The California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO) established the Robert M. Odell endowed scholarship fund in April 1987 to honor the former city treasurer of Los Angeles. The scholarships are awarded on an alternating basis between northern and southern geographic regions of California to the seventeen campuses offering degree programs in public administration.

Four (4) scholarships for the amount of $2,000 each will be awarded for the 2019-2020 academic year. Students from the following campuses are eligible this year:

- California State University, Bakersfield
- California State University, Dominguez Hills
- California State University, Fullerton
- California State University, Long Beach
- California State University, Los Angeles
- California State University, Northridge
- California State University, San Bernardino
- California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
- San Diego State University

Applicants must:
- Be in a degree program in public administration
- Be in good standing with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Be currently enrolled as a full-time, upper division undergraduate or graduate student in public administration and must remain a full-time student in good standing during the academic year in which the award is received.
- Not be a previous recipient of this award.

Strong consideration will be given to an applicant who is also:
- Public administration major specializing in finance.
- First generation college student.

To be considered for this scholarship you must:
- Complete an online University Scholarship Application
- Upload an official or unofficial Transcript
- A brief Personal Statement describing their background, personal achievements, challenges they have encountered, educational pursuits and aspirations for the future

The scholarship recipients will be invited by the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers to attend their annual professional conference in Anaheim, California from January 28-31 2020. This conference is an opportunity for students to learn about job opportunities in the field of municipal finance.

2020-2021 Applications will be available spring 2020