

FUTURE LEADER AWARDS

The Choose Chicago Future Leader Award is a **merit-based opportunity** that recognizes students who demonstrate their commitment and passion for the hospitality and tourism industries.

Winners will be selected annually to each receive a \$5,000 award to apply to their educational costs (i.e. tuition, room and board, and other associated expenses).

SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS

Recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, professional and internship experience, relevant volunteer experience, educational and/or professional recommendations, and an essay that includes a statement of career and educational aspirations and goals. See specific eligibility guidelines.

The Future Leader Award is open to all students meeting the criteria below. However, additional consideration is given to applicants who are hospitality/tourism or related majors and who have experience in the hospitality/tourism industry.

ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS

Award applicants must fulfill the following requirements to qualify for consideration:

- Choose Chicago Student Partner
- 3.0 GPA or above
- Undergraduate or Graduate Student enrolled full-time in an accredited college or university in the Chicagoland area
- All academic majors are eligible to apply



FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL
[SCHOLARSHIPS@CHOOSECHICAGO.COM](mailto:scholarships@choosechicago.com)



SUBMIT BY
March 9, 2026



APPLICATION

Submit the following materials in ONE PDF document to scholarships@choosechicago.com:

- Completed application form
- College Transcript
 - We will accept a current, complete, unofficial transcript including student name, school name, grade point average, grades and credit hours for each course and term in which each course was taken.
- 1 Page Resume or Resume Form
 - The resume form can be found with the application form
 - Resume form should only be used if you do not have a professional resume
- Two (2) Letters of Recommendation
 - We suggest at least one from a current or former employer/industry professional
- A typed 1,000-word essay
- Select one of the three topics below for your essay:
 1. Tell us about a time you demonstrated leadership to overcome an obstacle
 2. Tell us about one of your favorite industry experiences and the impact it had on you
 3. Why do you want to work in hospitality and what do you hope to achieve in your career?
- Applicants should be prepared for an interview if selected as a finalist

