



## 2026 Scholarship Application

*NAHRO Merit College Scholarship and NAHRO-LDG Scholars Program*

### **ABOUT THE NAHRO MERIT COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP**

The NAHRO Merit College Scholarship Program awards a one-time payment of \$3,000 — to assist with tuition — issued to eight scholars, one from each NAHRO region. Regions select their winner from state and/or local entries and manage their own application and judging processes. NAHRO does not accept national scholarship submissions directly from individuals, member agencies or state organizations.

### **ABOUT THE NAHRO-LDG SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

From the group of eight NAHRO Merit College Scholarship winners, the National NAHRO Scholarship Committee (including the Housing America Advisory Committee and LDG Development) will select three applicants as NAHRO-LDG Scholars.

The NAHRO-LDG Scholars Program is a 10-year venture (expiring in Spring 2029) — funded by the award-winning multi-family housing developer, LDG Development — providing \$1 million in scholarships and internship opportunities to low-income students from around the country.

In addition to the one-time scholarship provided through the NAHRO Merit College Scholarship, NAHRO-LDG Scholars will also receive:

- A \$9,000 scholarship, distributed over three years, to assist with tuition;
- An opportunity to earn up to \$6,000 in stipends for summer internships and other approved activities that support the student's academic matriculation; and
- Networking opportunities with business and community leaders.

### **SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY**

All scholarship applicants must be:

- Living in a household, or provided a housing-related service, managed by a NAHRO member agency in good standing;
- A graduating high school senior, an individual possessing a high school diploma or GED; **and**
- Applying to or attending an accredited institution of higher education or trade school in pursuit of their first post-secondary degree on a full-time basis. Masters, Law, Medical, and PhD students are not eligible.



**SCHOLARSHIP INSTRUCTIONS AND DEADLINES**

National honorees are selected from region-level winning entries, which are selected from state and/or local entries. Additionally, some states do not conduct scholarships, sending all applicants directly to the region. As such, deadlines vary widely based on the applicant's location, from as early as January to as late as June. State and regional deadlines (where available) and contact information are available on our website: [www.nahro.org/scholarship](http://www.nahro.org/scholarship).

**NAHRO Member Agencies, State Organizations and Regional Councils:** Please fill in your scholarship deadlines below before distributing the application, to assist applicants in navigating the tiered judging process!



**Scholarship applicants:** Complete the scholarship application, attach all required documents then return them to the designated staff member at your housing agency before their deadline.

Housing Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Deadline \_\_\_\_\_

Submit application to \_\_\_\_\_

**NAHRO member agency:** Verify that the applicant meets the eligibility criteria and that scholarship application packet is complete. Then fill out the member agency section of the application verification (page 5) and submit all the materials to either your state (if applicable) or regional representative before their deadline.

State Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Deadline \_\_\_\_\_

Submit application to \_\_\_\_\_

*(if applicable)* **NAHRO state representative:** Verify that the application packet is complete and conduct your state-level judging. If the scholar is chosen to advance, fill out the state section of the winning application's verification (page 5), and submit the winning packet to your regional representative.

Regional Council \_\_\_\_\_ Deadline \_\_\_\_\_

Submit application to \_\_\_\_\_

**NAHRO regional representative:** Verify that the application packet is complete and conduct your region-level judging, selecting only one winner. Fill out the region section of the winning application's verification (page 5) and submit a digital copy of the winning packet to the NAHRO Housing America Advisory Committee Liaison at [housingamerica@nahro.org](mailto:housingamerica@nahro.org) by July 1, 2026.



## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Scholarship applicants must submit the following materials to be considered at the local, state, regional and national level. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

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### Applicant Information Form

- Complete all sections of the Applicant Information Form (page 4).
- If a section is not applicable, write N/A — do not leave any sections blank.

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### Verification Form

- Once the rest of the application packet is complete, present it and the Verification Form (page 5) to the designated representative at your Housing Agency. **The representative must complete the Housing Agency section of the verification form before submitting the application packet** to the state (if applicable) or region.

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### Summary of Activities

- Attach summary of activities (i.e., resume) outlining past and current employment, internships, honors, awards, sports, clubs, and/or other recent school or community engagement.

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### Essay

- Attach one 750-1,000 word typed essay, written by the applicant answering the following prompt:  
**Tell us about yourself, your educational goals, and how this scholarship will help you achieve these goals.**

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### Letter of Recommendation

- Attach one typed letter of recommendation, written by a knowledgeable individual, such as a representative from the local housing agency or community organization, an employer, or a school professional (teacher, principal, or guidance counselor).
- Recommendations from family members will NOT be considered.
- All recommendations should include the author's name, contact email or phone number, relationship to the applicant, and the length of time they have known the applicant.

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### High School Transcript or GED certificate

- Attach an unofficial high school transcript showing classes taken and final grade point average (GPA), or GED certificate

**Note:** If selected, national scholarship winners will be asked to provide a high-resolution headshot photo as well as final enrollment verification.



**APPLICANT INFORMATION FORM**

Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City State ZIP Code

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Housing Agency \_\_\_\_\_  
This organization must be a NAHRO member. Not sure? Email [memberservices@nahro.org](mailto:memberservices@nahro.org)

**Education History**

What is your current student status? (Check one)

High School Senior       HS Graduate or GED Recipient       Post-Secondary Student

Current School (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**2025-2026 Education Plans**

Name of School or Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Campus \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Major or Program of Study \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Program \_\_\_\_\_

What is your application status? (Check one)     Applied, but not yet accepted     Accepted

Estimated cost for 2026-2027 school year (tuition, meals, fees, books, supplies) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

List all other scholarships \_\_\_\_\_

**By signing below, I certify that:**

- I meet the eligibility criteria for NAHRO’s scholarships.
- The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge.
- I will maintain satisfactory educational progress.
- I will inform NAHRO or its designee of any changes in schools or enrollment status.
- I will provide, or respond to NAHRO’s requests for, periodic updates on my academic progress while receiving scholarship funds.
- I consent to the use of my photo, profile, progress, and testimonial, by NAHRO and its designees, for marketing and fundraising purposes.
- I authorize my chosen institution to release my grades and relevant scholarship information to NAHRO.
- I authorize the release of my contact information to NAHRO-contracted designees that may be engaged to manage the scholarship program.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



**VERIFICATION FORM**

NAHRO member agencies, state organizations (if applicable) and regional councils must complete their designated section of this form as part of the application. The contact person(s) listed may be contacted by a NAHRO representative as part of eligibility verification, or in the case that the applicant is chosen as a national winner.

**Section to be completed by a representative of the NAHRO Member Agency only**

Agency Name \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ NAHRO ID # \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials I certify that the applicant resides in a household or is provided a housing-related service managed by this agency, that this application is complete and that my agency is National NAHRO member.

*(If applicable)* **Section to be completed by the NAHRO State Organization only**

State Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials I certify that this application is complete and has been selected to advance to the regional scholarship in accordance with our state organization rules/policies.

**Section to be completed by the NAHRO Regional Council Representative only**

Region \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials I certify that this application is complete, has been selected as the region’s scholarship winner in accordance with our regional rules/policies, and will advance to the national NAHRO-LDG Scholars judging.