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## Iowa Business and Professional Women Foundation 2026-2027 Educational Scholarship Program

### *Overview and important information for financial aid offices and applicants*

**BPW/USA**, the National Federation of Business and Professional Women was founded in 1919 and is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-sectarian, self-governing and member-supported organization. The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Club merged with the BPW/USA Foundation July 1, 2009.

The Iowa BPW Federation was founded in 1920. The Iowa BPW Foundation was established in 1988 for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. Since that time, the Educational Scholarship Committee has awarded numerous scholarships to deserving women and men in order to help them continue their higher education goals.

The Iowa Business and Professional Women Foundation works to:

- Promote charitable, educational, and scientific purposes.
- Establish, maintain and distribute scholarships.
- Conduct research and surveys.
- Provide lectures and seminars.

**Four \$1500.00 scholarships will be awarded for 2026-2027 academic year.**

### **Requirements**

The applicant must be a non-traditional student who:

- Is a resident of Iowa. Attending a school outside Iowa does not negate residency. If the applicant was a resident of Iowa prior to attending school or if her (his) parents are residents, this will constitute residency. An active non-resident member of a BPW/Iowa local organization may also apply provided she/he has been a member for five (5) years. Active means attends local & state meetings; participates in projects. The applicant need **not** be a member of Business and Professional Women of Iowa (BPW/Iowa).
- Is a United States citizen.
- Wants/needs to reenter the workforce but needs additional education.
- Graduated high school five (5) or more years ago (2021 or before) and now wants to start or resume a college education.
- Demonstrates financial need, scholastic ability, leadership skills and career goals.
- The limit of the scholarship awards is two (2) years.



**In addition, applicants will be eligible for one of our scholarships if the following criteria is met:**

- Complete the formal application in its entirety by March 14, 2026. Forms are available at <https://bpw-iowa.org/Scholarship>.
- Submit one-page personal statement document. (Please include your name on document.)
- Submit a copy of **official transcripts** from an accredited institution of higher learning. (Transcripts if stamped “Issued to Student” are acceptable.)
- Provide three (3) letters of reference from non-family members i.e. **employer, teacher, community leader, pastor/priest, etc.**, who can attest to applicant’s character and need for this scholarship.
- **Application Submission Deadline March 14, 2026.**

Recipients will be notified early to mid-April. After receiving verification of current enrollment from each recipient, checks will be mailed directly to the educational facility that the recipient will be attending.

**DEADLINE:** Application, personal statement, transcripts, and references must all be submitted simultaneously via **email or U.S. mail (postmarked by March 14, 2026)** to be considered for this year’s scholarship awards.

**Mail or email (preferred) completed application and supporting documents to:**

Rachel Manders, Chair  
Iowa BPW Foundation Educational Scholarship Program  
1701 Hoover Trail Court SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
[iowabpwfoundationscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:iowabpwfoundationscholarship@gmail.com) (preferred submittal method)

For more information or questions, please contact Rachel, Chair of scholarship committee:

Rachel Manders  
319.640-7526  
[rmanders@unitedfiregroup.com](mailto:rmanders@unitedfiregroup.com)



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January 20, 2026

The Iowa Business and Professional Women Foundation is pleased to announce we will award four educational scholarships for the 2026-2027 academic year. Applicants will be eligible for one of four \$1500.00 scholarships if they fulfill the following criteria. The awards will be presented at our Annual Meeting on April 25, 2026. Your assistance is greatly appreciated in promoting this scholarship opportunity to qualified and deserving students.

Criteria:

Applicant:

- Is a resident of Iowa. Attending a school outside Iowa does not negate residency. If the applicant was a resident of Iowa prior to attending school or if her (his) parents are residents, this will constitute residency. An active non-resident member of BPW/Iowa may also apply provided she/he has been a member for five (5) years. Active means attends local & state meetings; participates in projects. The applicant need **not** be a member of Business and Professional Women of Iowa (BPW/Iowa).
- Is a United States citizen.
- Wants/needs to reenter the workforce but needs additional education.
- Wants to start or resume a college education. Graduated high school five (5) or more years (2021 or before).
- Demonstrates financial need, scholastic ability, leadership skills and career goals

Applicant must:

- Complete the formal application in its entirety by **Saturday, March 14th**. Forms are available at <https://bpw-iowa.org/Scholarship>.
- Submit one-page personal statement. (Please include your name on document.)
- Submit a copy of **official transcripts** from an accredited institution of higher learning. (Transcripts if stamped "Issued to Student" are acceptable.)
- Submit three letters of reference from non-family members, i. e. employer, teacher, community leader, pastor/priest, etc., who can attest to applicant's character and need for this scholarship.
- Application, personal statement, transcripts, and references must all be submitted simultaneously via **email or U.S. mail (postmarked by March 14, 2026)** to be considered for this year's scholarship awards.



[bpw-iowa.org/scholarship](https://bpw-iowa.org/scholarship)



[ibpwfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:ibpwfoundation@gmail.com)

Please find attached a 2026-2027 application form and our overview document outlining the guidelines for the Educational Scholarship Program. These forms and the overview document may be forwarded digitally to prospective applicants. The digital forms may be accessed soon at: <https://bpw-iowa.org/Scholarship>.

If you should have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 319-640-7526 or [rmanders@unitedfiregroup.com](mailto:rmanders@unitedfiregroup.com)

Sincerely,

*Rachel S. Manders*

Rachel S. Manders, Chair Educational Scholarship Program  
Iowa Business and Professional Women's Foundation



# Scholarship Application

2026-2027

Date:

## Personal Data Information

Full Name  US Citizen?  Yes  No

Mailing Address  BPW Member?  Yes  No

City/State/Zip  Iowa Resident?  Yes  No

Email Address  Phone # :

Previously received a BPW Scholarship Award?  Yes  No If yes, year received?  Amount?

## Educational Background & Pursuits

High School Name  H S Graduation Mo/Yr?

High School Location

### List institutions of higher learning attended (if any):

School Name 1  Degree, if applicable

Graduation? Mo/Yr  Credits Attained

School Name 2  Degree, if applicable

Graduation? Mo/Yr  Credits Attained

School Name 3  Degree, if applicable

Graduation? Mo/Yr  Credits Attained

What educational institution do you plan to attend?

Location?

If awarded, in what semester or quarter will you utilize this scholarship?

What is your major?  Occupational Interest?

What is your anticipated graduation date?

How many credits have you accumulated in the current year?  Semester or Quarter?

Full Name

## Financial Needs for One Academic Year 2026-2027

### Expenses

Tuition/Fees	<input type="text"/>
Spouse Tuition/Fees	<input type="text"/>
Books/Supplies	<input type="text"/>
Child Care	<input type="text"/>
Housing/Food	<input type="text"/>
Utilities	<input type="text"/>
Transportation	<input type="text"/>
Medical/Dental	<input type="text"/>
Misc Expense (specify below)	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Total Yearly Expense</b>	<input type="text"/>

### Income

Applicant's After Tax Wages	<input type="text"/>
Misc Income	<input type="text"/>
Child Support	<input type="text"/>
Spousal Support	<input type="text"/>
Spouse's After Tax Wages	<input type="text"/>
Social Security Benefits	<input type="text"/>
Scholarship Funds	<input type="text"/>
Loan Funds	<input type="text"/>
Veteran Funds	<input type="text"/>
Unemployment Benefits	<input type="text"/>
Savings	<input type="text"/>
Vocational Rehab	<input type="text"/>
Aid from family	<input type="text"/>
Aid from spouse's family	<input type="text"/>
<b>Total Yearly Income</b>	<input type="text"/>

Number of individuals (including yourself) you are responsible to support?

## Personal Statement

Submit a separate single page statement including: 1) how this scholarship award will be useful to you, 2) how you expect to use this education/training, 3) share information regarding your leadership activities in employment/college/community including volunteering, 4) include information regarding honors and/or achievements in undergraduate studies, 5) explain why you should receive consideration for the scholarship award, and 5) any other information the scholarship committee should know.

## Requirements

1. Applicant must be a non-traditional student who graduated high school five (5) or more years ago and now wants to start or resume a college education.
2. Applicant must be a US Citizen and resident of Iowa.
3. Applicant must demonstrate financial need, scholastic ability, leadership skills and career goals.

## Submission Guidelines

1. Complete this application in its entirety.
2. Submit your personal statement document with this application. Include your name on this separate document.
3. Provide copy of official transcripts from accredited institutions of higher learning attended. (Transcripts stamped "Issued to Student" are acceptable.)
4. Submit three (3) letters of reference from non-family members – one each from an employer, teacher, educational advisor, community leader or pastor/priest/rabbi/chaplain.
5. Email application, personal statement, transcripts & references to: [iowabpwfoundationscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:iowabpwfoundationscholarship@gmail.com) or US Mail to Rachel Manders, Scholarship Chair, 1701 Hoover Trail Court SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404.
6. Application, personal statement, transcripts and references must all be submitted simultaneously via email or US mail (postmark) by March 14th.