



*2025 Cathy Coleman Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Scholarship Application*

**Background Information**

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 was incorporated in 1982, by New York State and established by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Zeta Nu Omega Chapter, to provide service to Westchester County residents. Most notably, in 2017, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Zeta Nu Omega Chapter 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 youth. Ms. Coleman worked in collaboration with the ZNO Scholarship Committee to create this opportunity for current and former youth in the foster care system.

**Application Requirements**

Completed applications must include the following information and documentation. Your application will be considered ***INCOMPLETE*** if this information is not emailed to [znoscholarship@znoaka.org](mailto:znoscholarship@znoaka.org) by the ***application deadline Friday March 28, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.***:

- Current and former foster care youth who resides or is being educated in Westchester County, New York.
- Complete a 300 – 400 word essay in answer to one of the essay prompts listed on the application.
- A copy of the applicant's post – Secondary Education\* Acceptance Letter or Proof of Continued Enrollment for the 2025 – 2026 Academic Year.

***The application is a Writable PDF document. It must be typed, handwritten applications will NOT be accepted!***

\* 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

**Important Information Concerning the Scholarship Interview Process**

Once applications have been reviewed, the qualified applicant will receive an emailed letter notifying them of the date and time of their interview via ZOOM with the ZNO Scholarship Committee. Qualified applicants will need to be available on one of the following dates for Scholarship Interview: ***Qualified applicants will need to be available in the evening during the week of May 5<sup>th</sup>. Applicants who qualify for an interview will be contacted via email.***

*Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®  
Zeta Nu Omega Chapter  
in partnership with  
ZNO Community Service Fund, Inc.*



**Applicant's Information**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last First M.I.*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street Address Apartment/Unit #*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City State ZIP Code*

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cellular Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

**Post - Secondary Education Information**

Please provide the listed information for the program/institution that you will be attending in the Fall of 2025:

Name of the Program/Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated/ Current Area of Study:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Major (If Known) Minor (If Known)

**Employment/Volunteer Information**

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Hours Per Week: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Employee/Volunteer Service \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Hours Per Week: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Employee/Volunteer Service \_\_\_\_\_



### Essay Questions

Please select one of the listed prompts and complete a 300 – 400 word essay

#### Essay Prompt #1

You have been selected as the guest speaker at a Life Skills Monthly Meeting for youth in foster care. Please state in your essay what two main topics you would discuss with the youth present. How do these topics relate to your life?

#### Essay Prompt #2

Write a personal essay introducing yourself to our scholarship committee. Please discuss your strengths including your most admirable trait and one you feel that still needs improvement.

#### Essay Prompt #3

You have been hired as the new Commissioner for the Administration for Children’s Services for New York City. Based on your experience in foster care, what are the three main issues/concerns you would work to resolve.

### Disclaimer and Signature

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. It is also my responsibility as an applicant to keep the ZNO Scholarship Committee abreast of any changes to my mailing and email addresses as well as telephone number.

Please note all supporting documents necessary to complete this application must be emailed by **Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 11:59 p.m. to [znoscholarship@znoaka.org](mailto:znoscholarship@znoaka.org).**

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

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**Privacy Release Form**

I \_\_\_\_\_, hereby give permission for the *Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®*, *Zeta Nu Omega Chapter* and any affiliates to take photo(s) in connection with all activities associated with the promotion, advertisement, and display of the “ZNO Scholarship Program” a community service event.

I understand that the photo(s)/video(s) will only be used in an appropriate manner by the *Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®*, *Zeta Nu Omega Chapter* and any affiliates, and will reflect positively upon my person, character, and reputation as well as the reputation of this prestigious organization.

I release and hold harmless *Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®*, *Zeta Nu Omega Chapter* and any affiliates for any and all actions of others not associated or connected to the *Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®*, *Zeta Nu Omega Chapter* and any affiliates, who may use, or attempt to use my photo.

My signature is affixed to this release and the date is evidence that I have read and understand this privacy release form.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Applicant's Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*