



## Minnesota Chapter of Women in Public Finance 2025 Scholarship Application



### Program Overview

The Minnesota Chapter of Women in Public Finance, or MnWPF ([www.mnwpf.com](http://www.mnwpf.com)), is a non-profit, educational, and professional networking organization for women in the public/municipal finance industry. It is governed by a board of directors representing the areas of government, finance, banking, and law. MnWPF was founded in 2011 as a chapter of the national organization, Women in Public Finance.

#### *What is Public Finance?*

In general, "public finance" refers to how governments raise and spend money. Individuals who work in public finance help governments at all levels—national, state, and local—obtain the necessary financial resources to pay for services and building projects such as police/fire stations, parks, museums, theaters, airports, clean energy, water/sewer infrastructure, hospitals, senior housing, affordable housing, schools (K-12 public and private as well as universities), and more.

### Scholarship Overview

The MnWPF Scholarship Program annually awards at least \$5,000 from our industry sponsors. MnWPF will also award the Carolyn Drude | Ehlers Memorial Scholarship. Carolyn was a pioneer in public/municipal finance during her career with Ehlers, excelling in her work and joining the ranks of senior industry leadership during a time when the field was largely dominated by men. She was instrumental in paving the way for more women to pursue careers in public/municipal finance.

The scholarships vary in size and are subject to change year to year. The **goals** of the scholarship program are to:

- 1) Recognize women that are college-bound high school students or continuing their undergraduate or graduate school studies who have exhibited scholastic achievement and demonstrated leadership skills;
- 2) Encourage the consideration of careers in finance and, more specifically, public/municipal finance; and
- 3) Provide an opportunity for scholarship recipients to meet women established in the public/municipal finance industry and learn about the career options and opportunities.

### Application

For 2025, scholarships will be awarded to applicants who meet the following criteria:

- 1) Identify as a woman;
- 2) Have graduated from a Minnesota high school by spring 2025 or will attend a Minnesota higher education institution in the fall of 2025;
- 3) Have at least a 3.0 GPA or equivalent;
- 4) Exhibit leadership skills through extracurricular activities, volunteer positions, community service, internships, and/or other work experience;
- 5) Indicate an interest in pursuing a public/municipal finance related career, which may include the fields of accounting, finance, banking, government, non-profit, or law; and
- 6) Complete and submit the Scholarship application form, the required essays and a copy of your most recent unofficial high school OR college transcript, as appropriate, **VIA E-MAIL** to [info@mnwpf.com](mailto:info@mnwpf.com). It is preferred that documents be submitted as a single PDF. The application must be **RECEIVED** no later than 11:59 pm Central Daylight Time on June 1, 2025. To learn more about the scholarships, please visit <https://mnwpf.com/scholarship>.

### Selection and Recognition

- MnWPF will select recipients based on the qualifications of the candidates as demonstrated by the completed application, official transcripts, and submitted essays.
- MnWPF may also elect to conduct phone interviews or seek additional information as part of the selection process.
- Scholarship recipients will be invited to accept the Scholarship at the MnWPF Annual Conference to be held in the Fall of 2025, the specific date to be determined. The conference will be held virtually or in downtown Minneapolis. (Note: Attendance at the annual conference is not required to receive the Scholarship).

Scholarship recipients are expected to be notified no later than July 15, 2025.



# Minnesota Chapter of Women in Public Finance

## 2025 Scholarship Application



Please type or print all responses and *attach a copy of your unofficial school transcript to your application.* While typed responses are preferred, neatly handwritten responses will be accepted.

Date: / /2025

Age at June 1, 2025:

Name:

College or University in fall 2025:

Level in fall 2025:

High School attended and year graduated:

Home Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:\*

Email Address:\*

\* Please provide a phone number and email address you will have access to in summer and fall 2025.

**Extracurricular Activities.** Describe your extracurricular, community, and other activities or hobbies **in the order of interest to you.** Include specific events and/or major accomplishments such as musical instrument played, varsity letters earned, etc. Attach additional sheets if necessary and include your name and address on each sheet.

Activity	Dates of Involvement			Position Held, Honor Earned, Letter Earned, or Other Accomplishment	Approximate Time Spent	
					Hours per Week	Weeks per Year
		to				
		to				
		to				
		to				
		to				
		to				
		to				

**Work Experience.** Please list paid jobs or volunteer internships you have held including summer employment, if any. Attach additional sheets if necessary and include your name and address on each sheet.

Employer	Dates of Employment			Job Description	Approx. Time Worked	
					Hours per Week	Weeks per year
		to				
		to				
		to				
		to				
		to				

**Short Essay.** Describe your favorite subject(s) in school and explain why the subject(s) is (are) your favorite and how that may benefit you in a career in public/municipal finance. Attach additional sheets if necessary and include your name and address on each sheet. (Please limit response to 250 words.)

Name:

Address:

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**Public Finance Essay.** Public Finance historically has been a male-dominated field. The goal of MnWPF is to advance leadership opportunities for women by fostering relationships and providing educational activities and forums. Public Finance professionals work on issues that impact the finance of public/municipal entities and include bankers, lawyers, credit analysts, and issuers.

The Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB) has educational resources that discuss the bond issuance process. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has a Best Practices series that aims to contribute to improved government management. We encourage you to review these resources.

[MSRB Education Center](#)

[GFOA Best Practices](#)

Please discuss why you are interested in Public Finance (and/or a related area of study) and how MnWPF can help guide you in your future goals. Have events or persons influenced your views on community and public service? Attach additional sheets if necessary and include your name and address on each sheet. (Please limit response to 500 words.)

**Personal Essay.** Please write a personal essay on one of the options listed below (responses should be no less than 500-words (minimum), no more than 1,000-words (maximum). Indicate your selected option by checking the appropriate box next to it. This personal essay helps us become acquainted with you as a person, apart from courses, grades, and other objective data. It will also demonstrate your ability to organize your thoughts and express yourself.

Option A - Leadership: In what ways do you think leadership can drive positive change in society, and how do you plan to contribute to such change in the future through career pursuits? Describe one specific example of your leadership and/or a recent and particularly satisfying public service activity that shows this type of contribution.

Option B - Public Policy: Describe a public policy issue about which you are passionate and outline both the challenges and potential solutions regarding such issue.

**Attach your application, transcript and essays to your email. It is preferred that documents be submitted as a single PDF. Please include your name and address on each individual attachment.**

*Disclaimer: Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their submissions are complete and are received by 11:59 pm Central Daylight Time on June 1, 2025. MnWPF will not consider applications that are submitted by means other than electronic submission to [info@mnnwfpf.com](mailto:info@mnnwfpf.com), that are incomplete, or that arrive late, regardless of the reason. To learn more about the scholarships, please visit <https://mnnwfpf.com/scholarship>.*

*Winners of MnWPF scholarships will be automatically advanced to the National Women in Public Finance (National WPF) organization for consideration of an additional scholarship award from National WPF. In 2024, National WPF awarded 5 scholarships totaling \$15,000. The first-place winner received \$5,000 and the remaining four winners received \$2,500 each.*