

Joan Benso Professional Development Fund Scholarship Application - Cycle Two

...dedicated to strengthening child advocacy in Pennsylvania through strong leaders

The purpose of the Joan Benso Professional Development Fund (JBF) is to promote professional development for emerging child advocates throughout Pennsylvania by providing one-time scholarship opportunities to qualified individuals. This fund was created to recognize Joan Benso, former President and CEO of Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, for her decades of service and long list of achievements that led to the betterment of the lives of Pennsylvania children before her retirement in 2018.

JBF scholarships will support nonprofit leaders in Pennsylvania's child-serving fields to enhance their management and leadership skills. Most nonprofit leaders have advanced their careers through their expertise in human services and their passion for the mission of their organization, and while leaders are proficient in the technical aspects of the agencies they serve, some may lack the broader leadership skills needed to assure the future viability of their organizations.

What the Scholarship Covers:

Applicants will self-select professional development opportunities to improve their skills and knowledge in one or more of the following areas:

- Financial management
- Personnel management/human resources
- Marketing/fundraising
- Communications
- Government relations/policy advocacy
- Board governance
- Strategic planning
- Leadership style

Scholarships will be awarded in the form of cash of up to \$10,000 per applicant to be used solely to underwrite the direct and indirect costs (i.e., travel, hotel, meals) of pre-approved educational opportunities, including but not limited to certification programs, personal coaching, and skill-specific seminars or training courses.* The award is non-transferable.

*graduate/undergraduate work not eligible

Successful candidates must:

- Be serving in an upper management capacity for a Pennsylvania-based charitable nonprofit organization, such as a 501c3, whose mission, in some part, involves advocating for the betterment of children's lives; this includes direct responsibility for shaping the organization's mission, policies, and major programs
- Have at least one-year experience at their current organization, and at least one year in their current role
- Be prepared to serve at least the next two (2) to three (3) years at their current organization or five (5) or more years total at like organizations dedicated to child advocacy
- Obtain a letter of recommendation from their current employer

How to Apply:

Please include the required items (see below) and e-mail the completed application to the Joan Benso Professional Development Fund at joanbensofund@gmail.com. If sending hard copies, please mail materials to:

Joan Benso Professional Development Fund
200 North Third Street, 13th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

- ✓ Completed application form
- ✓ Copy of your organization's mission and purpose, annual operating budget, and current progress/annual report
- ✓ Personal resume
- ✓ Letter of recommendation from either your organization's President/CEO (if not the applicant) or Board chair. This letter, at a minimum, should address the following:
 - How long the reference has known the applicant and in what capacity
 - How this professional development scholarship will help the applicant/the organization
 - One or two sentences that define this person as a child advocacy leader (i.e., background, experience, community involvement, social responsibility) to assist the selection committee in its evaluation process

Application/Scholarship Timeline:

- Tuesday, September 7, 2021: application process opens
- Friday, October 29, 2021: deadline for submission of completed applications
- By Wednesday, December 22, 2021: announcement of scholarship awards
- December 31, 2022: deadline for completion of educational opportunity and submission of final report (exceptions may be granted based on duration of training opportunity)

Acknowledgement of JBF Supporting Organizations:

The monetary contributions of the following organizations, which have made this scholarship fund possible, are deeply appreciated:

- The Grable Foundation
- Heinz Endowments
- William Penn Foundation
- Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children Board of Directors (operating reserves fund)



THE GRABLE FOUNDATION
dedicated to improving the lives of children

THE HEINZ ENDOWMENTS
HOWARD HEINZ ENDOWMENT • VIRA I. HEINZ ENDOWMENT

WILLIAM PENN
FOUNDATION

APPLICATION FORM

Joan Benso Professional Development Fund

Legal Name:

Preferred Name:

Organization:

Title:

Street Address:

City/Zip code:

Preferred Phone Number:

E-mail Address:

Size of Organization:

Annual Operating Budget: \$

Employees (FTE):

Questions (each to be answered in 150 words or less):

1. What are your responsibilities within your organization?
2. What gap(s) do you have in your leadership/management skills that inhibit you from being a more effective advocate for children in Pennsylvania?
3. What specific training opportunity, within this scholarship's parameters, will help you eliminate the above gap(s)? (please attach relevant promotional materials, including date/duration, cost, location, and estimated travel expenses)
4. How will the above training opportunity benefit you/your organization?
5. What other leadership training programs have you attended?
6. In your own words, please explain why you believe you should be awarded this scholarship and how it will make you a better child advocate in Pennsylvania.

Applicant Commitment Acknowledgement:

I am committed to furthering child advocacy in Pennsylvania and foresee that I will be dedicating my career to this effort for at least the next five (5) years. I understand that this scholarship is for my use only and is non-transferable. I also understand that, following the successful completion of an approved training opportunity, I will be required to submit a final progress report, including a financial accounting with receipts, and return any unused funds to the Joan Benso Professional Development Fund.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

#