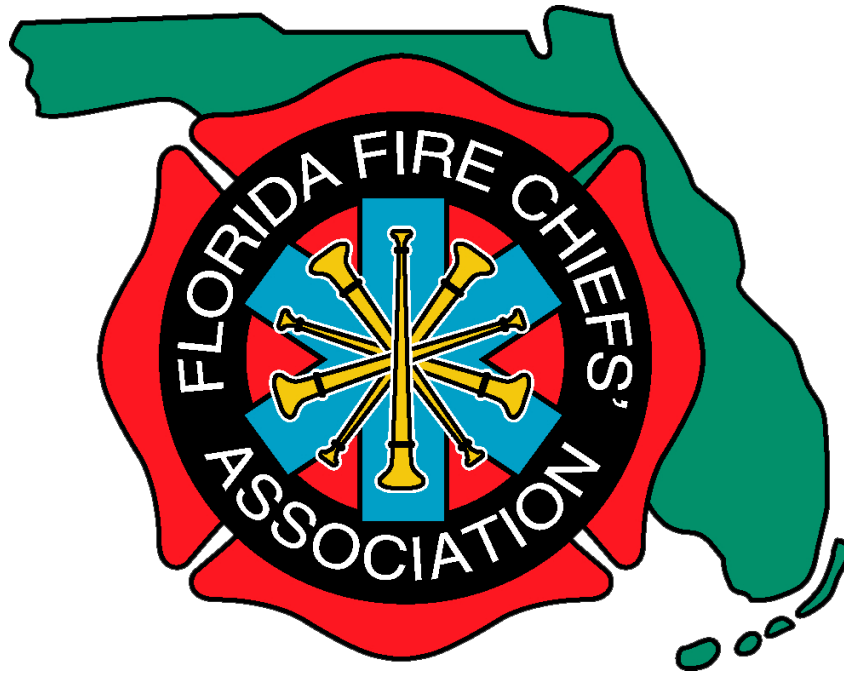


# **Florida Fire Chiefs' Foundation, Inc.**



## **Firefighter/EMT Scholarship Program Guidelines and Application Process**

**221 Pinewood Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32303**

**(850) 900-5180**

### **About the Florida Fire Chiefs' Foundation, Inc.**

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Foundation, herein after referred to as the Foundation, is a nonprofit organization founded in 1994 that is committed to creating a safer and better fire service within the State of Florida.

The mission of the Foundation is to facilitate educational opportunities for the advancement of the fire and emergency service, and through public relations programs, promote and raise public awareness of Florida's fire and emergency services.

To those who share its vision, the Foundation offers opportunities to participate in its realization through financial and in-kind support and volunteerism.

### **The Firefighter/EMT Community Scholarship**

Employment as a career firefighter provides stability, structure, a second family, and the ability to give back to the community in a very real and direct way. The Foundation recognizes how important the chance at a financially stable life can be to a person who is economically disadvantaged. Because of its continued commitment to the education of Florida's firefighters, the Florida Fire Chiefs' Foundation has created a scholarship program that is specifically intended to provide financial support for individuals who cannot otherwise afford to attend an approved Florida Firefighter Minimum Standards and related Emergency Medical Technician certification program.

Eligible scholarship recipients must be considered at-risk and/or economically disadvantaged at the time of application. The Community scholarship applicant must be recommended, in writing, by a community leader, such as includes a State of Florida or local elected official, a community leader, or a Fire Chief; and must meet those established eligibility requirements to attend the college or vocational school Firefighter Minimum Standards/EMT program.

The Firefighter/EMT Community Scholarship may only cover the cost of tuition, books, uniforms and the rental of required protective clothing. This scholarship is intended to bridge the required cost of the program not funded by other financial assistance which is offered at the educational institution.

### **Firefighter/EMT Community Scholarship Eligibility**

1. Applicant must have applied for financial assistance to attend a qualified Firefighter Minimum Standards and/or EMT program at the educational institute they plan to attend.
2. Must provide proof of US Citizenship at the time of application.
3. Must have a High School diploma or GED.
4. Must have a valid Florida Driver's License.

5. Must meet all physical fitness and/or medical requirements to enter the Florida Firefighter Minimum Standards program and/or EMT program as outlined by the institution.
6. Must be tobacco free in accordance with current Florida Statute.
7. Must not have any felony or 1<sup>st</sup> degree misdemeanor convictions.
8. Must have a driving record which would not preclude employment under Florida Statute as a firefighter or EMT.
9. Must meet all eligibility requirements to attend the college or vocational school in which the scholarship is awarded for Firefighter Minimum Standards/EMT.
10. Must agree to a background check.

### **Community Scholarship Application Process**

Individuals must submit the following information to the Foundation to be considered for the scholarship.

1. Letter of request
2. Completed a scholarship application
3. Three letters of recommendation, one letter must be from a current member of the FFCA who is a fire chief.
4. A type written essay on “Why I should receive the scholarship”. Not to exceed 500 words. The essay should include:
  - Describe why you are seeking to work as a firefighter in the State of Florida and what that career will mean to you, your family, and your community.
  - Discuss any volunteer work you currently, or have, participated during the past two years.
  - Include any honors or awards you may have received.
  - Describe the impact that you believe education has had on your life.
5. Failure to submit a complete packet could result in disqualification of the applicant.

### **Selection Criteria**

It remains the intention of the Community scholarship program to assist those individuals who economically disadvantaged and who are eligible and desire to work as a firefighter in the State of Florida. Therefore, the identification of successful applicants will be based primarily on financial need and the recommendation of a community leader. An individual’s past or present academic standing, public safety related extracurricular activities, community service, and involvement in volunteer organizations might also be will be taken into consideration. The Florida Fire Chief’s Foundation Scholarship Committee will review all applications for completeness before consideration for any award.

Upon a scholarship award, recipients will be assigned a local fire department sponsor by the Foundation to assist them throughout the scholarship period.

**Award**

The Community Scholarship will be awarded to an accredited school for Florida Minimum Standards and/or EMT Certification. Scholarships may be awarded in each Florida Fire Chiefs' Association region annually based on available funds. The student must be accepted to the program and meet the school's pre-entry requirements. The scholarship money will be sent directly to the student's account at the chosen educational institute. If bunker gear rental is done outside the school, a separate check will be sent for that expense. The funds may not be transferred. Scholarship recipients will be notified to complete a Scholarship Information form to provide details for the Treasurer to send the check to the appropriate entity. Checks will only be sent the institution in the name of the scholarship recipient.

**Florida Fire Chiefs' Foundation**  
**Firefighter Minimum Standards/EMT - Community Scholarship**  
**Application**

Please complete the application electronically and submit a printed and signed copy to the Florida Fire and Emergency Services Foundation. Incomplete applications will not be considered for selection.

Last Name	First	Middle
Address	City	State                      Zip Code
Telephone Number	Email Address	Date of Birth
Driver's License Number		

**Reference Letters:**

Attach three (3) letters of recommendation including one from a current member of the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association who is a fire chief. If you are graduating from high school within the next 12 months, one of the three letters must be from your school's guidance counselor.

**Personal Essay:**

Attach a typed essay of between 300 and 500 words which describes why you want to become a Firefighter/EMT and why you need this scholarship. Describe your commitment to complete the Firefighter Minimum Standards and EMT school.

- Describe why you are seeking to work as a firefighter in the State of Florida and what that career will mean to you, your family, and your community.
- Discuss any volunteer work you currently, or have, participated in in the past two years.
- Include any honors or awards you may have received.
- Describe the impact you believe education has had on your life.
- Describe any specific hardship that prevents you from paying for school.
- Provide itemized summary of what financial assistance you will need through this scholarship.

**Family Information:**

Custodial Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Custodial parents combined income from previous year: \_\_\_\_\_

Provide copy of last year's W-2 forms for both you and your parents if you are working and living with your parents.

**Academic Information:**

Provide a copy of your high school diploma or GED.

List any college credits / degrees you have earned: \_\_\_\_\_

List any certifications you have: \_\_\_\_\_

Provide the college/vocational school and address you plan to attend for Firefighter Minimum Standards and EMT school.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Work Experience: (Current or most recent employer)**

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Employed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Community Involvement:**

*Only complete this section if you are a graduating high school in the next 12 months:*

List school sports/clubs/activities you were involved in and your accomplishments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Military Experience (if applicable):**

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Active duty dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of discharge: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the information contained in this application to be true and correct. If I don't complete the program applied for, I agree to pay back the awarded funds in full.

Applicant's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Application must be received by:  
Mail application and all attachments to:  
**Florida Fire Chiefs' Foundation, Inc.**  
**Scholarship Committee**  
**221 Pinewood Drive**  
**Tallahassee, FL 32303**