



NEW JERSEY HISPANIC LEADERSHIP ASSOCIATION

*"There is Power in Unity!"
"En La Unión Está La Fuerza!"*

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

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To empower Hispanics in New Jersey by facilitating civic engagement, leadership, inclusion, education, and participation, while promoting respect, multicultural, understanding and diversity.

**501 (c) (3) Tax Exempt,
Nonprofit Charitable
Organization**

98 Rutgers Avenue
Bridgeton, New Jersey 08302

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CRITERIA

Purpose: The New Jersey Hispanic Leadership Association (NJHLA) awards scholarships to students of Hispanic Heritage attending college full-time, based on academic achievement, financial need, and an expressed interest in pursuing a college education.

Criteria: The students eligible for assistance must be in good academic standing and meet the following qualifications:

1. Currently attending an accredited New Jersey University, College or Community College as a full-time student with a minimum 3.0 GPA.
2. Be of Hispanic heritage and a resident of New Jersey.
3. Must have successfully completed the first year of studies at the accredited New Jersey University, College or Community College.
4. Must submit an Official College transcript with the raised seal, and a copy of the student photo I.D. **Screen captured images will not be accepted.**
5. Provide two letters of recommendation from an educator and/or an academic advisor, from the current year and on school letterhead. Letters must be typed and signed.
6. Submit a minimum 500 word Written Essay, typed double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with numbered pages. Please refer to the Scholarship Fund Essay Question below. **(PDF Format Preferred)**
7. Financial Need, must have a household income of \$80,000 or less per year.
8. Applicant must include their contact information: name, address, email address, and phone number. Student must submit a copy of an official document that verifies their residency in the State of New Jersey.
9. Applicant must submit a professional photo to be posted with their name on all NJ HLA Social Media platforms if the scholarship is awarded.

Guidelines: Scholarships will be awarded on an annual basis to selected students who attend College full-time, and maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA. Students must submit Official Transcripts as outlined above.

Amount: The NJ-HLA will grant up to three (3) scholarship awards in the amount of \$1,500 each. Payment will be disbursed in two (2) equal installments. The first payment will be awarded at the NJ-HLA Annual Gala. The second payment will be awarded by January 31, 2026, after the fall semester ends, and the **Official** transcript has been submitted showing proof of completing a minimum 12.0 credit hours for the Fall 2025 semester, and proof of enrollment in a minimum of 12.0 credit hours for the Spring 2026 semester.

Deadline: August 4, 2025. Please submit complete application packet online to: **NJHLA.Scholarships@gmail.com**, with the subject line **NJHLA Scholarship Committee**. Student(s) will be notified via email. **Late applications, and incomplete packets, will not be considered.**

Renewal Amount/Distribution: The NJHLA Scholarship is not renewable. Previous scholarship recipients, of partial or full awards, are not eligible to re-apply.

Review and Selection Process: The Scholarship Committee will review all applications and make recommendations to the NJHLA Board of Directors.

****Award Announcement:**** Finalists for the scholarship award will be contacted by a NJ HLA Board Member by September 5, 2025, to be scheduled for an interview with the Scholarship Selection Committee. To maintain eligibility, the recipient must verbally accept the award, sign a Scholarship Acceptance form, and attend the New Jersey Hispanic Leadership Association Awards Gala on Saturday, October 18, 2025. The gala will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel - Riverside Ballroom, located at 2349 Marlton Pike West, Cherry Hill, NJ, at 6:00 PM.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

ESSAY QUESTION

Describe how you have demonstrated leadership abilities in the Hispanic community both in and out of school.

Student Organizations: Participating in or leading Hispanic student organizations within your school can be a great way to demonstrate leadership. This could involve organizing events, advocating for issues important to the Hispanic community, and fostering a sense of unity among students.

Community Outreach: Engaging in community outreach projects, such as volunteering at local Hispanic community centers, organizing cultural events, or participating in mentorship programs, showcases your commitment to making a positive impact beyond the school environment.

Language and Cultural Advocacy: Promoting the importance of language and cultural preservation within the Hispanic community, both in school and outside, can be a form of leadership. This might involve initiating language clubs, cultural exchange programs, or workshops to celebrate Hispanic heritage.

Academic Initiatives: Taking a leadership role in academic initiatives, such as tutoring programs, study groups, or workshops that specifically cater to the needs of Hispanic students, demonstrates your commitment to educational advancement within the community.

Advocacy and Awareness Campaigns: Addressing issues that affect the Hispanic community through advocacy and awareness campaigns is another way to showcase leadership. This could involve organizing discussions, creating informative materials, or collaborating with local organizations to bring attention to relevant issues.

Collaboration with Local Businesses: Building partnerships with local Hispanic-owned businesses or working with entrepreneurs within the community can demonstrate leadership by fostering economic development and collaboration.

Effective leadership is often characterized by a combination of initiative, communication skills, empathy, and the ability to inspire and motivate others toward a common goal. Whether in school or within the larger community, the key is to identify areas where you can make a positive impact and take action accordingly.