

ALABAMA HOUSING AUTHORITIES' EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT FUND, INC.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION RULES & REQUIREMENTS

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Must be a graduating **high school senior**, possess a **high school diploma or GED** or an **adult college student**.
- Currently reside in an **AAHRA member agency– managed public housing unit**.
- Be accepted, enrolled in, or applied to an **accredited college, university, community college, trade, or technical school**.
- Applicants entering college, trade, or technical school for the first time must receive a **high school diploma or GED by July 8, 2026**.
- Applicants may reapply in subsequent years; however, **scholarships may be awarded for a maximum of four (4) years per recipient and only for undergraduate (Bachelor-level or below) programs**. (Scholars applying for a master's or a PhD are not eligible)

APPLICATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- All applications **must be completed online**, printed for required signatures, **scanned**, and **submitted electronically as ONE (1) PDF file to scholarships@jcha.com**
- Applications must be **typed**. Handwritten responses or essays will **not** be accepted.
- If a question does not apply, clearly mark “N/A.”
- Applications must be received **no later than 5:00 PM Central Time on March 25, 2026**.
- Applications submitted late or incomplete will **not** be considered.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST

Each completed application must include:

1. Completed scholarship application (all questions answered)
2. Applicant's **current Grade Point Average (GPA)**
3. **Official high school transcript** (high school seniors) or **college transcript** (adult college students)
4. **Two (2) letters of recommendation** (see requirements below)
5. **Typed essay (350–500 words)** addressing:
 - How your **community and high school/educational experiences** have influenced your life, goals, and aspirations
6. **Letter of Support from the Executive Director** of the sponsoring Housing Authority
7. Proof of residence in an **AAHRA member agency owned or managed unit**
8. Headshot of applicant
9. Any additional supporting documentation requested in the application

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION REQUIREMENTS

- **Two (2) letters are required** and must be typed, signed, and on official letterhead.
- **Family members are NOT permitted** to submit recommendation letters.

High School Seniors:

- One (1) letter from a **teacher or guidance counselor**
- One (1) letter from a **community member** (non-family)

Adult College Students:

- One (1) letter from an **employer, housing authority staff member, or community leader**
- One (1) additional letter from a **non-family individual** who can objectively recommend the applicant

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

- Typed essay of **350-500 words** that is clear and well written.
- Topic: *How your community, housing environment, and educational experiences have influenced your personal growth, academic journey, and future goals.*
- Handwritten essays will **not** be scored.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS (IF APPLICABLE)

- Verification of extracurricular activities, community service, employment, or volunteer involvement may be requested.
- Employment verification is required if working **10 or more hours per week**.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD INFORMATION

- Scholarship funds must be **used by July 1, 2027**.
- Funds may be used for **tuition, fees, books, or other educational expenses**.
- Extensions may be requested in writing and are subject to approval by the AHAEFF Board.
- Failure to maintain enrollment or required course of study may result in forfeiture of remaining funds.

SELECTION PROCESS

- Applications are reviewed by the **AHAEFF Board**.
- **High school applicants** are evaluated on academic performance, GPA, essays, recommendations, and community involvement.
- **Adult college applicants** are evaluated on academic performance, essays, recommendations, work history, and community service.

AWARD PRESENTATION

- Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the **AAHRA Annual Scholarship Recognition Ceremony** (location to be announced).
- The sponsoring Housing Authority is responsible for travel and/or lodging for the recipient and one family member.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Failure to follow these rules and submission requirements will result in **disqualification**. Applicants are encouraged to review all instructions carefully prior to submission.

When you are ready to complete your application, click on the Scholarship Application form. From the Tools Option (located on the left side of the document), select “Fill & Sign” to complete the required information.

If questions arise, please contact your local Housing Authority for assistance.