



WOMEN IN PUBLIC FINANCE  
CHICAGO CHAPTER

# THE CHICAGO CHAPTER OF WOMEN IN PUBLIC FINANCE 2024 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION *DUE JUNE 1, 2024*

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The Chicago Chapter of Women in Public Finance (“Chicago WPF”) ([www.chicagowpf.com](http://www.chicagowpf.com)) is a 501(C)(6) non-profit organization for Chicagoland women in the public finance industry. Chicago WPF is a chapter of the national organization, Women in Public Finance, which was founded in 1997 with a focus on the Midwest region but has since expanded to include 23 chapters across the United States. Chicago WPF was established in 2016.

Participants in Chicago WPF include state, local government and not-for-profit issuers, and public finance bankers, attorneys, financial advisors, rating agency analysts, bond insurers, and trust officers, among others. The organization is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors.

We encourage women who are interested in a public finance career to apply for a scholarship to support their professional and educational goals.

### ***What is Public Finance?***

Public Finance (also known as Municipal Finance) generally refers to how governments and certain nonprofits raise and spend money for their services and capital needs. Individuals who work in public finance assist all types of governments and quasi-governmental entities, nonprofit healthcare providers, and educational and cultural institutions obtain the necessary financial resources (such as through the sale of tax-exempt bonds) to fund certain capital and infrastructure projects, including hospitals, roads, parks, water and sewer infrastructure, and police/fire stations, and working capital needs.

### **Scholarship Program**

In keeping with its tradition of supporting women who aspire to achieve successful careers in the public finance industry, Chicago WPF offers three annual scholarships.

- The **Dana Marinacci Scholarship** for female students interested in public finance with a particular focus on government (\$2,000);
- The **Founder’s Scholarship** for female students broadly interested in public finance (\$2,000); and
- The **Claire Goodman Memorial Scholarship** for female students interested in public finance with a particular focus on financial services or advisory work (\$2,000).

The purposes of the Chicago WPF Scholarships are to:

- Encourage young women to consider careers in public finance.
- Recognize women who are enrolled in undergraduate or graduate school and who have exhibited scholastic achievement and leadership skills.
- Provide an opportunity for award recipients to network with women established in the public finance industry and learn about various career options and opportunities available to them.

## Scholarship Program Overview and Qualifications

Chicago WPF operates a scholarship program that currently provides \$6,000 in scholarship funds (three scholarships of \$2,000) per year, as may be adjusted annually based on the financial resources of the organization.

For 2024, scholarships will be awarded to a subset of applicants who meet the following required criteria:

1. A female Chicagoland resident enrolled in an institution of higher education in the fall/winter of 2024-2025 and in good academic standing;
2. Who exhibits leadership skills through extracurricular activities, work experience, volunteer positions, and/or community service;
3. With an interest in pursuing a public finance-related career, which may include the fields of finance, banking, government, non-profit, advisory or trust services or law; and
4. Who complete and submit the following documents, which comprise one (1) complete scholarship packet. It is preferred that documents be submitted as a single PDF:
  - a. The 2024 Scholarship Application Form (see attached)
  - b. Resume or CV with your work, volunteer and extracurricular experiences
  - c. The Public Finance Interest Essay Submission (see attached)
  - d. Copies of your official academic transcripts that reflect no less than one year of completed course work; however, a longer academic history is welcomed. Transcripts will only be accepted in PDF format.
5. All completed scholarship packets are to be sent via e-mail in a single PDF file to [info@chicagowpf.com](mailto:info@chicagowpf.com) **and must be received no later than 11:59 P.M., Central Time, on June 1, 2024.**

Please note that incomplete applications or applications submitted in formats other than described above, including multiple documents or files, will not be reviewed. In the event an applicant is not able to submit an application in the format requested, please email Chicago Women in Public Finance at [info@chicagowpf.com](mailto:info@chicagowpf.com) for assistance.

## Selection and Recognition

Chicago WPF will select scholarship recipients based on the qualifications of the candidate as demonstrated by the completed application, including official transcripts and the submitted essay. Scholarship awards will be sent directly to the recipient's institution of higher education no later than August 15 for the upcoming academic year. Before scholarship amounts are dispersed to the institution, the recipient must provide (i) proof of college or graduate school registration and (ii) appropriate contact information for the individual/department at their institution of higher education to which the scholarship check should be sent.

The scholarship recipients will be notified no later than August 1 and the winners will be posted on the Chicago WPF website ([www.chicagowpf.com](http://www.chicagowpf.com)).

Winners of the Chicago Chapter of Women in Public Finance scholarships will be automatically advanced to the National Women in Public Finance (WPF) organization for consideration of an additional scholarship award from National WPF. In 2023, National WPF awarded 5 scholarships totaling \$15,000. The first place winner received \$5,000 and the remaining four winners received \$2,500 each.

## APPLICATION GUIDELINES

To be considered, the application form must be completed in full. Please do **not** add your name to any of the essay pages.

All applicants must submit copies of their most recent, official academic transcripts that reflect all completed undergraduate or graduate coursework. Transcripts will only be accepted in PDF format and the entire scholarship packet (the completed application form, all transcripts, and essay) should be submitted as one (1) PDF document.

An updated scholarship packet can be submitted prior to the stated deadline after initially sending a scholarship packet. However, applicants must also include and resubmit ALL documents that comprise their FULL scholarship packet, since only the last submission will be evaluated.

### ***Any further questions?***

Please contact **Chicago Women in Public Finance** at [info@chicagowpf.com](mailto:info@chicagowpf.com).

# 2024 CHICAGO WPF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

<b>First Name:</b>	<b>Last Name:</b>	
<b>Mailing Address:</b>		
<b>City:</b>	<b>State:</b>	<b>Zip Code:</b>
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Email Address:</b>	

<b>School you will attend in the fall 2024-2025 semester:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Expected Graduation Date:</b>	<b>GPA on a 4.0 Scale:</b>
<b>Prior school if different from above:</b>	
<b>Prior School Address:</b>	
<b>Expected Graduation Date:</b>	

**Certification Statement:**

I certify the statements made in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief and I understand the statements may be verified. I also understand providing false or incomplete information in this application and/or in any other supporting documents may cause me to be disqualified for scholarship consideration and/or receipt of scholarship funds.

**Applicant's signature:**

**Date:**

(Enter electronic signature above or print completed form and sign)

**Disclaimer:** Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their submissions are complete and received by 11:59 PM Central Time on the deadline date. Chicago WPF will not consider scholarship packets that are submitted by means other than electronic submission to [info@chicagowpf.com](mailto:info@chicagowpf.com), scholarship packets that are incomplete, or scholarship packets that arrive late, regardless of the reason.

# ESSAY SUBMISSION

- a. Do not include your name on any of the essay pages.
- b. Your response should be no fewer than 500-words (minimum) and no more than 750-words (maximum). Responses may be single- or double-spaced.

## **Public Finance Interest Essay**

Public Finance, like the rest of the financial sector, has historically been a male-dominated field. The goal of Chicago WPF is to promote leadership and advancement opportunities for women by fostering relationships and providing educational and professional development activities and forums. For this essay please articulate why you are interested in Public Finance and how Chicago WPF can help you achieve your future goals. Please limit your response to 750 words.

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