

THE ACCESS SCHOLARSHIP

The Selection Committee for the The Access Scholarship is accepting applications for this year's award up to the amount of \$1,000.00

The Access Scholarship was established in 2024, by, and is maintained by, the Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities (MADSEC) in honor of those impacted by the tragic events that occurred in Lewiston, Maine on October 25, 2024 resulting in the death of eighteen individuals and injuries to numerous others. Four of the eighteen killed in the mass shooting were a part of the deaf community, in which, this scholarship honors and remembers those affected by this tragedy, especially Maine's Deaf Community.

Purpose: Scholarship funds are to be used towards post-secondary courses or certification costs associated with: deaf education studies, interpreting, or continuing education costs for a deaf | hard of hearing person.

Applications are open to individuals who have successfully obtained a high school diploma (or equivalent), *and* meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. a person who is deaf or hard of hearing enrolled in a higher education institute;
2. any person enrolled in a higher education institute or course pertaining to deaf education; or
3. any person enrolled in an approved interpreting certification program

Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the post-secondary education institution (e.g., college, university, technical school, etc.) or certification agency on behalf of the individual.

Applicants are asked to submit one copy of the entire application packet, including one set of originals of each letter of reference and transcript(s) to: info@madsec.org.

All application materials must be submitted electronically on or before April 30, 2025.

Applications will be reviewed by the Selection Committee. All applicants will be notified of the Committee's decision by May 31, 2025.

Selection Criteria

Open to individuals who have successfully obtained a high school diploma (or equivalent), and meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a person who is deaf or hard of hearing enrolled in a higher education institute;
- any person enrolled in a higher education institute or course pertaining to deaf education; or
- any person enrolled in an approved interpreting certification program

Deadlines

- The application packet must be received electronically at info@madsec.org on or before April 30, 2025 to be considered for scholarship funds for educational purposes during the school year July 01, 2025 through June 30, 2026
- Applicants will be notified of Selection Committee's decision by May 31, 2025

Applications

The application packet must include all documents as outlined below and be complete in order to be considered by the committee:

- A cover letter that states how this scholarship will assist the individual in pursuing their professional goals;
- A profile of the applicant's background (100-150 words) which can serve as the basis for a press release;
- A completed resume and | or vitae, including an active email address;
- Three (3) letters of reference | nomination that include the person's current job title and signature. Submission must include the original set of letters of reference or nomination;
- An original copy of high school transcript with explanation of the grading system, or equivalent diploma;
- As applicable, an original copy of up-to-date college transcript with explanation of the grading system; and
- A completed "The Access Scholarship" application

Scholarship Amount

Up to \$1,000.00 awarded directly to the post-secondary institution after the successful completion of the first semester and registration for the second semester or to the Certification agency upon successful completion and acceptance of the required certification application. A letter and transcript from the Registrar's office of the post-secondary institution or letter from Certification agency must be emailed to info@madsec.org prior to scholarship funds being awarded. Funds will be sent directly to the institution or agency.