



2026/2027 Scholarship Program

CHLA & MDLC Scholarships: Funded through the Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association (CHLA) and CHLA's Metro Denver Lodging Council (MDLC), a council of the Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association, which address issues that pertain specifically to metro Denver area hotels. ***This year, CHLA and MDLC will award up to \$150,000 in scholarships!***

CHLA & MDLC Emerging Leader Scholarship: CHLA and MDLC will consider \$5,000 scholarships to emerging leaders in Colorado and Denver's hospitality industry. The qualifications and requirements are the same as the CHLA and MDLC scholarships, but in addition the candidate must be in or working toward a supervisory position in a Denver hotel and must submit a letter of recommendation from their manager.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPLICANTS

CHLA & MDLC Scholarships

1. Must be enrolled in an accredited university, college, or trade school.
2. Must be employed in a CHLA member hotel for a minimum of 16 hours/week.
3. Must currently be a college freshman (having completed a full semester), sophomore or junior to apply.
4. Seniors may apply if planning to immediately continue to graduate school and studying in a hospitality graduate program proof of acceptance.
5. Must carry a minimum workload of 6 credit hours per quarter or semester.

CHLA & MDLC Emerging Leader Scholarship

1. Meet all requirements above AND
2. Be working on advancing toward holding a supervisory or managerial position in a hotel
3. Submit a letter of recommendation from your manager.

All applications and attachments must be submitted electronically through [this form](#) – applications submitted outside of the online form will not be accepted.

Please carefully read through the qualifications and requirements on the following pages and submit your application with attachments no later than April 10, 2026.

CHECKLIST OF APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

*** Please note that both of these scholarships have the same application requirement standards; however, you will only need to submit ONE overall copy of everything listed below.**

Check each item below before completing your application:

Application must be submitted through [this online application form](#). And you must attach the following items:

Your transcript

You may send one official transcript from school to: CHLA P.O. Box 36298 Denver, CO 80236 OR you may attach an unofficial copy to your application, but it needs to be signed by the school Dean, Director, or Chair

A Current Resume. This is particularly important as the Committee would like to see what work experience students have in the industry (differentiate between internships vs. regular work experience), as well as active participation in a hospitality industry association, and community involvement.

An Essay* (limited to two pages; typed; single spaced) that includes...

- Brief autobiography (limit to half a page)
- Your definition of what “hospitality” is
- Reasons as to why you've selected the hospitality industry for your career
- Your goals that you would like to achieve in this industry

A Recommendation letter (typed; signed; on letterhead) from College or University.

- The letter must be current and written within the last six-months.

A Recommendation letter (typed; signed; on letterhead) from the hotel manager or your direct manager from the hotel you are working in.

SUBMITTED ON or BEFORE THE APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, April 10, 2026 THROUGH THIS FORM. Applications submitted on old forms or not through this web form will not be accepted.

** Your application and the additional attachments **must be complete according to the above-mentioned requirements** to be considered for these scholarships.*

** Recipients should be competent communicators; therefore, writing skills and grammar will be taken into account and any errors will be deducted from the overall score.*