

the 2026
CRWA Scholarship
Program



CALIFORNIA RURAL WATER

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

THANKS IN ADVANCE TO FUTURE DONORS AND APPLICANTS, FROM THE CRWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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CALIFORNIA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

What is California Rural Water Association?

Incorporated in 1990, California Rural Water Association (CRWA) has emerged as the State's leading association dedicated to providing on-site technical assistance and specialized training for rural water and wastewater systems. Tapping into the expertise of experienced water and wastewater professionals, CRWA's governing Board of Directors, administrative staff, and technical field specialists work in concert to offer CRWA members an expansive range of essential programs and member services.

Whether a system needs help developing a new rate schedule, setting up proper testing methods, understanding those ever-changing and complex government regulations, preparing a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), or updating operator certification requirements, California Rural Water Association is ready with assistance.

CRWA has been approved as an Authorized Provider by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET), 2201 Cooperative Way, Suite 600, Herndon, VA 20171. In obtaining this approval, CRWA has demonstrated that it complies with the ANSI/IACET 1-2018 Standard which is widely recognized as a standard of good practice internationally. As a result of their Authorized Provider membership status, CRWA is authorized to offer IACET CEUs for its programs that qualify under the ANSI/IACET 1-2018 Standard.



CRWA has been approved as an Authorized Provider for REHS Accreditation Agency MS, PO Box 997377, Sacramento, CA 95899-7377. CRWA classes provide student the opportunity to earn REHS Contact Hours and CEUs.



THE ANNUAL CRWA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Sponsored by California Rural Water Association

The California Rural Water Association is pleased to bring the Annual Scholarship Program for the year 2026. This scholarship includes three possible awards. You can apply for both the AWE and Apprenticeship award; however, only one can be won. If applying for both, please indicate “first choice” and “second choice” on top of each application.

- One \$1,100 award towards any AWE course(s) provided by CRWA including lodging and a food stipend.
- Two \$3,000 awards towards the CRWA Apprenticeship Program.

The scholarships are predicated on the idea that as part of the CRWA family we should be doing as much as we possibly can to fulfill the water need of California’s rural communities.

For the AWE Scholarship, anyone with an association with CRWA can apply and applications are being accepted from October 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026. These scholarships will be awarded at our EXPO Annual Banquet to be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at Harvey’s Lake Tahoe Casino & Resort.

For the CRWA Apprenticeship Scholarships, any **Member System** Manager/Supervisor may nominate a qualified employee. The Manager/Supervisor shall submit the application and required documentation by February 28, 2026. These scholarships will be awarded at our Expo Annual Banquet to be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at Harvey’s Lake Tahoe Casino & Resort.

All winners will have their conference registration and lodging paid for by CRWA.

Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of association with the CRWA family, the required paragraph, submission of full application and documentation, and overall quality and appearance of the application.

Your application may be emailed to Candice Jackson at candicej@calruralwater.org, sent by fax to (916) 553-4904, or sent by mail to CRWA, 1234 North Market Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95834.

Thank you in advance for your interest and application.

CRWA Board of Directors



California
Rural Water Association

THE AWE SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by California Rural Water Association

What is AWE

CRWA's Academy of Water of Water Education (AWE) has been the core of our training program for many years. During the 36-hour in-person training course students will receive a thorough introduction into the water and wastewater fields. Each course combines hands-on and formal training instructed by experience industry leaders. A brief overview of courses available is provided below. For more information and a complete course schedule please visit our website www.calruralwater.org.

Water Treatment O&M	This course is designed as an introductory course for Water Treatment and satisfies the 36-hour (3-unit) Specialized Training Requirement for the Grade 2 Water Treatment exam. Upon successful Completion, students will be able to define/identify water treatment concepts, calculate square feet, volume, conversion of flows, pounds formula, mg/L, flow and head, explain the difference between coagulation and flocculation, and explain the purpose of disinfection and factors that influence disinfection.
Water Distribution O&M	This course is designed as an introductory course for Water Distribution and satisfies the 36-hour (3-unit) Specialized Training Requirement for the Grade 2 Water Treatment exam. Upon successful completion, students will be able to define/identify topics such as pipe maintenance and pipe features, reducing agents, trihalomethanes, breakpoint chlorination, and distribution system construction and design.
Backflow Tester Certification	This course focuses on: cross-connection control program regulations, plumbing codes, hydraulics and hazards of backflow, presentation of backflow incidents tester safety training, approved test procedures and diagnosis of possible failures when testing various backflow assemblies, and use of a test simulator to create a variety of failure conditions. A hands-on practical exam and short quiz are conducted on the last day of class.

What is included

The AWE scholarship includes attendance fees, lodging, and a food stipend for the attendee. Courses are held at the CRWA Pat Williams AWE Training Center located in Sacramento, CA.

Who can apply?

Applications are accepted from individuals interested in a career in water and wastewater operations.

AWE APPLICATION

Contact Information

Name _____

Phone Number _____

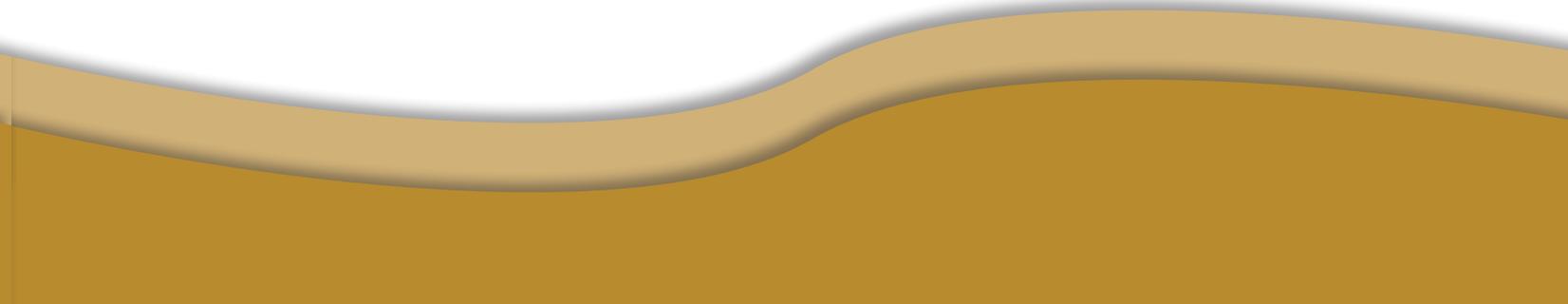
Email Address _____

Mailing Address _____

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Questions

All responses should be submitted on a separate Word or PDF document for our reviewers.

1. How did you hear about the scholarship opportunity?
 2. How are you connected to the CRWA family?
 3. Have you attended any CRWA classes or events? If so, which ones?
 4. Are you willing to attend the conference to receive the award if you are a winner?
 5. Which course(s) would you take if you were to be awarded?
 - Water Treatment Operations and Maintenance*
 - Water Distribution Operations and Maintenance*
 - Backflow Tester Certification*
 6. What are your education or career goals in the next five (5) years?
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THE CRWA APPRENTICESHIP SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by California Rural Water Association

About the CRWA Apprenticeship Program

CRWA Water/Wastewater Specialist apprenticeship program focuses on providing a pathway for employed workers with utilities (incumbent workers) to upgrade and enhance their Technical, Managerial, and Financial understanding and skills in the operation and management of their local utilities. The program is an approved Department of Labor (DOL) Federally Registered Apprenticeship Program. This program consists of 288 hours of formal training combined with 4000 hours of on-the-job experience in the defined work processes as they are stated in the apprenticeship program application packet.

This two-year program is designed to provide qualifications for multiple certifications in operations and safety while providing financial education and a pathway for a utility management certification as well. The water wastewater specialist program also provides pathways for a 2-year associates degree in water and wastewater operations.

Water Operations Specialist

Upon completion of the two-year program an apprentice will receive:

- Backflow tester certification through NCBPA or ABPA
- Utility management certification (based on exam qualifications)
- OSHA10 certification
- Eligible for Grade 2 water treatment and water distribution exam certification
- Eligible for Grade 3 water treatment and water distribution exam certification (upon completion of one year experience as a corresponding grade)

Wastewater Treatment Operations Specialist

Upon completion of the two-year program an apprentice will receive:

- Backflow tester certification through NCBPA or ABPA
 - Utility management certification (based on exam qualifications)
 - OSHA10 certification
 - Eligible for Grade 1 wastewater treatment OIT certification
 - Eligible for Grade 1 wastewater treatment exam certification (upon completion of 1-year experience as an OIT)
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What is included

The apprenticeship scholarship will cover all associated tuition costs. The Apprenticeship Program includes all books and materials including the backflow certification and utility management tester fees.

Who can apply?

Applications are accepted from a **Member System** Manager/Supervisor nominating a qualified employee interested in a career in water and wastewater operations.

APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATION

Contact Information

Name of System _____

Name of Nominated Employee _____

System Contact _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Mailing Address _____



Questions

All responses should be submitted on a separate Word or PDF document for our reviewers.

1. How did you hear about the scholarship opportunity?
2. Have any of your utility employees attended any CRWA Classes or events? If so, which ones?
3. Is your nominee going to be able to attend the conference to receive the award?
4. Which apprenticeship program are you nominating an employee for, Water or Wastewater?
5. What water/wastewater employee do you want to enroll and why?
6. This is a 2-year program. Is your agency willing to commit to providing the hands-on training required for the apprentice and providing the time for the “classroom” work as well as the documentation of work performed?
7. In a paragraph or more, please tell us a little about the employee you are nominating and describe how this apprenticeship program will assist your agency.



California

Rural Water Association

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