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November 1, 2024

Dear Students,

The Pearls of Hope Community Foundation, Incorporated (POHCF), is pleased to announce the 2025 Scholarship Program! This exciting scholarship program offers scholarships ranging from \$1,000 - \$8,000 over four years.

In partnership with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority®, Inc., Xi Sigma Omega Chapter, over \$250,000 in scholarships during the chapter's 41 years of existence! In these times of economic need, we are proud to continue our tradition of making a difference in Montgomery County, Maryland.

We are currently seeking students to apply for a variety of scholarships that exemplify our values in community service, entrepreneurship and social action, and pursuing higher education. To be eligible for these scholarships, students must be a high school senior and reside in Montgomery County and/or attend a Montgomery County Public School.

The attached scholarship listing and checklist contain all the details you need in order to apply. Please read all information and carefully follow all instructions. The scholarship applications deadline is **Friday, February 28, 2025 midnight EST**. Please contact us at POHCFScholarship@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Thank you for your interest, and we wish you the best in the final months of your high school career.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Christina Thompson and Dr. Ocheze Joseph
Scholarship Committee Chair & Co-Chair

Ms. Stephanie Hayes Jameison
President



Pearls of Hope Community Foundation, Inc. - 2025 Scholarship Program

The Pearls of Hope Community Foundation, Incorporated (POHCF), is pleased to announce the 2025 Scholarship Program. This exciting scholarship program offers scholarships ranging from \$1,000 - \$8,000 (over four years) to graduating high school seniors. We are currently seeking high school seniors to apply for a variety of scholarships that exemplify our values in community service, entrepreneurship and social action, and pursuing higher education.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for these scholarships, students must be a high school senior and reside (have a home address) in Montgomery County and/or attend a Montgomery County Public School. Students who are residents of Montgomery County, may attend private school in Washington DC or another Maryland county. Montgomery County Public School students who reside outside of the county are eligible.

Family, extended family, or household residents of POHCF members are ineligible to receive a scholarship. This includes children, step-children, grandchildren, siblings, guardians of other children who are living with or dependent upon the POHCF member. Extenuating circumstances involving non-family member children (e.g., foster care, temporary guardianship) may be reviewed.

Scholarship Application Instructions

Thank you for your interest in our scholarship program. Please read all instructions carefully. Incomplete applications will **not** be considered. Applications are due no later than midnight EST on **Friday, February 28, 2025**. Official transcripts will be accepted via email and must be **received** by **Friday, February 28, 2025**. The Scholarship Committee may be reached at POHCFScholarship@gmail.com with any questions.

1. Applicants must be a high school senior and reside (have a home address) in Montgomery County and/or attend a Montgomery County Public School. Students who are residents of Montgomery County, may attend private school in Washington DC or another Maryland county. Montgomery County Public School students who reside outside of the county are eligible.
2. Scholarship Application: All required materials must be submitted by **Friday, February 28, 2025, no later than midnight EST.**
 - Complete [Online Scholarship Application https://forms.gle/adsHRYdKeFHZQaXv5](https://forms.gle/adsHRYdKeFHZQaXv5)
 - Submit all required additional application materials (letters of recommendations, transcripts) - **by e-mail to POHCFScholarship@gmail.com**



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- On the scholarship application, be sure to indicate which scholarship(s) you are applying for (**see details of each scholarship beginning on page 5**):
 - POHCF HBCU Scholarship - \$8,000 (\$2000 each year, for 4 years)
 - B. Pindell STEM Scholarship - \$1,500
 - Community Service Award - \$1,500
 - The Modern Leaders Scholarship - \$1,500
 - The Reach for Tomorrow Scholarship - \$1,500
 - Discovery Scholarship - \$1,000
 - Dr. Clive Jackson Award - \$1,500
 - Partica Moore-Batten Scholarship – \$2,000
 - Jacqueline A. Rose HBCU Scholarship - \$1,500
 - Beatrice Crutchfield Scholarship - \$4,000 (\$1,000 each year, for 4 years)
 - Ayanna Cray-Prather - \$1,000
 - Maryland State Delegate Pamela E. Queen Scholarship - \$1,000
 - 3. Applicants must submit two (2) letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with your academic achievements, community involvement, and character. One recommendation must come from a school official such as an administrator, school counselor or academic advisor, and one from a person in the community (letters from family members are strictly prohibited) Recommendations should be signed and emailed to POHCFScholarship@gmail.com.
 - 4. Applicants must submit a school transcript (first quarter or semester of 12th grade) from the school registrar to POHCFScholarship@gmail.com. If you receive higher grades on your transcript prior to the scheduled interview, you can resubmit your transcript for further consideration.
 - 5. Documentation of community service hours is required for the HBCU scholarship.
 - 6. Essay: Applicant will select one (1) of the following essay topics to which to respond. Each essay is limited to a maximum of 500 words. The use of **any** artificial intelligence (A.I.) Generative technologies or softwares to complete any section of the application is **expressly prohibited**. The application serves as a chance for the review committee to learn more about you, your accomplishments and your goals (**who better to write about these topics, than YOU**).
 - What is your motivation for your major? How do you plan to support your community in the future?
 - Describe your experience in community service. Explain how you have given back, or share a project you developed to change your community.
 - Discuss your desire or the significance of pursuing higher education and graduating from a Historically Black College or University (HBCU).



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- You are encouraged to start working on your application as soon as possible as it may take **several weeks** to obtain recommendation letters and complete requirements for the application process. You are encouraged to follow up with any recommenders to ensure they are aware of the submission deadline as incomplete applications **will not** be considered (there are no exceptions or extensions).

FINALISTS: The Scholarship Committee will select and interview finalists from the pool of eligible applicants. Scholarship award finalists will be notified via phone or email to schedule an in-person interview with the Scholarship Committee. Interviews will be held in April 2025 at a location to be determined or virtually. Please ensure that your contact information (cell phone number and email address) is accurate and complete.

AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT: The scholarships will be announced publicly on the Pearls of Hope Community Foundation, Inc. social media accounts and will be shared with high school senior awards committees.

All application materials must be received by **Friday, February 28, 2025 no later than midnight EST. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered for review.**

Thank you for your interest in the POHCF Scholarship Program!



POHCF Scholarship Award Descriptions

Students may apply for all scholarships for which they are eligible, however, any individual student will not be awarded more than one scholarship. Scholarship awards will be submitted to the college or university attending in the Fall of 2025.

Note: All students who are awarded scholarships will be required to submit proof that they meet all requirements for the scholarship including residency, college enrollment status for Fall 2025 and high school GPA before scholarships are released to the college or university.

- **The POHCF HBCU Scholarship - \$8,000:** For students who plan to attend a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). Desired applicants must be able to document service-learning hours with outstanding community service; demonstrated leadership, e.g., Student Government Association officer, class president, captain of a sports team, etc. Applicants must have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or 3.5 on a 5.0 scale. The HBCU scholarship is a renewable scholarship paid \$2000 for the first year and \$2,000 for the next three years annually, provided the student meets the stated renewal criteria while attending an HBCU.
- **Bernadine Pindell STEM Scholarship - \$1500** - This scholarship grants a one-time award in the amount of \$1,500 to a high school student who will major in mathematics, engineering or a STEM field. This scholarship award is named in recognition of Bernadine Pindell, the first President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Xi Sigma Omega Chapter of and a leader in her STEM career.
- **Community Service Award - \$1500** - This scholarship grants a one-time award in the amount of \$1,500 to a high school student in recognition of their considerable community service activity during high school.
- **The Modern Leaders Scholarship- \$1,500:** To promote community service and build tomorrow's leaders, the Modern Leaders Scholarship grants a one-time award in the amount of \$1,500 to a high school student in recognition of their willingness to give back to their community through local activism and/or entrepreneurship, as well as their high academic performance and demonstration of leadership potential. The Pearls of Hope Community Foundation is looking for future innovators, thought leaders, change agents, and other great business ideas from the minds of today's youth.
- **The Reach for Tomorrow Scholarship - \$1,500:** The Reach for Tomorrow Scholarship recognizes the independent hustle or self-reliance that so many young people show in the face of adversity today. This scholarship grants a one-time award in the amount of \$1,500 to students that have shown remarkable character and perseverance despite personal challenges. These students have shown grit, determination, resiliency, and a need for financial assistance to continue their education after graduation.



- **Discovery Scholarship - \$1,000:** Recognizing that students have a variety of educational and career aspirations, this scholarship seeks to support students as they pursue their postsecondary education. The Discovery Scholarship is a one-time award for a student that is following their own path by seeking enrollment in a community college, trade or vocational school in Montgomery County.

Benefactor Sponsored Scholarships

- **The Dr. Clive Jackson Scholarship - \$1,500:** Sponsored by Dr. Mary Jackson For a student who plans to major in **science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM)**.
- **The Partica Moore-Batten Scholarship - \$2,000:**, Sponsored by Dr. Mary Jackson - For a student who plans to major in **education** attending a Historically Black College or University (HBCU).
- **The Jacqueline A. Rose HBCU Scholarship - \$1,500:**, Sponsored by Friends & Family of Jacqueline A. Rose This scholarship grants a one-time award to a graduating high school senior attending a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). This scholarship is named in memory of Jacqueline A. Rose who served in many executive positions in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Xi Sigma Omega Chapter, including Fundraising Chair, Vice President, Secretary, and Scholarship Chair. Her passion for HBCUs also led her to serve as chair of the HBCU for Life committee, bringing awareness to and raising thousands of dollars for HBCUs.
- **The Beatrice W. Crutchfield Scholarship - \$4,000:** Sponsored by Loreathea Fields and Silvia Daniels for a student who plans to pursue a degree in **education**. This scholarship is named in memory of Beatrice W. Crutchfield, the first Golden Soror in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Xi Sigma Omega Chapter. Education was one of her most valued focal points. This is a renewable scholarship paid in the amount of \$1,000 for the first year and \$1000 for the next three years annually, provided the student meets the stated cumulative grade point average while attending the university of choice. The student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or 3.5 on a 5.0 scale.
- **The Ayanna Cray-Prather Scholarship – \$1,000:** Sponsored by Family and Friends of Ayanna Cray-Prather for a student who plane to pursue a degree in **education**. This scholarship is named in memory of Ayanna Cray-Prather, a beautiful young woman who had a passion for education. This scholarship grants a one-time award in the amount of \$1,000 to a high school student that has a similar passion and plans to major in Education. Applicant can attend the college or university of choice. The student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or 3.5 on a 5.0 scale.



- **The Maryland State Delegate Pamela E. Queen Scholarship - \$1,000:** This scholarship will be awarded to current Montgomery County high school seniors who **reside** in District 14 and attend Blake, Sherwood, Paint Branch, or Damascus High Schools. Students must confirm their district of residence before completing the application. This student must demonstrate outstanding academic accomplishments, community service and financial need. This student must also complete FAFSA by the March 1st deadline. The student may matriculate at any two or four-year College or University in the State of Maryland. **CONDITIONS OF AWARD:** If awarded, the student must register with MDCAPS - Maryland College Aid Processing System (MDCAPS). MDCAPS is MHEC's comprehensive financial aid system that processes State scholarship applications and allocates funds to students. To use MDCAPS, you must first create a student login profile. To get started with a profile, click this link: <https://mdcaps.mhec.state.md.us>.

REQUIRED ESSAY TOPIC: Which community service project are you most proud of and why? Please refer to previous pages for criteria.

ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION for the Delegate Pamela E. Queen Scholarship
Residence in District 14. You can check student addresses from [Members - Find My Representatives \(maryland.gov\)](#).

Admission to or continuation at a college or university in Maryland or Unique Major Status* (if attending an out of state college or university)

***Unique Major Status** can be granted if a student's major is not offered at any MD college or university. For more information, and to apply for this status, contact the Maryland College Aid Processing System at <https://mdcaps.mhec.state.md.us>.