



## **Request for Proposals (RFP)**

### **iMasons Foundation**

#### **Local Chapter Scholarship Grants Program (Cycle 1 of 4)**

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### **I. Background & Purpose**

The iMasons Foundation is committed to strengthening the digital infrastructure industry by expanding access to education, training, and workforce pathways that prepare individuals for long-term careers across data centers, networks, cloud, AI infrastructure, and related fields.

As demand for digital infrastructure continues to grow, so does the need for a skilled, diverse, and future-ready workforce. Local iMasons chapters—led entirely by volunteers—are uniquely positioned to understand regional talent needs, build relationships with educators and employers, and support individuals entering or advancing within the industry.

Through the Local Chapter Scholarship Grants Program, the iMasons Foundation seeks to:

- Support education and training aligned with digital infrastructure careers
  - Empower local chapters to invest directly in workforce development
  - Strengthen regional talent pipelines that benefit the industry as a whole
  - Keep participation accessible and administratively light for volunteer-led chapters
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### **II. Funding Overview**

- Grant Type: Scholarship support grants
- Award Amount: No minimum or maximum award amount
- Award Period: Up to 12 months from the date of award
- Number of Awards: Dependent on available funding

Grant amounts will be determined based on proposal scope, readiness, and anticipated impact.

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### **III. Eligible Applicants**

Eligible applicants include:

- Official iMasons local chapters in good standing
  - Chapters led by volunteers with the capacity to administer scholarships
  - Chapters that designate a single point of contact for coordination and reporting
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### **IV. Program Priorities**

Proposals should demonstrate a clear benefit to the digital infrastructure workforce.

Priority will be given to proposals that support individuals who are entering or advancing within digital infrastructure-related fields, including but not limited to:

- Data center operations and facilities
- Network, fiber, and connectivity infrastructure
- Cloud, edge, and AI infrastructure
- Engineering, construction, or technical operations roles

Priority populations may include (but are not required to be limited to):

- Community college or technical program students
  - Veterans and transitioning service members
  - Career switchers or reskilling professionals
  - Individuals historically underrepresented in the digital infrastructure workforce
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### **V. Use of Funds**

#### **Allowable Uses**

Grant funds may be used to support scholarships or stipends for:

- Tuition or program fees
- Books, materials, tools, or required equipment
- Industry-relevant certifications or credentials
- Accredited training programs, certificates, or degree pathways

Supported education or training should reasonably align with digital infrastructure career pathways.

### **Non-Allowable Uses**

Grant funds may not be used for:

- Chapter operating expenses
  - General event sponsorships
  - Marketing or administrative overhead
  - Travel unrelated to education or training
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## **VI. Application Requirements**

Applicants will be asked to provide the following information:

### 1. Chapter Overview

- Chapter name
- Primary point of contact (name, role, email)
- Brief description of the chapter's interest in workforce development

### 2. Scholarship Plan

- Who the scholarships will support (target population)
- Type of education or training to be supported
- Estimated number of recipients
- Approximate scholarship amount per recipient (if known)

### 3. Workforce Alignment

- How the proposed scholarships align with digital infrastructure careers
- Type of outcome expected (e.g., certificate, credential, training completion)

### 4. Partnerships (Optional)

- Any education providers, employers, or community partners involved
- Brief description of their role

### 5. Timeline

- Anticipated start and end timeframe
- Key milestones (e.g., recruitment, award distribution)

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## **VII. Reporting & Accountability**

*(Light-touch and outcomes-focused)*

Funded chapters will be required to submit a brief report at the end of the grant period.

Required reporting will include only the following measurable KPIs:

- Number of scholarship recipients supported
- Total grant funds distributed
- Type(s) of education or training supported
- Number of participants who completed training or earned a credential (if known)
- Any known next-step outcomes (e.g., internship, job placement, continued education)

Optional (but encouraged):

- Short anonymized success stories or testimonials

No financial audits, detailed budgets, or individual-level personal data will be required.

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## **VIII. Review & Selection Criteria**

Proposals will be reviewed based on:

- Alignment with digital infrastructure workforce pathways
  - Clarity and feasibility of the scholarship plan
  - Demonstrated local need or opportunity
  - Chapter readiness to execute
  - Potential for simple, measurable outcomes
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## **IX. Submission Information**

- Submission Deadline: [Insert date]
  - Submission Method: [Insert application link]
  - Questions: [Insert contact information]
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## **X. About the iMasons Foundation**

The iMasons Foundation works to build a resilient, inclusive, and future-ready digital infrastructure workforce by aligning education, industry, and opportunity. Through scholarships, partnerships, and workforce initiatives, the Foundation supports pathways that strengthen both individuals and the industry.