

The  
**Rotary**  
Vocational Fund  
of Arizona, Inc



# The Rotary Vocational Fund of Arizona

(TRVFA)

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**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION DOES  
WORK**



**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION  
PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES**



**THE ROTARY VOCATIONAL  
FUND OF AZ HELPS OTHERS  
HELP THEMSELVES**

# What is it?



The Rotary Vocational Fund of Arizona (TRVFA) is a non-profit organization under IRS Code 501(c)(3) whose purpose is to assist those people who qualify under Arizona law to obtain financial assistance to further their vocational studies.

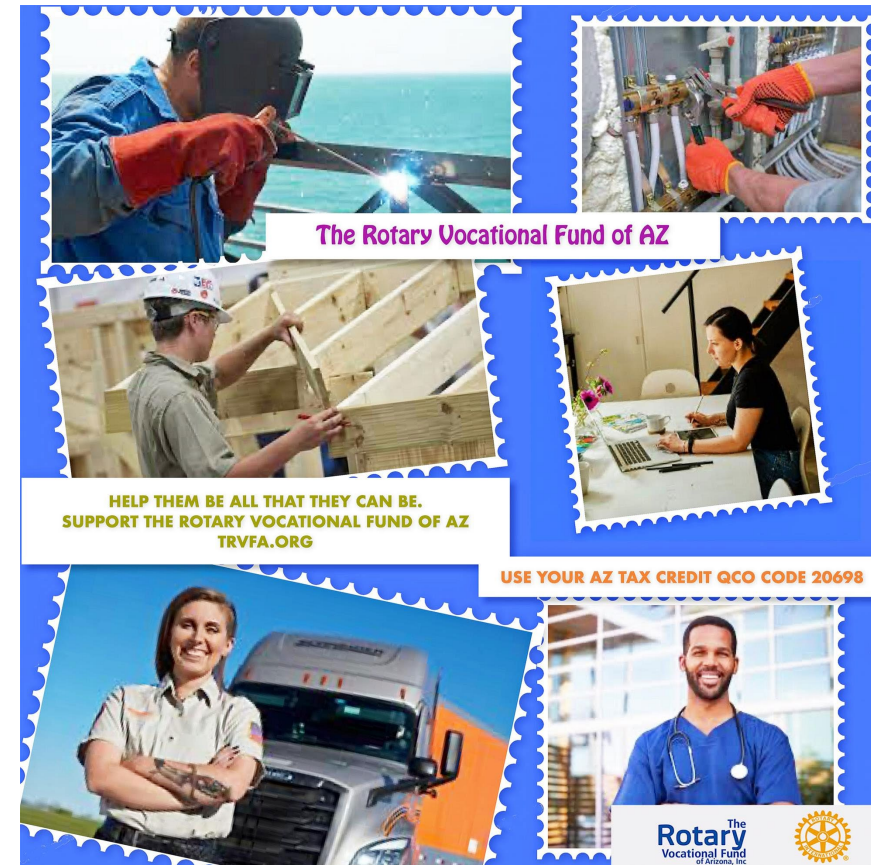
TRVFA was created to give students an opportunity to realize their dreams. Through completion of vocational training, they can look forward to earning a living wage to support themselves and their families.



# The Mission

Our mission is to ensure a revenue stream that will continuously fund vocational education grants requested by struggling Arizona residents who demonstrate the desire and will to enable themselves to thrive. Together, we create lasting change by allowing individuals to lift themselves out of poverty and contribute to their communities.

*HELPING OTHERS HELP THEMSELVES*



# How does it work?



Candidates who meet the eligibility requirements are identified and recommended to TRVFA by financial aid counselors in vocational education institutions and/or Rotarians and their clubs.

Once a candidate is vetted by TVRFA to assure they are a student in good standing and meet the financial requirements, a local Rotary club is contacted to interview the student.

The interviews are conducted in person or by Zoom. The candidate is rated using a standardized form that is submitted by the club after the interview.

If the club recommends the student for acceptance, the grant amount will be put into the student's account at the educational institution. There is no cost to the sponsoring club.

# How much can the student receive?



Candidates who apply, are vetted by the application process, and approved by a local Rotary club, can receive grant funds immediately year-round.

For students in a one year or less program, grants up to \$2,000 can be awarded.

For students that are enrolled in a 2 year vocational program, they must be in their second year of their program. For these students, grants up to \$3,000 can be awarded. This helps assure that the student has put in the time and effort to complete their first year of training. The idea is to get the student “across the finish line” to obtain their degree or certification.

Each student is entitled to one grant award. They can not apply for multiple grant awards.

This is a new award structure that was implemented by TRVFA for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

# What does it pay for?



The grants given by TRVFA are intended to help someone earn a certification in a vocational field. Examples of such training include the following: a nursing certificate, training in auto mechanics, body repair, construction technology, welding, computer/electronics technician, an EMT course, medical aide, electrician, educational aide, police/fire science, and other similar fields.

We cannot fund study at either a four-year school or a community college if the latter is done for credit toward a four-year degree. We also cannot fund study that does not apply directly to job/vocational skills. The operative term here is “vocational,” not “professional.” We cannot fund someone who already has a bachelors or college degree.

# What does it pay for?



## Allowed uses of TRVFA grant funds:

- Tuition
- Books
- Fees
- Tools
- Uniforms
- Other items required to get his/her certification





# What does it not pay for?



TRVFA grant funds CANNOT be used for the following expenses:

- Transportation costs
- Rent
- Utilities
- Food
- Other miscellaneous living expenses while attending the vocational training

The amount of the grant cannot exceed the actual costs of the vocational training. For example, if a maximum grant is \$2,000 and the total cost of tuition, books, fees and other eligible expenses is \$1,500, an applicant could apply for that amount. If the costs exceed \$2,000, the grant will be limited to \$2,000.

# Who is eligible?



- ✓ Meet certain financial eligibility conditions
- ✓ Seek training in a qualifying vocational area but be aware some vocations may not qualify for funding
- ✓ Be a legal resident of the State of Arizona
- ✓ He/she is self-supporting and is qualified as an independent student on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- ✓ Attend a postsecondary school/training institution in Arizona
- ✓ Be sponsored by a Rotary Club in Arizona



# Financial Eligibility

Because the major portion of the TRVFA funding comes from Arizona Tax Credits, the requirements that relate to financial need and qualifying courses of study are set by Arizona state law.

We are obligated to verify whether or not applicants meet the certain income standards, 150% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. TRVFA is required to make at least 50% of its grants to applicants who meet these income guidelines. Using the FAFSA/SAR process allows us to determine financial need for all candidates especially those not at the poverty level.

When funds are limited, the Fund reserves the right to require all applicants meet the income levels at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.



# Funding of TRVFA



Our funding comes mainly from 4 sources:

- Individuals giving through the Arizona Tax Credit
- Individual donations from Rotarians
- Clubs donating directly or through their Foundation
- Non-Rotary Grants

# Current Status of TRVFA



We are facing a funding shortage for our 2024-2025 fiscal year. Here is the impact:

- In 2022-23 FY we gave out **96 grants** to vocational students while raising **\$230,000**
- In 2023-24 FY we gave out **164 grants** to vocational students while raising **\$250,000**
- Our funding goal for FY 2023-24 was **\$350,000**
- Demand for grants is **growing** while giving from Rotarians is **declining**.
- This has forced us to temporarily suspend grants while we build up our reserves.



# Current Status of TRVFA

If only **1 out of 5, or 20%** of Rotarians in Arizona gave their state tax credit to TRVFA, we would meet or exceed our fundraising goal. The tax credit giving is at **NO COST** to the individual or couple making the donation.

This would allow us to continue to grant scholarships to these deserving students who need the funds to get them across the “finish line” to improve their lives and the lives of their families.

# Our Ask

Please consider donating to TRVFA today!

You can donate on our website at:

<https://trvfa.org>



You can donate through the Arizona tax credit program at NO COST to you. Donate up to \$470 per individual or \$938 per married couple and you can take that amount directly off your Arizona state taxes! Donate today!

# More Ways to Help

- Consider giving to TRVFA from your club's foundation
- Consider making TRVFA a beneficiary of your annual fundraising event

