



# ARIZONA ASSOCIATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## 2026 AAED Spring Scholarship Program

The Arizona Association for Economic Development (AAED) Scholarship Program is designed to assist those pursuing professional development opportunities within AAED. This assistance promotes and ensures a continuation of the high level of skill, talent, and professionalism valued by every member. It is incumbent on AAED and our members to lend a helping hand to those who have chosen economic development as their career but do not have the budget to support their development. The Scholarship Program is an intricate part of achieving this goal.

### Scholarship Fund Guideliness

- Only current AAED members qualify for scholarship funds. The exception is the Membership Scholarship, which can be awarded to an individual who has applied for membership.
- Preference is given to Tribal entities and counties with less than 3,000,000 residents as determined by the 2020 Decennial Census.
- The total awardable funds are determined by the AAED Scholarship Fund Committee each year. The actual number of scholarships awarded is contingent upon available funds.
- The total scholarships awarded in each category may vary from year to year depending on applications, though every effort will be made to select at least one applicant per category.
- Fund recipients receive promotional codes and/or costs are paid by AAED directly. No funds are paid directly to the recipient.



# AAED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CATEGORIES



## CONFERENCE ATTENDEE

Scholarship dollars are awarded to cover the registration and/or hotel costs to attend one of AAED's signature conferences (i.e. Spring Conference or Fall Forum).

## AZED PRO CERTIFICATION



Scholarship dollars cover the cost of all courses required to obtain the AZED Pro certification. While recommended, the recipient does not need to be part of the AZED Pro Cohort Program to be eligible. To receive the funds, the recipient must agree to complete all courses in one year. Applicants can apply for scholarship dollars to cover either partial or the full cost of the program.



## AAED MEMBERSHIP

Scholarship dollars cover the cost of a one-year Practitioner membership to AAED.

### Scholarship Recipient Responsibilities

- In addition to taking advantage of the professional development opportunities offered through the scholarship category, recipients are expected to provide a summary of their experience as part of AAED's ongoing marketing efforts.
- When participating in scholarship-related activities, recipients are responsible for costs incurred not covered by the scholarship, which may include travel, food, lodging, additional event fees, etc.

### Deadline & Selection

**Please submit the completed application by email to [info@aaed.com](mailto:info@aaed.com) before February 13, 2026 at 4:00 PM.** If application requirements are not met, the application is deemed incomplete and ineligible for a scholarship. Scholarship recipients are notified no later than the first week of March.

# 2026 AAED Spring Scholarship General Application Form

All applicants should complete this page and include with the application for your selected category.

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

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Your Name:

Phone:

Title:

Work Address:

Company/Organization:

City/State/Zip:

Work Email:

Are you a Tribal member or do you represent a Tribal entity?

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

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County:

Department Size:

Community Size:

Department Operating Budget:

**Scholarship Category** — Please check **ONE** category for which you are applying:

- ☐ **Conference Attendance (Page 4):** Covers the registration and/or hotel costs to attend one of AAED's signature conferences.
- ☐ **AZED Pro Certification (Page 5):** Covers either partial or the full cost of the program.
- ☐ **AAED Membership (Page 6):** Covers the cost of a one-year Practitioner membership to AAED.

# Conference Scholarship Application

**\*\*Only complete this section if you are applying for the Conference Attendance Scholarship.**

**Please indicate your scholarship need:**

☐ Registration cost only      ☐ Hotel cost only      ☐ Registration & hotel costs

**Please indicate your scholarship need:**

☐ Spring Conference (Apr 15-17, 2026)      ☐ Fall Forum (Sept 23-25, 2026)

## Acknowledgement

I understand that if I am awarded a conference attendance scholarship, I must attend the full conference and pay costs not covered by the scholarship (ex. travel, food, lodging). If my scholarship covers hotel costs, I understand any nights outside those covered are at my own expense.

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*Signature*

**In addition to the above, please include the following with your submission.**

**Endorsement Letter:** One letter supporting your application by either your supervisor or department lead must accompany your application.

**Personal Statement:** Please provide a statement not to exceed 500 words answering the following:

- What are your goals and/or plan if awarded a scholarship?
- How will the scholarship benefit you and your organization?
- If there are organizational restrictions on education, professional development, or travel, please share how this scholarship would help overcome those challenges.
- Any additional details on why you believe you should be awarded the scholarship.

# AZED Pro Certification Scholarship Application

**\*\*Only complete this section if you are applying for the AZED Pro Certification Scholarship.**

Scholarship dollars cover the cost of all courses required to obtain the AZED Pro certification. While recommended, the recipient does not need to be part of the AZED Pro Cohort Program to be eligible. To receive the funds, the recipient must agree to complete all courses in one year.

Applicants can apply for scholarship dollars to cover the **full** cost of the certification or, if the employer can pay for some courses, **partial** certification cost. Please indicate your scholarship preference:

☐

Full certification cost (approx. \$1,080)

☐

Partial certification cost

**If selecting partial certification cost**, please indicate how much you or your employer will be contributing (you will receive an invoice for this amount if chosen):

\$

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## Have you applied for and/or been accepted to the AZED Pro Cohort Program?

☐

Applied, awaiting decision

☐

Accepted

☐

Denied

☐

Have not applied

## Acknowledgement

I understand that if I am awarded an AZED Pro Certification scholarship, I must complete all courses within one year (visit [aaed.com](http://aaed.com) for a list of upcoming courses). I also understand that the scholarship covers only course costs and that I am responsible for any outside costs (ex. travel, food, lodging).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

## In addition to the above, please include the following with your submission.

**Endorsement Letter:** One letter supporting your application by either your supervisor or department lead must accompany your application.

*(For Partial Scholarships Only) Please include a statement in the letter that your department understands it is responsible for paying the amount indicated in your application.*

**Personal Statement:** Please provide a statement not to exceed 500 words answering the following:

- What are your goals and/or plan if awarded a scholarship?
- How will the scholarship benefit you and your organization?
- If there are organizational restrictions on education, professional development, or travel, please share how this scholarship would help overcome those challenges.
- Any additional details on why you believe you should be awarded the scholarship.

# AAED Membership Scholarship Application

**\*\*Only complete this section if you are applying for the Conference Attendance Scholarship.**

Are you currently an AAED member or have you been in the past? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes to the above, please explain in 500 characters or less why you are no longer able to cover your membership fee.

If yes to the above, please share examples of how you have participated in AAED in the past.

If you are **NOT** a current or past AAED member, have you already applied for membership? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*\*Non-members applying for this scholarship must complete an application before consideration. We will reach out with this information if you are awarded a scholarship.*

**In addition to the above, please include the following with your submission.**

**Endorsement Letter:** One letter supporting your application by either your supervisor or department lead must accompany your application.

**Personal Statement:** Please provide a statement not to exceed 500 words answering the following:

- What are your goals and/or plan if awarded a scholarship?
- How will the scholarship benefit you and your organization?
- If there are organizational restrictions on education, professional development, or travel, please share how this scholarship would help overcome those challenges.
- Any additional details on why you believe you should be awarded the scholarship.