

The Ronald J. Dukes Memorial MLK Scholarship Application



Application Deadline: May 4, 2026



**Troy Area United Ministries
392 2nd Street Troy, NY 12180
(518) 274-5920 www.taum.org**

About the Scholarship

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship was established in 1997 to promote the memory of the life and work of Dr. King, and preserve the legacy of the nonviolent civil rights movement expressed through his example and teaching. In 2015, the scholarship was renamed in memory of former MLK Committee Chairman, Ronald J. Dukes.

It is the hope of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee of TAUM that all recipients will explore how problems such as racism, sexism, classism, militarism, homophobia, ageism, and prejudice in our nation and throughout the world can be confronted effectively.

Scholarships will be awarded based on the following criteria:

1. Desire to implement the goals of Dr. King
2. Financial need
3. Academic record (promise of academic success)
4. Evidence of service to school, community and/or religious organization
5. Personal goals
6. Finalists will be expected to take part in an interview with Committee members. The interview will be a significant determining factor in the award.

Eligibility requirements:

1. Applicant is a high school senior or is expecting a high school equivalency diploma, and will be a first year college student.
2. Applicant is a resident of Rensselaer County or attend or hold membership in a congregation in Rensselaer County
3. Family members of TAUM Staff or Board Members are ineligible to apply.

Application MUST include:

1. Completed scholarship application, including essay
2. Most recent grade transcripts
3. Recommendation from school official or community leader
4. If not a Rensselaer County resident, you must provide a reference letter from the school or congregation

Application must be postmarked by May 4, 2026 to:

**MLK Scholarship Committee
392 Second Street
Troy, NY 12180**

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NOTE: All information must be completed for the application to be processed. The recommendation should verify knowledge and association with the applicant over time, and provide evidence of the applicant's ability to compete in a continuing education program. Family members of TAUM Staff or Board Members are ineligible to apply.

All information submitted in this application will be treated confidentially.

Please print clearly! All information is required.

Application must be postmarked by May 4, 2026

Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

If you are a member of a congregation, please name it here: _____

Community activities: _____

School activities: _____

Hobbies and interests: _____

Awards/Honors: _____

Vocational Goal: _____

College/University/Educational Institution _____

Have you been accepted? Yes No Student status: Full time Part time

Anticipated Financial Assistance from family \$ _____

Income you hope to earn through employment \$ _____

Other scholarship or awards money you have received. \$ _____

Student/school loans you will receive. \$ _____

Other financial assistance you will receive. \$ _____

Total number of family members in your immediate family: _____

Total number of brothers and sisters: _____

Number of immediate family members attending college (including yourself): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

REQUIRED ESSAY:

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. focused on racial justice and nonviolent social change. Please type an essay in 300 words or less that expresses what you interpret as his teachings and how you might promote his ideals in your life. (Attach a separate sheet.)