



WESTERN NEW YORK WATER WORKS CONFERENCE

www.wnywwc.org

Operator Scholarship Program – Program Overview

The Western New York Water Works Conference (WNYWWC) Operator Scholarship Program is designed to support water system operators in advancing their professional education and maintaining or upgrading their operator certifications.

The goal of this program is to offset or fully cover the cost of approved training courses, helping remove financial barriers to continuing education while strengthening the water workforce across Western New York.

Scholarship Purpose

The Operator Scholarship Program seeks to:

- Encourage professional growth and certification advancement
- Support continuing education for water system operators
- Invest in the long-term success of operators and the communities they serve

Eligibility

Applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be a current WNYWWC member in good standing for a minimum of one (1) year
- Be employed in the water industry (public or private systems are eligible)
- Be pursuing training related to one of the following operator grades:
 - Class A
 - Class B
 - Class C
 - Class D
 - Class 1A (Advanced Operations)
- Enroll in a New York State-approved or otherwise accredited operator training course
- Obtain supervisor approval, as indicated by signature on the application

Multiple applicants from the same municipality or organization are permitted.

Scholarship Amounts

Reimbursement amounts are as follows:

- Class A, B, C, or D: up to \$725
- Class 1A (Advanced Operations): up to \$1,245

Scholarships are awarded as full reimbursements, not partial payments

Competitive Award Process

- Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis
- First-time applicants will receive priority consideration
- Award decisions are based on:
 - Demonstrated commitment to professional development
 - Relevance of the course to operator certification or advancement
 - Completeness and quality of application materials
 - Available funding

Submission of an application does not guarantee an award.



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Reimbursement Process

Scholarships are issued after successful course completion. To receive reimbursement, recipients must submit:

- Proof of payment (receipt)
- Proof of passing or successful course completion
- Any additional documentation requested by WNYWWC

Reimbursement will be processed following review and approval of all required materials.

Entry Requirements

Applicants must submit:

- Completed Operator Scholarship Application
- Resume (if available)
- Any supporting materials that demonstrate professional experience or interest in advancement

Applicants are limited to one (1) Operator Scholarship per calendar year.

Additional Information

- Scholarships are typically awarded and recognized at the WNYWWC February Workshop
- Funding availability may impact the number of scholarships awarded
- WNYWWC reserves the right to modify this program as needed

Deadline for Submission: February 6, 2026

Submit Application to: Western New York Water Works Conference

Via Mail to: WNYWWC
Attn: Jennifer Szustakowski
P.O. Box 387
Buffalo, NY 14205

Via Email: jennifer@wnywwc.org

Apply On-line: wnywwc.org/scholarships



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Operator Scholarship Application

Scholarships are available to members in good standing, for the following Operator Grades

Grade A | Grade B | Grade C | Grade D | Grade 1 Advanced Operations

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND RETURN BY

******* February 6, 2026 *******

Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Business Address _____ Zip _____

Home Address _____ Zip _____

Business Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Email Address _____

Current Member of WNYWWC Yes _____ No _____

System Size (population): <3,300 _____ | 3,300 – 50,000 _____ | >50,000 _____
(Please Check One)

(Please attach your RESUME for consideration)

WHICH SCHOLARSHIP ARE YOU APPLYING FOR? _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Signature of applicant

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Signature of Supervisor

Questions, please reach out to: Jennifer at 716-432-0373 (call or text) or Jennifer@wnywwc.org

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