

To: Maine Principals, Assistant Principals, Guidance Directors, School Counselors, JMG Specialists, CTE Assistant Directors
From: Rebecca Lambert, MMA Municipal Issues Specialist
Date: January 3, 2025
RE: Scholarship Opportunity for High School Seniors - MMA Douglas M. Eugley Scholarship for Public Service

The Maine Municipal Association (MMA) is pleased to announce that the scholarship for Maine high school seniors planning to enter post-secondary education to pursue a career in municipal government or public service, is open to accepting applications for the 2025 year. We hope you will encourage your students to apply.

MMA is committed to growing the next generation of municipal leaders and, as such, employs two programs to aid in the promotion of workforce development and citizen education: the 7th Grade Essay Contest and the MMA Summer Municipal Intern Grant program administered in partnership with the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center's Maine Government Summer Internship Program.

To bridge the gap between the two programs that allows for high school level involvement, the MMA Executive Committee approved a staff recommendation to fund a new scholarship program in 2023 to support that effort—The Douglas M. Eugley Scholarship for Public Service. The goal for this program is to enhance and support workforce development within public service professions and/or municipal government and to encourage future leaders within our communities.

MMA values the commitment its own employees show to their communities and encourages staff to be involved and to volunteer. Douglas M. Eugley was employed by MMA for 15 years in the finance department as a Senior Accountant. He was unfortunately diagnosed with cancer in 2020 and succumbed to his illness quickly thereafter.

In life, Doug gave back to his community by serving on the Sidney select board for nearly 14 years. After his time on the board, he filled the role of town moderator and served on the appeals board and budget committee, in addition to various other roles.

Doug was very involved with his children's lives, which included coaching youth sports. Not only were his children members of the teams he coached, but each player became one of "his kids" and this extended to their families as well. He loved working with all of them and being part of the fabric of his community.

True to form Doug wrote his own obituary, which highlighted his wit and humor. This humor kept coworkers, municipal colleagues, friends, and family laughing—his presence is greatly missed. Doug was also passionate about education and to that end MMA thought was appropriate to honor his commitment to local government service through the implementation of a scholarship in his name.

Program Details

The program consists of five (5) \$1,000 scholarships and is open to all Maine high school seniors to apply for one scholarship.

Eligibility Requirements: This program is open to any Maine high school senior who plans to further their education at a community college, trade school or university, located in Maine, with the intent of pursuing a career in municipal government or public service.

Application Process: To apply, a student must complete an application form and submit it along with one letter of reference from a person not related to the applicant and an essay, video, **OR** a creative presentation about the topic “What Public Service Means to Me.” Creative presentations are encouraged and can be in any form the candidate chooses, such as a video, PowerPoint presentation, or a story map.

Essay Details: Essays must be no more than 2,000 words, double spaced in 12-point font, and printed on plain paper, if submitted by postal service. Electronic submissions will be accepted without the paper requirement.

Video or Creative Presentations Details: Videos must be no longer than eight minutes and adhere to the theme of “What Public Service Means to Me,” and submitted electronically, or on a thumb drive, with a workable link or attachment for viewing. Applications that contain links that do not work will not be considered.

MMA encourages creative presentations as an alternative way for students to convey the theme of “What Public Service Means to Me”. Presentations, if video, must be no longer than eight minutes and adhere to the stated theme. Presentations must be submitted physically or electronically with a workable link or attachment for viewing. Applications that contain links that do not work will not be considered.

Please note thumb drives containing application materials will be accepted in-person at the MMA office building during normal business hours which are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday, at 60 Community Drive, Augusta. Thumb drives will not be returned.

Application materials and work submitted will be judged by a panel, selected at the discretion of MMA. The letter of reference can be from a teacher, coach, or community member, but must NOT be related to the applicant.

Timeline: Applications are being accepted now and the application deadline is April 30.

Winners will be selected and notified in May, followed by a press release and an article in the following issue of the Maine Town & City magazine.

Scholarship Award: Award money will be deposited into the winning student’s account at their designated educational institution. Alternative methods of disbursement may be considered on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of MMA. For example, an alternative method of disbursement could include covering up to \$1,000 of the cost of a standalone training program that provides certification for a public service position.

Completed applications packets can be dropped off at our business office located at 60 Community Drive, Augusta, or emailed to Rebecca Lambert, at rlambert@memun.org.