submit your selected application package/s to the PAHRA Scholarship Committee via email to kelly@pahra.org by March 15, 2026.