

# **Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Program College Scholarship Application**

**Application Postmark Deadline: May 15<sup>th</sup>**

Dear Scholarship Fund Applicant:

On behalf of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Program (MLKSP) we would like to applaud your efforts to pursue a college education. Your interest in applying for this scholarship demonstrates that you have decided to positively affect your future through higher education.

Zion Church Ministries is proud to be a collaborative church whose mission includes being an agent of social change and social action. That work includes seeking to eradicate and eliminate hatred, discrimination, and bias among the citizens of the community of Everett, MA, as well as the community-at-large, through combined efforts of educational, communal, social and religious programming. Our goal is to promote diversity, support diverse peoples of our community, and help to create a city where there is “no place for hate.”

Keep in mind that most scholarship programs, including ours, are competitive processes. To ensure that your application receives full consideration, we recommend that you: 1) carefully read the eligibility requirements, 2) follow the application instructions, and 3) have a colleague proofread your work.

We realize how important this process is to you and your family and take great care in reviewing all applications. We wish you much luck and success!

Sincerely,

Bishop Robert G. Brown, Senior Pastor  
Zion Church Ministries

**Martin Luther King, Jr. College Scholarship Program**  
**Zion Church Ministries**  
**757 Broadway, Everett, MA 02149**

## **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

### **WHERE TO OBTAIN AN APPLICATION:**

Application materials can be obtained from Zion Church Ministries. You may also download the application materials at [www.zionchurchministries.com](http://www.zionchurchministries.com) that may be printed and used the same as the hard copy document.

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

To be eligible for a scholarship, you must:

- Be a senior in high school in the Everett community or a member of Zion Church Ministries.
- Be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident with a permanent resident card or passport stamped I-551 (not expired).
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Be actively involved in your high school, your church, and your community. All three areas of involvement are required to be considered for this scholarship.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA:**

Applicants are evaluated based upon the following criteria:

- Academic performance
- Academic plans and career goals
- Community service
- Church involvement
- Compelling essay responses; correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- Letters of recommendation

### **APPLICATION PREPARATION:**

1. **Application** – Use a computer or typewriter to complete your form. The minimum character size for all responses is 11-point. We strongly encourage you to type your application as it makes it easier for our selection committee to read; however, if you do not have access to a computer, you may neatly print the application in blue or black ink. Applications that are illegible will be disqualified.
2. **Community Service/Volunteer Work** – Please attach or enclose, with your application and essay, any certificates, awards, articles, endorsements, evaluations, or any other documentation verifying your work in the community and the assessment of that work. Should you not be able to provide documentation relating to your performance and involvement in community service or volunteer work, please obtain a letter of recommendation from someone in a supervisory position that can address your participation.
3. **Academic Record** – please obtain academic information from your high school or your guidance counselor that can verify your academic performance in high school. This may be submitted through a transcript or a letter verifying your

current GPA, types of courses being taken, i.e. – honors, advanced placement, college preparatory, etc., as well as SAT or ACT scores.

4. **Letters of Recommendation** – The applicant must submit three letters of recommendation. These letters must be submitted from a teacher, a guidance counselor, both at the student’s high school, and an instructor or pastor of the student’s church. The letter must be current and cannot be from a relative.
  - a. Provide the letter of recommendation form to the person who will write your letter. Allow your recommender at least two weeks to complete your recommendation.
  - b. The letter must be confidential. Ask your recommender to return the recommendation form and letter to you in a sealed envelope with his or her signature written across the seal. Submit the sealed recommendation with your application.
  - c. The letter should address the following topics:
    - i. Academic record
    - ii. Academic plans and career goals
    - iii. Personal strengths, including motivation, leadership and commitment
    - iv. Community service and extracurricular activities

**POSTMARK DEADLINE:**

All materials must be mailed in one package that is postmarked on or before **May 15**.. Mail to:

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship  
Zion Church Ministries  
757 Broadway  
Everett, MA 02149**

**OR...Email to: [office@zionchurchministries.com](mailto:office@zionchurchministries.com)**

**AWARD NOTIFICATION:**

All applicants will be notified of their award status the third week in July. Recipients of the scholarship award will receive the award the first week of September.

**CALENDAR:**

<b>January 1</b>	Applications are available at <a href="http://www.zionchurchministries.com">www.zionchurchministries.com</a>
<b>May 15</b>	Postmark deadline for complete application packets
<b>May 30</b>	Notifications of received materials and application processing
<b>June</b>	Scholarship Committee review of applications and essays
<b>July 15</b>	Selections and Award notifications

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
**College Scholarship Program**  
Zion Church Ministries  
757 Broadway • Everett, MA 02149

**APPLICATION**  
**Postmark Deadline: May 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Personal Information**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Initial

Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone (____) _____
Email _____

**Date of Birth** (mm/dd/yy) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_      **Country of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a U.S. Citizen?  Yes  No    If not, you **MUST** provide evidence that you  
are a permanent resident

Expected graduation date (mm/yy)      \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Desired Career \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Major \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Major (if double major) \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Degree       Associate's degree       Bachelor's degree

**Family Information**

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Mother's name \_\_\_\_\_

Father's name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's marital status     Married  Single  Divorced  Separated  Widowed

Number of parents' dependents currently in college (include yourself) \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be working during the summer? If so, how many hours? \_\_\_\_\_

## Community Service/Volunteer Activities

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List service activities in which you have participated as a volunteer since January 1, 2007, beginning with the most recent.

Activity/Organization (Avoid abbreviating)	Your role/position(s) held	From	To	Hours per week
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

## ESSAY (500-750 words)

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It is estimated that by 2015, one out of seven high school students will be African-American, one out of four high school students will be Hispanic, one out of three high school students will be Asian/Pacific Rim or Middle eastern. High schools will become more diverse and more populated, affecting teaching and learning methodologies, as well as graduation rates. It is projected that African-Americans and Hispanics will have the highest high school drop-out rates among all ethnic groups. From your perspective as a student, what will need to change so that more students of color will be college bound and what could your role be in achieving this goal? What could be done to achieve equity in education, equal access to excellent education and equal opportunity to college education?

*Please provide all essay answers in typewritten or computer generated form, on separate sheets of 8 1/2 x 11 basic white paper.*

## Required Certification and Release (Applicant must read and sign below to be eligible.)

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### Applicant certification and Release of Information

- I certify that all information on this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.
- I certify that I meet all eligibility requirements as specified in this application and the accompanying instructions.
- I understand that I may only receive one scholarship administered by the MLK, Jr. College Scholarship Program. I understand that application materials become the property of the MLK, Jr. College Scholarship Program and will not be returned.
- I hereby authorize the MLK, Jr. College Scholarship Program to utilize information about and from my application and my likeness for public relations purposes, publicity or other scholarship opportunities.

Applicant's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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College Scholarship Program**

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**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

Applicant's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions to Applicant**

This letter of recommendation must be from a teacher or guidance counselor or Pastor. This letter cannot be from a relative. You should fully apprise your recommender about the MLK, Jr. College Scholarship Program, and your reasons for applying. Allow your recommender at least two weeks to write the letter. Submit the sealed recommendation with your application by the May 15<sup>th</sup> postmark deadline.

**Instructions to Recommender**

The person named above is applying for the MLK, Jr. College Scholarship. Please type or write your recommendation on the letterhead of your professional affiliation. We request your candid, written evaluation relative to the following:

- Academic Record
- Academic Plans and career goals
- Personal strengths, including motivation, leadership, and commitment
- Community service, church affiliations, and extracurricular activities

Since you know the candidate, the scholarship review panel is depending upon your thoughtful observations. The applicant will benefit most from a specific and illustrative evaluation rather than a general assessment.

Please complete the information below and return this form and your signed letter of recommendation to the student in a sealed envelope with your signature written across the seal. All application materials must be submitted by the student by the May 15<sup>th</sup> postmark deadline. The Martin Luther King, Jr. College Scholarship Program appreciates and thanks you for your assistance.

Recommender's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender's name (Please type or print) \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Title \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_ In what capacity? \_\_\_\_\_

## Application Checklist

Mail your application package by **May 15<sup>th</sup>**, postmark deadline to:

**Martin Luther King, Jr. College Scholarship Program**  
**757 Broadway**  
**Everett, MA 02149**

Enclose all following items in your application package. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Please **remove all staples** from application materials.

- Application** – fully completed, legible, and signed (no extra pages or attachments)
  
- Letters of Recommendation** – in sealed envelopes with the recommender's signature written across the seal. There should be three letters: one from a teacher, one from a guidance counselor, one from a pastor or instructor at student's church.
  
- If you are not a U.S. Citizen:** A copy of your permanent resident card or passport stamped 1-551 (not expired)
  
- Essay answers** – Remember to attach all pages of your essay responses

*Please remove all staples...use only paper clips!*