



MPS and ML Continuing Education Scholarship Program Guidelines

Continuing Education Scholarship Application for Individuals with MPS or ML

The National MPS Society is very supportive of continuing education for individuals diagnosed with MPS or ML. We recognize the challenges these individuals and their families experience and would like to encourage them to continue with their education. Selected applicants are eligible for funding of \$500 for part-time enrollment and \$1,000 for full-time enrollment. The following information outlines the scholarship program.

Please note: The National MPS Society recognizes the unique learning needs of some of our applicants. If you need any assistance in completing this application or require accommodations for this process, please contact Leslie Urdaneta, Family Program Director, at least 2 weeks prior to the deadline at 919-806-0101 or leslie@mpssociety.org.

Applicants may be able to submit supplemental information (such as a video submission) for review or complete an alternative application, if necessary.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Active membership, updated annually, with the National MPS Society (membership may be included with Parent or Legal Guardian if applicant is a dependent).
- U.S. Resident.
- Individual with MPS or ML with a high school diploma or its equivalent or who is a graduating senior.
- Individual with MPS or ML pursuing continued education in an undergraduate or graduate level program at a college, university, a professional/trade school, or an alternative continuing education program.
- For recipients of a scholarship:
 - Proof of enrollment is required to receive the scholarship payment. This may be a copy of a letter of acceptance from the college, university, school, or program or a copy of the upcoming course schedule.
 - An official transcript from high school (for graduating seniors) or current continuing education program (for other applicants) is required.
 - Completion and submission of a payment release form is required for the Society to release funding to the educational institution.
- If currently enrolled in a continuing education program, a GPA is required for review purposes only (there is no minimum GPA to apply).
- Applicants are no longer eligible to apply for funds once they have received a cumulative \$4,000 in continuing education scholarships. This cap does not include any funding received through the Jeffrey Bardsley continuing education scholarship.

Process:

- 1) Only eligible applicants will be considered for funding.
- 2) Strictest confidentiality regarding application, names and funding will be maintained by the applicant and the Society. By applying, the applicant agrees to allow the Society to publicize the scholarship applicant's name and general information, such as hometown, institution attending, goals and aspirations, and specific syndrome if selected for funding. Applicant will be required to submit a brief biography to be used in Society publications.
- 3) Scholarships are awarded one time each year.

- 4) Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. EST on **Sunday, March 7, 2021**. Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.
- 5) All required documentation (*the application, essay, and letter of recommendation*) must be received prior to the application being reviewed. During the application process, you will be asked to enter the contact information for your reference. Your reference will receive an email with specific directions on how to upload your letter of recommendation into the application system, which must be completed by 11:59 p.m. EST on **Monday, March 22, 2021**. Your required letter of recommendation cannot be from a relative. An optional second letter of recommendation can be from a family member or anyone else.
- 6) Previous scholarship recipients may reapply for a scholarship by submitting the scholarship application. Each year's funding is considered individually and should not be assumed to be awarded. Previous scholarship recipients are no longer eligible to apply for funds once they have received a cumulative \$4,000 in continuing education scholarships. This cap is not inclusive of funds received from the Jeffrey Bardsley continuing education scholarship.
- 7) An essay written in your own words (750 words or less) must accompany the application. You are strictly limited to 750 words for your essay.
- 8) The Society will issue a letter to the applicant indicating a funding decision in May.
- 9) Once awarded the scholarship, applicant must submit an official transcript, proof of attendance, and payment release form. Funds will be awarded directly to the institution only when all components have been submitted and reviewed.
- 10) Funding will be paid directly to the attending school. Scholarship recipient must provide the Society with an acceptance letter or proof of attendance and the name and address of the office where the scholarship is to be sent. Payment release request must be received no later than September 1.

Application Review

- 1) Only complete applications will be reviewed.
- 2) All applications for funds will be reviewed by a group of Family Support Committee members and outside reviewers. Applications will undergo a scoring and ranking process, with final review and authorization by the Family Support Committee.
- 3) A check will be written to the institution referencing the selected applicant's name. Payment Release must be received no later than **September 1** or the scholarship will be forfeited. Special circumstances may be considered with advance written request.
- 4) The Family Support Committee's interpretation of the regulations outlining the Continuing Education Scholarship Program and any decisions, including appeals, made by the Committee are binding. The applicant has the right to appeal the Committee's final decision. Appeals can be made to the Board of Directors in writing and must be made within 60 days. The appeal will be reviewed at the next Board meeting.
- 5) All applications will be evaluated by the Family Support Committee using essay, career goals/dreams/aspirations, letter of recommendation, Society and Community involvement, and grammar, neatness, and spelling as guidelines.

For questions or if you need assistance completing the application, please contact Leslie Urdaneta, Family Program Director at 919-806-0101 or at leslie@mpssociety.org.