



NEW JERSEY HISPANIC LEADERSHIP ASSOCIATION

"Legacy, Leadership, and the Power of Community!"

"¡Legado, Liderazgo y el Poder de la Comunidad!"

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

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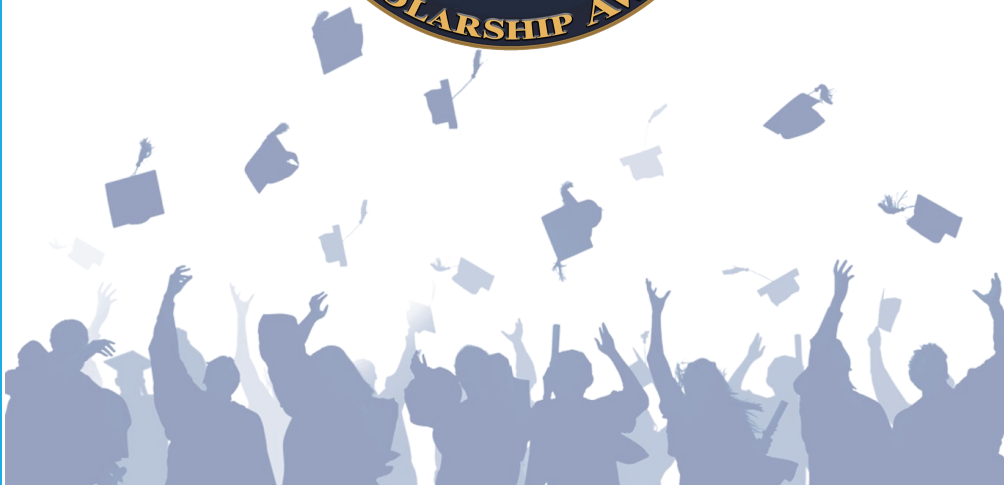
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To empower Hispanics in New Jersey by facilitating civic engagement, leadership, inclusion, education, and participation, while promoting respect, multicultural, understanding and diversity.

**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 (NJ HLA) 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 current resident of the state of New Jersey.
3. Must have successfully completed the first year of studies at an accredited New Jersey University, College or Community College.
4. Must submit scanned copies of an **Official College transcript** with the raised seal and **Student Identification Card with photo**. *Downloaded screen shots or unofficial portal view/captures images will not be accepted.*
5. Must submit **two Letters of Recommendation** from an academic or professional mentor (professor, academic advisor, guidance counselor), from the current year on school letterhead. Letters must include the sender's title/position, school name, contact information, date, and a wet signature. *Digital signatures will not be accepted.*
6. Must 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. Applicants must include their contact information (name, address, email address, and phone number). Additionally, students must submit a copy of an **official document verifying their New Jersey residency**, such as a valid photo driver's license or state identification card.
9. Selected applicants must submit a **professional photo by September 11, 2026**, 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. Immediate family members (spouse, parents, children, siblings, and their respective spouses) as well as people living in the household of each are not eligible to participate.

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 on October 10, 2026. The second payment will be awarded by January 31, 2027, 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 2026 semester, and proof of enrollment in a minimum of 12.0 credit hours for the Spring 2027 semester.

Deadline: August 31, 2026. Please submit complete application packet on-line to: **NJHLA Scholarships@gmail.com** with the subject line **NJ HLA Scholarship Committee**. *Late applications, and incomplete packets, will not be considered.* Students will be notified via email.

Renewal Amount/Distribution: The NJ HLA 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 application packets and make recommendations to the NJ HLA Board of Directors.

****Award Announcement:**** *Finalists for the scholarship award will be contacted by a NJ HLA Board Member by September 7, 2026, to be scheduled for a virtual interview with the Scholarship Selection Committee by September 11, 2026. 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 10, 2026. 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.