

2025 Cathy Coleman Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Scholarship Application



January 31, 2025

Dear Community Partners:

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® is the first African American Sorority, founded on the campus of Howard University in 1908. The ZNO Community Service Fund Inc. (ZNO-CSF, Inc), a 501 (c)(3) organization, for many years has provided service and scholarships in the Westchester County, New York Community. Most notably, in 2017 the organizations began awarding scholarships through the *Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Program*.

In 2020, this scholarship was renamed in appreciation for a chapter member Ms. *Cathy Coleman* who was a firm advocate for the education and servicing of current and former foster care youths. Ms. Coleman worked in collaboration with the ZNO Scholarship Committee to create this opportunity for youth in the foster care system.

This year we will be awarding scholarships to students who meet the following criteria:

- Current or Former Youth in the foster care system that resides or is being educated in Westchester County, New York
- A Copy of the Applicant's Post - Secondary Education* Acceptance Letter or Proof of Continued Enrollment for the 2025 - 2026 Academic Year

* Please Note Post - Secondary Education includes but is not limited to the following:

- Trade School
- Certificate/ Training/ Apprenticeship Program
- Community College
- Four - Year College/University

The Cathy Coleman Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Scholarship

This scholarship is open to, but not limited to African American men and women who are currently or who were former youth in the New York State Foster Care System. Applicants are asked to complete the scholarship application and to complete a 300-word essay based on one of the selected prompts. Please note all applicants are requested to participate in an interview with the scholarship committee. Scholarship Interview Dates are listed on the application.

The **2025 ZNO Scholarship applications** are available online at www.znoaka.org. Please click scholarship in the tabs listed at the top of the screen. Note that the application and all supporting documents must be emailed to znoscholarship@znoaka.org by the scholarship deadline, which is **Friday March 28th at 11:59 p.m.** The scholarship application is solely being *offered* as a writable PDF document and can only be submitted via email. Paper applications will not be accepted.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact the Scholarship Committee Chairmen.

Sincerely,

Karen A. Williams

Karen A. Williams
President
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated ®.
Zeta Nu Omega Chapter

Cheryll Smith

Mrs. Cheryll Smith
President
ZNO Community Service Fund, Incorporated