



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why did the union start the Teamsters Scholarship Fund?

The General Executive Board (GEB) is responsible for the stewardship of union monies and resources. The GEB appoints representatives to numerous boards of funds and other entities responsible for ensuring the sound management of member resources.

As the member-elected representatives of the union, the GEB believed that funds primarily raised through the solicitation of local unions and Joint Councils should be overseen by a board of trustees appointed by the GEB.

Why can't there just be one scholarship fund?

The International Union contacted the JRHMSF to find a solution for the GEB to make appointments to the fund. The union was advised that the JRHMSF by-laws specifically prohibit the GEB from making appointments to the fund's board of directors or holding a majority of seats.

With resistance from the JRHMSF board and no path forward to bring the fund back under GEB financial oversight, the International Union established the Teamsters Scholarship Fund to ensure that the union continues to raise funds and distribute scholarships into perpetuity.

Why was the JRHMSF made independent of the International Union in 2016?

The decision to remove the fund from GEB oversight and establish it as an independent 501(c)(3) organization followed legal inquiries and an investigation into fundraising activities of the JRHMSF.

From its inception in 1999 until 2016, the board of the JRHMSF included union, vendor, and employer representatives. The fund also was known to give away high-value gift packages and cash drawings during annual golf and poker tournaments in Las Vegas. These giveaways reduced the amount of funding available for scholarship recipients. There were numerous legal concerns raised about the gift packages and cash winnings once regularly dispersed.

With so many conflicts of interest, the union's previous administration removed the JRHMSF from under the GEB. This ensured it could be shielded from independent investigation as well.

Who funded the JRHMSF?

From 1999 until 2016, all JRHMSF administrative and operating costs were paid for by the International Union. The majority of funds raised at the golf and poker tournaments and dinners was paid for by local unions and Joint Councils either through event participation and sponsorship or the purchase of ads in an event ad book. Additional funds were raised by soliciting employers and union vendors for their sponsorship and participation. In 2016, the JRHMSF stopped accepting employer contributions.

Who sits on the board of directors of the James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund?

The JRHMSF Board of Directors are: Richard Bell, Tom Metzinger, Karen Roche, Neil Ditchek and Jim Hoffa. Bell and Metzinger are retired International Union staff members and Ditchek is a former International Union staff member. Karen Roche is an external financial advisor. All were handpicked by Hoffa when the JRHMSF was removed from International Union oversight in 2016. Hoffa was elected to the JRHMSF board following his retirement in 2022. No director has ever been a working Teamster member or elected to local union office.

How much money does the JRHMSF currently have?

According to the most recent available IRS filing, the fund's net assets at the end of 2021 were \$17,494,129.

How much money has the JRHMSF given away in scholarships?

The fund states that they have given away more than \$14,500,000 in scholarships to the children and non-adult dependents of Teamster members. In 2024, the JRHMSF fund says it has distributed \$1,200,000 in scholarships.

What will happen to the JRHMSF?

According to a statement by the JRHMSF on September 21, 2022, the fund has "sufficient funding... to continue its assistance to Teamster children and financial dependents..."

The International Union will continue to promote

JRHMSF applications as it always has — through the magazine, website, and social media platforms. The only change is that the International Union believes that new monies raised from Teamsters affiliates should be directed to the Teamsters Scholarship Fund where appropriate union oversight of the funds will be maintained.

Does this mean I can apply for two different scholarships?

Yes, the children and dependents (this does not include spouses) of Teamsters will be encouraged to apply for scholarships from the Teamsters Scholarship Fund and the JRHMSF.

How will the Teamsters Scholarship Fund raise money?

The union will hold an annual reception with Teamsters affiliates to raise money for the new scholarship fund. All net proceeds from the event will go to Teamsters scholarships.

Is the Teamsters Scholarship Fund a non-profit?

Yes, the Teamsters Scholarship Fund is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Who will pick the Teamsters Scholarship Fund recipients?

International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc. will select the scholarship recipients.

When will applications be available?

The Teamsters Scholarship Fund began awarding scholarships to eligible high school seniors who graduated in the Spring of 2024 and met the TSF criteria. For the 2025 graduating class, applications will be available online November 1, 2024, with an application deadline of May 1, 2025.

How much money will the Teamsters Scholarship Fund disperse and how many recipients will there be?

For the 2024-2025 academic year, the Teamsters Scholarship Fund will distribute at least \$1,200,000 through 600 one-time scholarships for students attending a four-year college or university or a community college, trade school, or vocational school.

Does the Teamsters Scholarship Fund offer scholarships for K-12?

No, scholarships are awarded to high school seniors planning to enroll in a four-year college after graduation, community college transfers, and students who plan to attend trade or vocational schools.

Are scholarships renewable?

No, the scholarships are one-time awards.

Do I need to be the son, daughter, or financial dependent (this does not include spouses) of a Teamster? (Includes members of the BLET, BMWED, and TCRC)

Yes. To qualify for a scholarship, applicants must be the son, daughter or financial dependent (this does not include spouses) of a Teamster (also referred to as "Teamster Member Relation") who qualifies (or, in the case of retirees, has qualified)* as a member in "good standing" in the Teamsters Union as defined in Article X, Section 5 of the International Constitution. (Includes members of the BLET, BMWED, and TCRC.) The children or financial dependents of full-time local union officers or full-time staff of local unions and the International are ineligible.

I completed and passed a General Education Development (GED) test. Am I eligible for a TSF scholarship?

Yes. Students with a GED are eligible for TSF scholarships.

Do you offer scholarships for prospective community college students?

Yes. Students attending a training/vocational program can receive a scholarship if they are attending training or vocational non-baccalaureate programs (Associates programs typically.).

I am a home-schooled student. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes. As long as your home school program will issue you an official high school transcript to submit to the TSF, you are eligible to apply. Additionally, you may submit a transcript produced by your program or the person in charge of your home schooling. However, the transcript must be signed by a credentialed teacher.

What are training or vocational programs related to work in a Teamsters represented industry, class, or craft?

There are no defined programs. However, to apply for the Training and Vocational Scholarship, the chosen program must be related to work in a Teamsters-represented industry, class or craft. These industries include: Airline; Brewery, Bakery & Soft Drink; Building Material & Construction Trade; Carhaul; Convention, Trade Show & Casino; Express; Food Processing; Industrial Trades; Motion Picture & Theatrical Trade; Package; Passenger Transportation; Public Services; Rail; Solid Waste & Recycling; Tankhaul; and Warehouse.

