



2026 Catersource Scholarship Application Information - Practice Application starts on page 3

Scholarships are awarded based on the potential impact attending Catersource will have on the applicant's career in catering. Numerous applications per company may be submitted for the conference, although a maximum of two (2) per company **(and its subsidiaries)** will be awarded. All information is kept confidential, and only the name of the recipient and the company name will be released.

The scholarship includes a Catersource Education pass for the conference. **In addition, a \$500.00 travel stipend will be paid to the company and paid post-conference once the recipient submits their post-conference essay.** The package does not include social functions—those are the responsibility of the recipient. The recipient is responsible for coordinating their own travel and expenses, including transportation, lodging, meals, etc.

NOTE: If you have won an ICAEF/GROW scholarship twice before, you are not eligible to apply.

Application Procedure:

The scholarship application must be submitted online personally by the individual seeking the scholarship and include:

1. Scholarship application from the individual through the online portal. The application must be completed in its entirety **on or prior to 11:59pm on OCTOBER 31, 2025 (Pacific time).**
2. All questions must be answered. Your responses will be judged based upon their completion.
3. Supporting recommendation letters – **MINIMUM of two (2) letters of recommendation** one of which should be from the owner of the company (if owner is not the applicant) will be required. Instructions for references are available on the online portal.

Selection of Scholarship Recipients:

All applications will be reviewed by a non-partisan outside entity committee based on criteria developed from the Scholarship Committee of The GROW Foundation, administered by the Arizona Community Foundation.

Selection will be based on several criteria:

- The potential impact of attending Catersource will have on the applicant's career in catering, the company they work for and their involvement in the industry as a whole.

International Caterers Association Educational Foundation (ICAEF, now DBA as The GROW Foundation)

Tax ID #26-0000930

8711 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, #104, Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Phone: 480.513.0756 (Arizona time)

www.growcatering.org



- Measurable accomplishments of the individual that would constitute a major contribution to the sponsoring company or the industry in general.
- Content of the answers to all questions demonstrating career intent for the catering/hospitality industry, and why the applicant believes they are deserving of this scholarship. Desire and strong initiative to seek out educational opportunities that have potential to impact career.
- Supporting recommendation letters.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED ONLINE WITH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION BY 11:59pm on OCTOBER 31, 2025 (Pacific time).

Once received by ACF, you will receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive this, you may email scholarship@azfoundation.org to verify that we have received your completed application.

All applications and supporting documents become the property of The GROW Foundation and will not be returned. Only fully completed applications with the original supporting documents received on or before the published deadline date for submission will be considered.

Because all scholarship applications are reviewed by an independent organization (Arizona Community Foundation), members of the **ICA Board** and their staff and the **GROW Foundation/ICAEF Board** and their staff ARE eligible for scholarships.

If you have any questions, please email Corinne Dudine at czd@growcatering.org



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PRACTICE APPLICATION ONLY FOR A GROW FOUNDATION MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

All actual applications must be completed through the online portal.

Applicant's First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Parent Company Name: _____

Subsidiary (DBA) Name: _____

COMPANY Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

Work Email: _____

IG Link (Company): _____

IG Link (Applicant Personal): _____

Company Owner's First Name: _____ Owner's Last Name: _____

Company Owner's Email: _____

The person requesting the scholarship is:

_____ Owner

_____ Management

_____ Operations Manager

_____ Equipment Manager

_____ Sales Staff

_____ Chef

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_____ Line Cook
_____ Service Staff
_____ Other (please specify) _____

What is your main responsibility with your catering operation? _____

How long have you worked within the hospitality industry? _____

The catering operation is a: _____ for profit catering concern or _____ not-for-profit catering concern

The catering operation has been in business since: _____

Gross sales volume of the company (CHECK ONE):

\$1,000,000 And Below _____

\$1-3 Million _____

\$3-5 Million _____

Over \$5 Million _____

The catering operation has been in business since: _____

Has any member of your company attended a Catersource or Art of Catering Food conference in the past? _____ Yes _____ No

Please indicate conference name (s) and year(s): _____

Have you attended a previous conference? _____ Yes or _____ No If yes, number of times: _____

Are you a past winner of an ICAEF/GROW Foundation Scholarship?

_____ Yes or _____ No – what year(s)?

All Scholarships:

- All applications should submit a minimum of two (2) recommendation letters – one from the owner of the company (if not the applicant) and at least one other professional in the industry, up to three letters.

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Answer the following questions completely and thoughtfully:

1) Why do you want to attend the Catersource Conference & Trade Show?

2) What do you hope to learn at the conference? _____

3) What is the value to your company of you attending this conference? _____

4) How will you inform others within your organization about what you learn? _____

5) How do you envision your future in the catering field? _____

6) What do you hope to accomplish or achieve? _____

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- 7) Please list any professional accomplishments relating to contributions to your current employer concerning cost savings, innovation, creativity, and/or leadership that have benefitted the company or industry. Have you received any special recognition from your company?
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-

-
- 8) Please list any educational opportunities you've participated in to further your career or professional activities you may engage in outside of your company.
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Award Terms & Conditions:

- If you leave the employment of your company prior to the conference, the scholarship will be rescinded. Scholarships are non-transferable.
- If your company is no longer in operation, we reserve the right to cancel this scholarship.
- All winners will automatically be a GROW Foundation ambassador.
- You acknowledge that you are responsible for securing and paying for your own travel and entertainment, including but not limited to airfare and ground transportation, lodging, meals, etc.

The scholarship includes a Catersource education package **registration for the conference. In addition, a \$500.00 TRAVEL STIPEND will be paid to the COMPANY and paid post-conference, once the recipient submits their post-conference survey.** Package does not include social functions – those are the responsibility of the recipient. Candidate is responsible for coordinating their own travel and expenses including transportation, lodging, meals, etc.

- **All winners of a scholarship must attend the MANDATORY Recipient/Sponsor Reception that is scheduled for Monday, March 2, 2026 from 5-7pm at a location TBA. A group photo will be taken at this time.**

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- **All winners must submit an essay** to The GROW Foundation post-conference outlining what receiving this scholarship from The GROW Foundation meant to you and how you will take that knowledge back to your company **no later than two weeks after the conference.** (Summary shall be no less than 300 words and be typed pages. This may be used for marketing purposes.)
- All winners will have their photograph taken by a professional photographer and the photo may be used for marketing purposes and posted on social media.

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