

Dr. Charles McElmurray Scholarship Fund

Scholarship Guidebook

GOAL

The Dr. Charles McElmurray Scholarship Fund will provide grants for scholarships for South Carolina high school graduates interested in entering health professions at all levels (diplomas, certificates, Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, etc.). When possible, first preference will be given to graduates of Fairfield County schools, second preference for Chester and Lancaster County schools. High school graduation dates need not be recent, as we support working adults who want to change careers and enter health professions.

HISTORY



Dr. McElmurray was the first Medical Director for the Community Medicine Foundation, doing business as the John A. Martin Primary Health Care Center, in Winnsboro. He served in this capacity for over three decades. His professional medical care had a profound impact on generations of families in Fairfield County. During his time at the center, he helped to train more than 1,400 health professional students, providing them with the opportunity to learn about working in a rural health care setting and providing services to a community that is in dire need. In 2019, he received the Dean's

Distinguished Service Award from the School of Medicine at the University of South Carolina to recognize his excellence in service, leadership, advocacy, and professional accomplishment.

Dr. McElmurray was also a founding member of the Upper Midlands Rural Health Network (UMRHN) and called the first meeting on March 25, 2004. He had an innate understanding of the benefits of collaboration and worked to bring the Chester and Fairfield County hospitals and health department to the table to enhance partnerships. UMRHN went on to become a 501 (c)(3) organization and later expanded to include Lancaster County.

Over the years, UMRHN has been involved with several projects related to chronic conditions, transitional care, physical activity, and tobacco use. As an organization, UMRHN has brought in nearly \$3.2 million to the region in direct grants. In addition, the Network has worked collaboratively on other projects such as Healthy People Healthy Carolinas, community health workers, and mental/physical integrated care, resulting in an additional \$1.3 million to partner agencies and coalitions.

In 2019, Prisma Health purchased the John A. Martin Primary Health Care Center. It took several years to close out the Community Medicine Foundation's books and records. In 2024, the Board

of the Community Medicine Foundation approached UMRHN to receive the remaining funds for the purpose of establishing a scholarship fund. This fund will be administered by UMRHN for the benefit of its three-county service area in South Carolina. Since Dr. McElmurray believed strongly in education, both for future healthcare professionals as well as for patients who could be empowered to make better decisions for their own health, the UMRHN Board of Directors voted to name it the Dr. Charles McElmurray Scholarship Fund.

DISCLAIMER

The level of scholarship financial aid is dependent on the availability of funds and, therefore, is subject to change each year. The information contained within this handbook applies to scholarship applicants for the current year.

As you chart your career path, please remember that there is a continuous need for dedicated health professionals to work in rural health facilities - people like you who seek a different path and want the fulfillment of working in a community where you are really needed. The McElmurray Scholarship supports your education and provides the foundation for a long and successful career while allowing you to work toward giving back to your community.

The first step is to apply. This handbook provides you with the information you need to submit a complete and eligible application. It is your responsibility to ensure that the information in your application packet is complete. UMRHN places only complete and eligible applications into competition for a scholarship award.

McElmurray scholarship opportunities are highly competitive and there are no guarantees that you will receive an award. All applicants will be reviewed for a potential award offer. Selected applicants will be notified to submit additional documents to complete the selection process within 30 days upon notification. Applicants not selected for an award will receive a non-selected letter.

And remember, there's no guarantee that you will receive an award, so we encourage you to seek financial aid and assistance from other sources as well.

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INTRODUCTION

This scholarship offers qualified health profession students a unique opportunity to establish an educational foundation as they prepare to pursue a career in rural health. The ultimate goal of the program is to develop the next leaders of rural health. Here is a list of many of the eligible health profession programs.

- Patient Care Technician
- Personal Trainer
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Expanded Duty Dental Assisting
- CNA, LPN, RN, BSN
- Medical Laboratory Technology
- Surgical Technology
- Medical Imaging
- Pre-medicine
- Pre-dentistry
- Behavioral health programs
- B.S. in Public Health
- MPH
- NP
- PA
- MD
- DO

This list is not all-inclusive. If you have questions about whether your program of study is eligible, please contact us. Whether you're just beginning your academic career or preparing to enter the workforce, the McElmurray Scholarship offers a number of options where you can begin your journey to a career in rural health. The McElmurray Scholarship endeavors to remove financial barriers for those interested in a career in the health field, especially in a rural setting. Awards will vary per student, depending on the cost of the program and unmet financial need, and could be as much as \$2,500.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND SELECTION

Eligibility

The following are general eligibility requirements for all applicants.

- You must be a graduate of a South Carolina high school, or have earned a GED or equivalent.
- You must be a United States citizen (US-born or naturalized) or US national to be considered for an UMRHN scholarship; resident aliens are ineligible for a scholarship award.
- New applicants must have a minimum high school grade point average (GPA) of 3.5. Returning applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 from the last academic semester.
- Men age 18-25 must be registered with Selective Service.

Ranking Procedures

The McElmurray Scholarship awards scholarships based on a 100-point ranking system divided among these categories:

- Academic Performance (20 points) – Performance is based on the GPA documented in official transcripts.
- Two Faculty/Employer Evaluations (15 points each for a total of 30) — The evaluations assess how your education and work achievements, interpersonal skills and overall potential will translate into a successful career as a rural health professional.
- Applicant Essays (30 points) – The essay provides you the opportunity to explain the reasons you are applying for a scholarship, your career goals, and how these career goals may help to meet the needs of rural communities. The essays weigh heavily toward your ranking against other applications. UMRHN scores not only on how well the essays are written but also on how well your career goals and desire to serve rural communities are reflected in what you write.
- Geographic points (up to 20 points) – an applicant whose permanent residence is within Chester, Lancaster, or Fairfield counties will receive 10 points. Applicants whose permanent residence is within Fairfield County will receive an additional 10 points.

The Application Review Committee consists of professionals from rural communities. The committee's review scores are used to rank applicants, along with the applicant's program completion date, according to eligible degree programs. All applicants scoring 70 points or higher on the above scale will be considered for a scholarship. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Projected graduation/completion dates may take precedence in identifying applicants for selection for an award.

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

Programs

You must be enrolled in an eligible health profession degree or certificate program to be considered for a scholarship.

Financial Aid

UMRHN pays scholarship financial aid for up to a 12-month period from August 1 through July 31 of the next academic year. This support covers tuition and required fees outlined in the Scholarship Financial Aid section.

Maintaining Eligibility

You must meet the following standards to maintain your eligibility as a scholarship recipient:

- Maintain enrollment status and be in good academic standing, with a minimum GPA of 3.0.
- Be enrolled as a full-time (12 credits per semester) or part-time (6 credits per semester) student for each academic term, per your school's degree program policies.
- Maintain the required hours to meet the graduation or completion of training date as agreed to in your application.
- Submit recipient documentation per McElmurray Scholarship policies.

Scholarship recipients must apply annually to extend their scholarship. The re-application consists of unofficial transcripts, updated evaluations/references, and essay. Extensions will be granted based on your academic record, capability of graduating, and availability of funds.

FINANCIAL AID

Tuition and Required Fees

Scholarship support for all semesters must be requested annually, no later than April 1 at 7:00pm EST.

Approved Course Work and Fees

The McElmurray Scholarship pays for tuition and required fees (calculated by the educational institution) directly applicable to your approved curriculum and scholarship requirements.

Required fees include lab, health unit, and other fees.

You must submit a copy of your scholarship award letter to your school's business office and financial aid office once it is received. This letter officially notifies your school of your participation in the McElmurray Scholarship and includes invoice and payment instructions (allowing your school to bill UMRHN directly). Your scholarship award is dependent on maintaining your approved course load and chosen degree program. Any substantial differences between your official transcripts and degree plan you submit as part of your online application can result in the loss of your scholarship.

Unapproved Course Work

Academic work not required for your approved degree program is not covered under your financial aid package. This includes:

- Dual degree (for example, a Master of Public Health in addition to the degree in your health profession, or a second major in a degree track unrelated to the core health curriculum, such as business administration).
- Courses that must be repeated due to poor academic performance. UMRHN may assist with paying for these courses only if they are taken during summer school.
- Courses unrelated to your approved degree program.
- Audit courses.

OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE

Federal Financial Aid

All applicants are expected to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form, which can be accessed here <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. This form determines what financial aid you might be eligible for and is required by almost all schools.

State-Funded Scholarship & Grant Programs

All applicants are expected to apply for any applicable scholarships that are open to residents of South Carolina. More information can be found here <https://che.sc.gov/students-families-and-military/scholarships-and-grants-sc-residents>

Central Carolina Community Foundation

The Central Carolina Community Foundation, located in Columbia, SC, has an 11-county area including Fairfield County. The Foundation offers more than 200 Scholarships Award Opportunities with one single application, which is open between early January and early March. McElmurray applicants living within the 11-county area (including Fairfield County) are expected to apply to this foundation. More information can be found here <https://www.yourfoundation.org/grants-scholarships/scholarships/>

Fairfield Promise

Fairfield County residents may be eligible for free tuition to Midlands Technical College. Visit this page <https://www.midlandstech.edu/campuses/fairfield-campus> or <https://www.fairfieldsc.com/community/education/midlands-technical-college/the-fairfield-promise> for more information.

Chester Healthcare Foundation

The Chester Healthcare Foundation provides scholarships for students from Chester County. Proof of residence is required. Please call the Chester Healthcare Foundation at 803-581-2027 to find out more information.

Foundation for the Carolinas

The Foundation for the Carolinas, located in Charlotte, NC offers scholarships between early November and late February. McElmurray applicants living in Lancaster County are expected to apply to this foundation. For more information, please search applicable scholarships here: <https://fftscholarships.communityforce.com/Funds/Search.aspx>

MISCELLANEOUS

Multiple Scholarships, Grants, and Fee Waivers

All scholarship recipients must report their McElmurray Scholarship award to both their school's business office and financial aid office in order to avoid unlawful/unethical duplication of funding. Student loans are not included in this policy since the student will repay the loans after his or her graduation.

Scholarships Carrying a Service Commitment

If you are currently receiving scholarship funds or have a service commitment from any federal or state program, such as the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program (Section 751 of the Public Health Service Act) or the HRSA NURSE Corps, you are not eligible to participate in the McElmurray Scholarship during the school year(s) for which you received those awards.

Benefits from State, Local and Other Federal Sources

If you owe a service commitment for professional practice to a state or other entity under an agreement made before applying for a McElmurray scholarship, you are ineligible for an award unless the state or entity submits a written statement indicating that there is no potential conflict in fulfilling your service commitment.

Veterans Benefits

You may continue to receive education benefit from the US Department of Veteran Affairs (GI Bill) along with McElmurray scholarship funds since VA benefit were earned by prior active duty in a uniformed service.

APPLYING FOR A McELMURRAY SCHOLARSHIP

How to Apply

The application is a two-phase process. Phase One is to complete the online application form. All applicants scoring at least 70 or higher will move to Phase Two where documentation such as transcripts, school acceptance letter, FAFSA, and registration for the Selective Service (if applicable) will need to be provided. All applicants moving to Phase Two will be notified on or before the 30th of April.

The online application, as well as any required supporting documentation, must be completed and sent electronically **no later than April 1 at 7:00 pm Eastern Time**. Meeting the application deadline – or ensuring that those who submit materials for you meet the deadline – is your responsibility. The Scholarship office will not grant an extension after the deadline. You can access the online application here

<https://form.jotform.com/242204249544150>

Phase Two - Supporting Documentation

If you move to Phase Two of the application process, you will be asked to submit the following documentation in support of your application:

- » Official Transcripts: Transcripts must be uploaded from the last school you attended. Transcript(s) must support your intended enrollment classification status.
- » Letter of Acceptance: You are required to provide documentation that you have applied to or have been accepted into an eligible program. The school may have provided this documentation in an email or letter.
- » FAFSA: documentation of unmet need as determined by your FAFSA.
- » Proof of Registration with the Selective Service, for males between the ages of 18 and 25.

You may also be asked for a Curriculum for Major/Degree Plan of Study: This document can be found in your degree program catalog and provides an outline of the courses required for your major from the first year through your graduation.

The McElmurray Scholarship recommends that you make an additional copy of all your application materials to keep for your records.

The information you provide on your application and supporting documentation might be investigated and any willful misrepresentation will be cause to reject your application for a scholarship award. If a scholarship has been awarded, willful misrepresentation will make you liable for repayment of awarded funds.

Disclosure of Information

Awardees will be required to provide either their Social Security number and/or School ID number for purposes of payroll and payments in preparation for a scholarship award. Your award will not be made should you fail to provide this information.

Applicant/recipient data is used for recordkeeping and program management. The name of a scholarship recipient, the school he or she is attending and the date of graduation may be made available to health profession associations and to groups who have responsibility for coordinating funds paid to students from federal and other sources.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Additional scholarship program information and materials can be found on the UMRHN website on this page <https://umrhn.org/program-information>

Please contact Karen Nichols at UMRHN with any questions. Email address is knichols@umrhn.org or phone is 803-377-8026 (this is a landline - no texts received here).

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