



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH NURSES FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2026 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Chicago — AAOHN (American Association of Occupational Health Nurses) Foundation is excited to announce that the [2026 Scholarship and Grant Award applications](#) are now open! These scholarships and grants support occupational health nurses who aim to continue their personal, professional, and leadership development, or who aim to support the mission of AAOHN and the AAOHN Foundation by improving the health and safety of workers by advancing the field of occupational and environmental health research. Every year, the AAOHN Foundation awards numerous scholarships and academic study awards to occupational health and environmental nurses who qualify for these funds.

Dr. Stephanie Weinsier, Chair of The AAOHN Foundation states that “the Foundation Board of Trustees is thrilled to announce that with the generous support of our sponsors, AAOHN Fellows, Chapters and Members we were able to fund eleven scholarships and grants in 2025 alone.” The current application period will support several AAOHN members interested in advancing their education by attending the **2026 AAOHN National Conference in April at the Rosen Shingle Creek located in Orlando, FL**. OHNs interested in advancing research within the field of occupational and environmental health nursing will be able to apply for a **research grant to fund their work**. Weinsier says “the Foundation is pleased to announce the **AAOHN Foundation Certification Scholarship is open year-round** to support OHNs interested in demonstrating their clinical excellence through American Board of Occupational Health Nurses Board Certification as a COHN or COHN-S”. The Foundation Trustees consider ABOHN board certification a mark of prestige, the key to advancing an OHN's career and earning potential, and a vital step toward protecting the health and safety of employees, the businesses they serve, and the communities in which they live and work. “ABOHN's longevity as the sole certifying body for occupational health nurses in the United States for over fifty years makes this collaboration between the Foundation, the ABOHN and AAOHN a valuable partnership, enabling OHNs to gain prestige and achieve a sense of personal and professional satisfaction by demonstrating their knowledge, competence, and expertise as a certified OHN/OHN-S. Achieving certification also enables them to be recognized for their achieved level of excellence and commitment to lifelong learning. The Foundation Trustees are pleased to administer these scholarships to support OHNs across the US who are either AAOHN national or local chapter members to successfully prepare for and complete this certification process and want to recognize a longtime sponsor Dr. Joe Fanucci for his financial support of this collaborative endeavor.”

To qualify for these funds, AAOHN Member applicants must meet a strict set of criteria, demonstrate a commitment to professional development and contribute to the future of occupational and environmental health nursing, and must undergo a competitive review process by experts within the field.

We are grateful to our generous AAOHN [Foundation Sponsors](#), chapters and fellows who have contributed to making these awards available and are extremely proud of our [past recipients](#) who characterize

occupational health nurses committed to advancing the health, safety, and well-being of workers and the businesses and communities they serve.

AAOHN Foundation Call-to-Action: The AAOHN Foundation has pledged to **MATCH member donations** (up to \$3,000) to support OEHN academic advancement, particularly now that shifts in funding to [NIOSH](#) and the [Education and Research Centers \(ERCs\)](#) are directly impacting OHNs actively engaged in graduate and post-graduate occupational health, safety and medical training, research, and continuing education and outreach. The Foundation recognizes the impact of these efforts to provide an adequate supply of qualified personnel to deliver interdisciplinary care, respond rapidly to deliver emergency response, support worker health and safety, and ensure the development of the future workforce. **We urge you to [make a tax-deductible financial contribution online](#) now to support occupational health nurses**, enabling us collectively to support an additional FOUR students who are pursuing their OHN specialty academic studies. Combined with the current funding, this would provide funding for a total of SIX students to continue their academic studies or research advancement in 2026.

TOGETHER, we can continue to protect the health and safety of America's workers and workplaces. Thank you for your partnership.

To learn more about the AAOHN Foundation and opportunities for support, visit <https://www.aaohn.org/AAOHN-Foundation/The-AAOHN-Foundation>

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About the AAOHN Foundation

The American Association of Occupational Health Nurses Foundation (AAOHN Foundation) is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, created by the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses Inc. (AAOHN) in 1997 to enable occupational and environmental health professionals to improve worker health and safety by preventing workplace illnesses and injuries. These purposes are accomplished through grants and scholarships to support scholarship awards to support ongoing professional education; leadership development; and grants for research initiatives.

AAOHN comprises more than 30 chapters located across the United States, US territories, and the world, with international membership. The AAOHN Foundation is committed to ensuring that occupational and environmental health nurses are seen as the authority on health, safety, productivity, and disability management for worker populations by providing them the opportunity to continue their education and conduct research which supports the sustainability of the profession. To learn more about the AAOHN Foundation, visit <https://www.aaohn.org/AAOHN-Foundation/The-AAOHN-Foundation>.