Hospitality Educational Foundation
2026 Scholarship Information Sheet

About the Nebraska Hospitality Association (NEHA)

The Nebraska Hospitality Association is the unified voice of Nebraska's hospitality industry, representing restaurants, hotels, foodservice operators, lodging properties, and allied businesses across the state.

About the Hospitality Education Foundation (HEF)

The Hospitality Educational Foundation is the educational and workforce development arm of the Nebraska Hospitality Association. HEF is committed to supporting the next generation of hospitality leaders by offering scholarships, career exploration opportunities, and hands-on learning programs, including support for ProStart, culinary students, hospitality majors, and current industry professionals seeking to advance their career

Purpose of the Scholarship

The Hospitality Educational Foundation provides financial assistance to qualified students and working professionals pursuing higher education or approved advanced training programs in culinary arts, hospitality management, restaurant management, tourism, lodging, and related fields. Award recipients must demonstrate a strong intention to use their education and skills within Nebraska's hospitality industry.

Scholarship Determination

Scholarships are awarded by a Scholarship Selection Committee, made up of HEF and the Omaha Restaurant Association committee members.

Scholarship selections are based solely on published criteria, including commitment to hospitality career pathways, academic effort, financial need, and alignment with the mission of HEF. Scholarship amounts may vary based on available funding and applicant qualifications.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The Hospitality Educational Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, age, or any other protected status in the selection of scholarship recipients.

Interviews

Selected finalists will be invited to participate in a Zoom interview with industry professionals and members of the scholarship committee.

Who should apply?

- ProStart students or high school seniors continuing their education entering culinary, hospitality, or tourism programs
- College students currently enrolled in hospitality-related majors
- Current hospitality professionals seeking career advancement, certifications, or additional training

Award Disbursement

Scholarship funds are paid directly to accredited institutions or approve training programs and cannot be issued directly to the student.

NEBRASKA RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION
HOSPITALITY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Hospitality Educational Foundation
2026 Scholarship Application
Deadline to apply: April 15, 2026

The Nebraska Restaurant Association Hospitality Educational Foundation provides scholarship opportunities for qualified students and professionals who plan to pursue higher education in the fields of culinary and hospitality and will use those skills in Nebraska. Scholarship(s) will be awarded at the discretion of the scholarship committee. Amounts of scholarships will depend on focus on continued education or advancement of current career in the hospitality industry.

Please attach your resume and fill out Parts A, B, & C to complete the application process

Part A: Personal & Academic Information

Note: Please write N/A for any section that does not apply to you.

Name: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Current Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Current High School or Career Academy: _____

GPA (write "N/A" if not applicable): _____

Current Post-Secondary Institution or Employer: _____

GPA (write "N/A" if not applicable): _____

Have you participated in a Nebraska ProStart Program? ☐Yes ☐No

I am applying for Professional Development: ☐Yes ☐No
(I already work in the industry)

In 2026, I will be enrolled at the following Post-Secondary Institution or Professional Development Program: _____

Institution Address: _____

Major: _____

Degree Objective: Choose your degree

Area of Emphasis: Choose your area

If you select "Other," please specify: _____

Are you a previous HEF Scholarship winner? ☐Yes ☐No

Part B: Personal Statement

Note: Please provide thoughtful responses (about 5-7 sentences per question)

1. Why did you select the culinary or hospitality field as a career?

2. What are your future goals in the hospitality industry?

3. Describe the most challenging hospitality-related experience you have faced.

   What did you learn from this experience?

4. Describe your employment history in the hospitality industry.

5. What are your short- and long-term career goals, and how will your education support them?

Part C: References

Please provide 1-2 professional references from a teacher, mentor or boss:

Name/Relationship	Cell Phone Number

Please include a letter of recommendation from a teacher mentor or boss with your application.

Please e-mail no later than **April 15, 2026**, to: Info@nebraskadining.org

Or mail this form postmarked **by April 15, 2026**, to: Nebraska Hospitality Association
Attn: HEF Scholarships
2603 Superior St, Suite 101 #238,
Lincoln, NE 68521

Finalists will be invited to a Zoom interview with industry professionals. If selected, your Social Security Number will be required for scholarship disbursement. Scholarships are mailed to the financial aid office of your institution upon enrollment verification.