

RFA: Addiction Professionals Scholarship Program Funding

OVERVIEW

On October 7th, the New York State (NYS) Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) released a one-time scholarship funding opportunity for addiction professionals who are accepted into or currently enrolled either full-time or part-time in one of the eligible programs below:

- Master of Social Work (MSW) or Master of Mental Health Practitioner (MHP); or
- OASAS-approved Certified Prevention Professional (CPP), Certified Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC), Credentialed Prevention Specialist (CPS), or gambling specialty designation educational programs.

The goal of this scholarship program is to assist OASAS-certified providers with employee retention and professional development.

The full RFA is available [here](#). Applications are due on December 9th.

FUNDING

OASAS will provide one-time funding for each scholarship category as follows:

Scholarship Category	Maximum Award Amount
MSW or MHP program meeting NYS licensure requirements	\$30,000 (up to \$15,000 per consecutive academic year)
OASAS-approved CASAC, CPP, CPS, or gambling specialty designation program meeting OASAS credentialing requirements	\$5,000 to be completed within one year of award

OASAS anticipates providing at least one award per scholarship category in each of the following Economic Development Zones (EDZs):

- Western New York
- Finger Lakes
- Southern Tier
- Central New York
- North Country
- Mohawk Valley
- Capital District
- Hudson Valley
- New York City
- Long Island

Awards may only be used for tuition costs and cannot exceed tuition costs after all funding sources (i.e. grants and scholarships) have been applied.

Applicants may only submit one application per scholarship category per EDZ. OASAS providers must submit the application on behalf of their employees and may only apply for one scholarship category per employee.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants must be not-for-profit agencies that operate OASAS-certified treatment programs or OASAS-certified or funded prevention programs. Hospitals, local government units, and proprietary entities are not eligible to apply.

The employee whom the applicant is recommending for the scholarship program must meet the following criteria:

- At least one-year of employment history with the applicant;
- Not currently on disciplinary probation or involved in any disciplinary action; and
- Accepted into or enrolled in one of the eligible education programs outlined above.

Additionally, for MSW or MHP program scholarship categories, applicants must demonstrate at least a 2.5 GPA where coursework has already been completed in a matriculated MSW or MHP program and must indicate how they will fulfill the requirements for a CASAC in addition to the MSW or MHP degree.

APPLICATION

Applications will be divided by EDZ and scholarship category and reviewed to verify completeness and eligibility for award. Awards will be made to the first eligible and complete application received for each scholarship category in each EDZ until all funds are expended. At the discretion of OASAS, any unawarded funds in a scholarship category may be used to make additional awards under either scholarship category in any EDZ.

Timeline

Applications may be submitted starting on November 12th until December 9th. Applicants must submit applications via email to Procurements@oasas.ny.gov with the subject line “Addiction Professionals Scholarship Program – OASAS Project No. 19109.”

Questions should be submitted by October 21st to the email address above with the same subject line. Questions and answers will be posted on the OASAS [website](#) on or about October 28th. Awarded applicants are expected to be notified on January 6th.