



2026

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Equality Cape May (a certified 501(c)(3) grassroots organization) advocates for equality and inclusion for the LGBTQIA+ / Queer community in Cape May County. We build and strengthen community through social events, advocacy, Pride programming, increasing visibility and representation and providing support and resources in our activities and activism, including: Monthly social meet-ups/ Community activism / Annual Pride events and March/ Actions to increase LGBTQIA+ / Queer visibility and representation, providing support and resources throughout Cape May County and South Jersey.

To further our mission, we are awarding two **\$1,000 scholarships** to local LGBTQIA+ / Queer students pursuing higher education or certified trade programs.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- be residents of Cape May County, New Jersey
- be graduating seniors who attend a public, charter, technical or accredited home high school program located in Cape May County. While we do not currently have a bandwidth to reach out to all schools, we welcome

applications from students attending schools outside the public system.

- Self-identify as a member of the LGBTQIA+/Queer community (public disclosure is not required)
- Provide proof of acceptance to an accredited 2- or 4-year college, university or certified trade program.

We seek students who demonstrate a commitment to equality, respect, inclusivity, visibility and diversity whether through leadership, advocacy, community involvement, creative expression or personal courage in living authentically.

Scholarship recipients must self - identify as members of the LGBTQIA+/Queer community, whether they are openly out or still in the process of understanding and expressing their identities.

Applicants must also demonstrate how their actions align with our mission:” *to build and strengthen Cape May County’s LGBTQIA+ / Queer community and promote welcoming attitudes and equality through organizing, advocacy and social connection.*”

We recognize that students may be at different stages of identity development and community involvement and we welcome applicants to share how they embody our values and continue - in ways both visible and personal - to advancing inclusion and equality

Disclaimer

To protect the privacy and safety of applicants, only the five members of the scholarship committee will review applications. Application information will not be shared outside of the Scholarship Committee and Board officers overseeing this program. Guidance Counselors and selected recipients will be notified directly by the Scholarship Chairperson. No applicant information will be shared with Equality Cape May members or published in any public forum.

Committee members must recuse themselves from reviewing applications when a conflict of interest exists.

Applications will be retained securely for a limited period and destroyed after awards decisions are finalized.

Additional information about the scholarship will be available in mid - March 2026 on our organization website. Please contact us at equalitycapemay@gmail.com or contact the Scholarship Chairperson at Gail.equalitycm@gmail.com if you have any questions or need guidance.

Scholarship Winners and High School Guidance Counselors will be notified by Monday, May 4th