



What is the New Beginnings Scholarship?

This scholarship was created to support an individual's desire to gain a degree or certificate in a skilled trade. Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to any post high school student or adult, pursuing a career in a trade by attending a career technical education program, trade school, or pursuing higher education by attending an accredited college or university.

Applying for the New Beginnings Scholarship

To be considered for a scholarship, you must:

- Be a member of UFirst Federal Credit Union (holding an account in your name) in good standing at the time of application. If you are not a UFirst member, visit **ufirstfcu.net** to apply or call us at 518.324.5700 to schedule an appointment.
- Be a post high school student or adult.
- Be attending a career technical education program, trade school, or be enrolled and majoring in a technical field at a college/university within the calendar year. Funds can be used for tuition costs, equipment or tools for your trade, and professional dues and/or certifications.
- *UFirst FCU directors, team members and their family members are ineligible to participate in the scholarship competition.*

Criteria

- Must submit a completed online application. (*Application will be submitted online directly to the credit union once completed*).
- Submit a resume which should include any volunteerism, community or charity involvement.

- Submit a letter of reference from a non-family member explaining why you would be the best choice for this scholarship.
- ***Be creative!*** Submit an explanation describing your future career plans in the technical career of your choice is required. It can be a:
 - Video 30 seconds to 2 minutes in length
 - Or a written statement of no less than 500 words.
- ***Email copy of transcript, letter of recommendation and creative to Shelby Engelhardt at sengelhardt@ufirstfcu.net.***

Application Submission and Deadline

- Application will open **January 31st, 2026**
- Completed applications and submissions must be submitted no later than **April 15th, 2026**.
- All scholarship applicants will be notified of the Committee's decision no later than **May 2026**.

Selection Process:

The Scholarship Committee will be comprised of selected leadership members of UFirst Federal Credit Union. The decisions of the judges will be final.

Factors considered:

- Application
- Resume
- Letter of reference
- Provide an explanation describing your future career plans in the technical career of your choice is required.

All applications will be verified for accuracy, and decisions will be made based on the information submitted without regard to income, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap, or familial status. Only one scholarship may be awarded per applicant.