



**Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.  
Epsilon Phi Zeta Chapter**

***Instructions* for 2022-2023 Scholarship Application**

The Epsilon Phi Zeta Educational Foundation and the Epsilon Phi Zeta Chapter are pleased to offer merit-based scholarships of \$1,500.00 to High School applicants meeting the Eligibility Requirements. The Epsilon Phi Zeta Educational Foundation and the Epsilon Phi Zeta Chapter will also award the Nettie Backstrom Memorial HBCU Scholarship in the amount of \$1,500.00 to a High School applicant meeting the HBCU Eligibility Requirements.

**The HBCU Scholarship** is in honor of Soror Nettie Chase Backstrom, a proud HBCU graduate of Houston College for Negroes (now known as Texas Southern University). She wore many hats as a Teacher, Librarian, Counselor and Educator in the Oakland Unified School District for more than 30 years and possessed a commitment to furthering the educational pursuits of African American students in the Oakland Community. She was a “Finer” woman of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., for 80 years and an active member with Epsilon Phi Zeta Chapter for 70 years until her transition at age 100 in 2020.

The EPhiZ Educational Foundation is also pleased to offer Community College Transfer stipends of \$500.00 and the Dr. Norma Cole Ayers Memorial Scholarship of \$750.00 to applicants meeting the Eligibility Requirements.

**The Dr. Norma Cole Ayers Memorial Scholarship** honors an Epsilon Phi Zeta chapter member who achieved Bachelor, Masters, and Doctorate degrees as a full-time working mom and single parent. She spent most of her professional career as a mental health clinician for Solano County and was an advocate for mental health initiatives. She was a 25-year legacy Zeta Phi Beta Sorority member, filling the chapter scholarship chair and California state chaplain roles during her tenure before her triumphant transition in 2022.

The merit-based scholarship and HBCU scholarship application must be completed online and may be accessed by using the following link: [High School Application](#). The community college transfer stipend and the Dr. Norma Cole Ayers Scholarship application must be completed online using the following link: [Community College Application](#). The scholarship awards, the community college stipends will be paid upon proof of enrollment. To learn more about the Epsilon Phi Zeta Educational Foundation, visit our website at <https://www.zetaseastbay.org/foundation>

**General Information and Eligibility Requirements**

All applicants applying for this scholarship program must be an African American female or female of African descent, a current high school senior in the East Bay Area, and will attend a four-year college/university or HBCU institution beginning Fall 2023; or a Community College student in the East Bay Area transferring to a four-year institution beginning Fall 2023. All applicants will also be required to submit the following documents to constitute a completed application:

- Contact Information regarding persons providing student feedback on your behalf
- Recent photo of self (business/professional headshot, i.e., graduation photo, DMV style, etc.)
- [Photo Release Form](#)
- Personal Statement addressing the following: “ We are the sum total of our life experiences ” - share something significant that makes you the person you are today (single-spaced, 12pt. font, 1000 words or less).

**Merit-Based Eligibility Requirements:**

- Must have cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Unofficial transcript (which includes senior year first semester grades)

**HBCU Eligibility Requirements:**

- Must have cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Unofficial transcript (which includes senior year first semester grades)
- Must be a graduating senior in the Oakland Unified School District
- Statement of Financial Circumstances that qualifies you
- Must be attending a HBCU institution (**HBCU only**)

**Community College Eligibility Requirements:**

- Must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Unofficial transcript (which includes three most recent semester grades)
- Must demonstrate significant leadership skills and/or provide supporting information of Community Service

**Dr. Norma Cole Ayers Eligibility Requirements:**

- Must have cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher
- Must be a junior, senior, or graduate student in a four-year accredited college
- Must be a non-traditional student (over the age of 25, parent, or full-time working adult)
- Must be majoring in social work, counseling, psychology, ministerial studies, or a related field

All documents uploaded to the application must be in PDF form except the recent photo of self which should be in image form.

The deadline for this application is **Friday, April 28, 2023**. Applicants may be required to complete an interview after the application and required documents are received. For any questions or for additional information, contact Katherine Clarke at [scholarship@zetaseastbay.org](mailto:scholarship@zetaseastbay.org).

**Before you start this application...**

It is recommended that you gather all required documents and information (including documents to be uploaded; and name and email information for the persons providing student feedback) and complete your personal statement before you start this application. **Please be aware that you must enter your information in one sitting since there is no option to save your work and return later.** Completion of this application may take approximately an hour.