



Montana Food Distributors Association

PO Box 5775, 25 Neill Ave Suite 101

Helena, Montana 59604-5775

Phone 800-735-1082, Local 406-449-6394, Fax 406-449-0647

Email bigskypower@msn.com

To: All MFDA Members

Re: MFDA Scholarships

We are searching for High School Seniors or College Freshmen, sophomores or juniors who deserve a Montana Food Distributors Association (MFDA) Scholarship. Nominees should be associated with the Food Industry through either employment or family relationships within the Industry.

An attachable application is provided below for your convenience. Complete application and support material must be submitted to the MFDA (P.O. Box 5775, Helena, MT 59604) by March 14, 2026. We will be awarding MFDA Scholarships and will notify winners before the finish of the school year in June of 2026.

Attached is a listing of criteria upon which judging will be based. Also, an explanation follows on what should be included in a MFDA Scholarship application. Councilors should follow these guidelines closely. In past years, some students have gained a competitive edge because of the quality of their application package.

Questions may be directed to the MFDA office at 1-800-735-1082.

Sincerely,

Your MFDA Staff

2026 MFDA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Sponsor's Name	Student's Name
Signature (Must be Signed by Sponsor)	Signature (Must be Signed normal Signature)
Company	Relationship to Sponsor
Street Address/P.O. Box	Street Address/P.O. Box
City State Zip	City State Zip
()	()
Sponsor's Phone Number	Student's Phone Number
College Attending	Enrollment Date

The applicant must attach a statement of 500 words or less explaining why the nominee merits a scholarship (e.g. need, scholastic achievements, leadership and other awards, extracurricular activities, etc.). Send application materials to: MFDA-P.O. Box 5775 –Helena, MT 59604. (For additional copies of application please photocopy).

2026 Scholarship

MONTANA FOOD DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION (MFDA) Helena, MT 59604

The MFDA will award scholarships during 2026 from the MFDA.

After reviewing the **Judging Criteria** below, sponsors are advised to follow closely the **Application Guideline**. Competition is so keen that the way applications are submitted is often a deciding factor.

Judging Criteria

The MFDA Scholarship Committee uses eight criteria to evaluate each student. The score for each criterion ranges from zero to ten (0-10). The student with the top criteria ratings in aggregate win the scholarships.

Award Criteria are as follows:

- **AGE**- Students entering post-secondary education immediately after high school graduation receive a top rating (10).
- **HOME**-Montana residents receive the highest rating (10).
- **HIGH SCHOOL**-Montana high school grads receive a top rating (10). Graduates of out-of-state schools or a combination of Montana and out-of-state schools' rate lower.
- **GRADE POINT AVERAGE**-Valedictorians or 4-point graduates rate a (10). Lower GPA's rate progressively lower.
- **INTENDED COLLEGE**-Students attending Montana College rate (10) higher than those who are attending out-of-state schools. (Therefore, cannot be transferred to an out of state institution after award)
- **FINANCIAL NEED**-The greatest need (10), the greater need the higher the rating.
- **STUDENT'S/PARENT'S WORKPLACE**-Applicants or their parents or both who are employed at MFDA member businesses rate (10) above those who are not.
- **SPONSOR'S WORKPLACE**-Applicants with sponsor(s) working at MFDA member businesses (10) rate above those who do not.

Application Guidelines

In past years, the MFDA Scholarship Committee has noted a marked difference in the quality among applications. Some councilors have compiled very professional applications while others have not. This has given certain students an unfair advantage over others who are attending schools that do not assist their students to the same degree.

Applications should include the following:

- ✓ **All pertinent grade transcripts** – This includes four years of high school and other education being considered for admission to the preferred institution.
- ✓ **Letters of reference** – Three reference letters should be included. At least one should be from a person qualified to reflect on the application's educational background.
- ✓ **List of Accomplishments** – academic, athletic, organizations, awards and other accomplishments should be listed by academic year, that is, National Honor Society (11, 12), Boys State Delegate (12), Sports (9,10,11,12), etc.
- ✓ **A background summary** – The applicant must summarize the applicant's background in 500 words or less. This summary should use athletics, academics, extracurricular activities, awards, employment, financial need, and any other activities that show why the applicant should be considered for a MFDA Award.



Montana Food Distributors Association

PO Box 5775, 25 Neill Ave Suite 101

Helena, Montana 59604-5775

Phone 800-735-1082, Local 406-449-6394, Fax 406-449-0647

Email bigskypower@msn.com

Website mfda.biz

Personal Information

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

Date of Birth: _____ ** Social Security # to be provided upon award of Scholarship.

Mailing and Contact Information

Address Line 1 _____

Address Line 2 _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Financial Needs and Resources

Please provide information below for financial needs (for upcoming school year).

Tuition and Fees \$ _____

Room and Board \$ _____

Books and Supplies \$ _____

Personal Requirements \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Please provide information below for personal resources:

Anticipated summer earnings \$ _____

Anticipated Personal Savings \$ _____

Anticipated financial aid, loans and grants for
Upcoming year, based on last year's financial awards. \$ _____

"Promoting and Protecting the Grocery Industry of Montana"

"We will provide our members with the services, which may be impossible, impractical or economically infeasible to achieve alone."



Montana Food Distributors Association

PO Box 5775, 25 Neill Ave Suite 101

Helena, Montana 59604-5775

Phone 800-735-1082, Local 406-449-6394, Fax 406-449-0647

Email bigskypower@msn.com

Website mfda.biz

Taxable income (yourself and parents)

(As listed on last year's tax return)

\$ _____

Total Personal Resources:

\$ _____

Sponsor Information

Sponsor Name _____ Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Education

High School Name/County _____

Date of Graduation _____ GPA _____ SAT/ACT Score _____

College Attending _____

Intended Date of Enrollment _____

"Promoting and Protecting the Grocery Industry of Montana"

"We will provide our members with the services, which may be impossible, impractical or economically infeasible to achieve alone."



Montana Food Distributors Association

PO Box 5775, 25 Neill Ave Suite 101

Helena, Montana 59604-5775

Phone 800-735-1082, Local 406-449-6394, Fax 406-449-0647

Email bigskypower@msn.com

Website mfda.biz

STUDENT RECIPIENT INFORMATION

Student Name _____

Student ID # _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

RECIPIENT'S COLLEGE OR POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION INFORMATION **(Note can not be changed after Award without consent)**

Accredited School Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____ Date _____

"Promoting and Protecting the Grocery Industry of Montana"

"We will provide our members with the services, which may be impossible, impractical or economically infeasible to achieve alone."