

# **OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION 2021 STUDENT DEBT REDUCTION PROGRAM**

## **ELIGIBILITY:**

### **AN APPLICANT MUST BE:**

- A member or an associate member of OPEIU in good standing on the date the application is submitted to their local union.
- Must have completed an Associate Degree or Undergraduate Degree program at a College, University or a recognized Technical or Vocational post-secondary school as a full-time or part-time student.
- Must demonstrate that applicant has at least \$10,000 in outstanding student debt and is making regular student loan payments to a recognized student loan provider or debtor organization.
- Must submit documentation that student loan payments are up to date.
- Members who received an OPEIU Howard Coughlin scholarship award within the last five (5) years are not eligible for this program.

### **STUDENT DEBT SCHOLARSHIPS:**

Five (5) \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded in July of each year. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements and comply with the Rules and Regulations as established by the OPEIU Executive Board.

Applicants are eligible to receive only one \$2,500 lifetime award.

### **PAYMENTS OF AWARDS:**

Each scholarship award shall be granted with a one-time payment of \$2,500 to a recognized student-loan provider or debtor organization, or if not accepted by the debtor organization, the scholarship program may make an alternate arrangement with the awardee.

All awards are taxable income to the awardee.

## **PROCEDURES:**

**Each applicant must file an official OPEIU Student Debt Reduction application. Application forms must be endorsed by the Local Union President, Secretary-Treasurer or other authorized officer** attesting that the member or associate member is in good standing. Such endorsement must be obtained **BEFORE** the application is submitted.

## **FORMS:**

Application forms may be obtained at your local union office, the Secretary-Treasurer's office of the International Union or from the OPEIU website at [www.opeiu.org](http://www.opeiu.org). Once logged into the site, click on OPEIU Member Resources/OPEIU Membership benefits link.

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

Applicants must provide proof (Copy of Associate Degree OR Copy of Undergraduate Degree) that they have completed an Associate Degree or Undergraduate Degree program at a College, University or a recognized Technical or Vocational post-secondary school as a full-time or part-time student.

## **APPLICATION:**

All applications are due in the Secretary-Treasurer's office of the International Union no later than June 30, 2021.

## **SELECTION OF WINNERS:**

Qualified applications will be entered into a drawing. All applicants will be notified in the month of July via email with the results of the drawing.