

National Council of Negro Women (NCNW)

Scholarship Application Frequently Asked Questions

A BETTER ME & SOARING for GREATNESS Scholarships

If you have additional questions please contact the Chesterfield Metro Area Section Scholarship Chair at: cmasscholarship01@gmail.com or P.O. Box 5674, Midlothian, VA 23112.

Q: How do I apply for a Chesterfield Metro Area Section (CMAS) Scholarship?

→ STEP 1

Visit the [CMAS Scholarship Dashboard](#) read the eligibility requirements for each application and apply to only one. CMAS scholarship application has five (5) parts:

- Scholarship Application
- Essay – See essay prompt
- Uploads - Photo (recent headshot) and Volunteer documentation
- Official School Transcript (must be mailed)
- School Official Recommendation form

→ STEP 2

Complete the scholarship application for which you qualify. Handwritten and/or incomplete applications **WILL NOT** be considered.

→ STEP 3

Mail official transcript to *P.O. Box 5674, Midlothian, VA 23112 ATTN: Scholarship Chair*.

→ STEP 4

Provide a school official with the recommendation form located on the scholarship website.

Q: What are the eligibility requirements for CMAS Scholarships?

A: All applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered for any CMAS Scholarship:

- Student must have earned at least a 2.0 - 2.99 GPA (including the Fall semester of the current school year) - Better Me Scholarship.
- Student must have earned at least a 3.0 GPA (including the Fall semester of the current school year) - Soaring for Greatness Scholarship.
- The candidate must be a high school senior who will attend an accredited Historically Black College or University (HBCU). Failure to do so will result in the scholarship being rescinded.
- The candidate must be of African American, Caribbean American or African descent.
- The candidate must be a United States citizen.
- The candidate must reside in Chesterfield, Charles City, New Kent.

Q: When is the application deadline?

A: All application materials must be received by CMAS on or before **11:59 PM EST, March 31, 2026.** Incomplete applications **WILL NOT** be considered.

Q: Are CMAS Scholarships available to students who are already in college?

A: No.

Q: I attend a high school outside of Chesterfield County. May I apply for a CMAS Scholarship?

A: No.

Q: I will be attending a college or university abroad, am I still eligible for the 2026 CMAS scholarships?

A: No.

Q: Are the scholarships available to students currently attending or planning to attend a technical school, vocational school, or obtaining an online degree?

A: No. CMAS Scholarship recipients must be:

a) High school seniors slated to graduate at the end of the current academic school year and physically attending a HBCU as a full-time student in the fall of that same year.

Q: Are CMAS Scholarships limited to females?

A: No. Scholarships are not gender specific. Eligible male and female students are strongly encouraged to apply.

Q: Do I have to be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident to apply for a CMAS Scholarship?

A: Yes. Applicants must meet **ALL** of the eligibility requirements to apply for any CMAS Scholarship; an applicant's citizenship status will preclude him/her from receiving a CMAS Scholarship.

Q: Do I have to be specific race/ethnicity to apply for a CMAS Scholarship?

A: Yes. Applicants must be of African American, Caribbean American, or African descent.

Q: Is there a minimum GPA to apply for a CMAS Scholarship?

A: Yes. Depending on the scholarship, the minimum cumulative grade point average as verified by an official transcript from an appropriate school official (e.g., School Registrar or Guidance Counselor) is as follows:

- A BETTER ME Scholarship – 2.0 - 2.99
- SOARING for GREATNESS Scholarship – At least a 3.0

Q: Is an interview required for award of a CMAS Scholarship?

A: No. Interviews are not a required part of the scholarship application process.

Q: What happens to my CMAS Scholarship Application materials after the awardee has been selected?

A: All applications and supporting documentation are considered confidential. Applicant information will not be returned. Applicant information becomes the property of CMAS. All applicant information will be securely stored by the CMAS President.

Q: What are my chances for receiving a CMAS Scholarship?

A: Each year, CMAS receives numerous scholarship applications. Many applicants are deserving of a CMAS Scholarship but CMAS has a finite amount to award annually. Each application is assessed on its own merit and the awardees are individuals that exemplify extraordinary potential and are deemed most deserving by the CMAS Scholarship Committee.

Q: What is CMAS evaluating in the scholarship essay?

A: CMAS assesses each applicant's essay for applicability to the essay prompt, appropriate grammar, spelling, syntax, punctuation and essay organization. Each applicant must submit their essay in English. Applicants must attest that the essay reflects their own work.

Q: How must an applicant format his/her essay?

A: All essays must be typed. CMAS will NOT accept handwritten essays. The essay must be 500 to 550 words in length, single-spaced, and written in 12-point Times New Roman font.

Q: If I am awarded other scholarships or financial aid, does it affect my eligibility for a CMAS Scholarship?

A: No. Any student fulfilling all of the eligibility requirements for a CMAS Scholarship may apply. An applicant's receipt of other scholarships will not preclude him/her from receiving a CMAS Scholarship.

Q: When will I find out whether or not I am a CMAS Scholarship recipient?

A: Recipients will receive notification by U.S. mail and/or email.

Please do not contact CMAS about the status of your application. If you have any other questions pertaining to eligibility or the application process and/or requirements, please review the CMAS Scholarship Application instructions. You may also review the CMAS Scholarship Application Frequently Asked Questions or email the CMAS Scholarship Chair at cmasscholarship01@gmail.com or the CMAS President Carolyn Harrington at cmaspresident01@cmasncnw.com.

Q: How are CMAS Scholarships funded?

A: The Chesterfield Metro Area Section-NCNW is a private, not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to provide aid and support through established programs in the Chesterfield, Amelia, Powhatan, Charles City, New Kent and Hopewell communities. CMAS is responsible for raising scholarship funds via signature events and/or donations from community partners and corporate donors. Our scholarships and public contributions are investments in the next generation and our nation's future.

Q: Can CMAS offer any suggestions to make my application more competitive?

A: CMAS strongly encourages all applicants to:

- Read and follow all guidelines. Applications will be disqualified if a student fails to follow and/or ignore instructions.
- Proofread your application, especially the essay. Responses that are unclear or contain mistakes distract the scholarship reviewers from focusing on the content of the application. Remember applicants must certify that the essay reflects their own work.
- Send required application materials to CMAS to P.O. Box 5674, Midlothian, VA 23112 ATTN: Scholarship Chair no later than **11:59 PM ET, March 31, 2026.**