

Lois A. Braithwaite Scholarship Fund

2020 APPLICATION

The Lois A. Braithwaite Scholarship Fund application period is from **March 6, 2020 - April 23, 2020** and is open to applicants between the ages of 16 -24 who are pursuing post-secondary education and who demonstrate economic need.

Lois A. Braithwaite served as Board Chairperson of Greater Bergen Community Action for 23 years until her passing in January 2015. Annually since then, GBCA awards scholarships in Lois' name to continue her legacy: a legacy that embodies education and community service, and is reflected in each chosen recipient.

Lois was a staunch advocate for people in need. She was a teacher, volunteer, founder of the James Street Block Association, and a recipient of the New Jersey Governor's Jefferson Award for her exceptional community service. She was also instrumental in helping GBCA reach out to the homeless and expand its Head Start program.

The Lois A. Braithwaite Scholarship Fund is intended to help students in meeting some of the ancillary costs associated with pursuing a post-secondary education. It is not intended to be the primary source of funding such pursuits.

Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements and deadlines to qualify. Scholarship awards will be \$1,500 and can be applied towards tuition, room, board, books or related costs.

Individuals applying for a scholarship must submit a fully completed application to the address below by the **April 23, 2020** deadline to be considered for the 2020 application round. Applications may be mailed or hand-delivered.

If mailed, **the application must be postmarked no later than April 23, 2020.**

Attn.: Figen Tabakci
Lois A. Braithwaite Scholarship Fund
Greater Bergen Community Action, Inc.
535 Midland Avenue
Garfield, NJ 07026

Scholarship awardees will be notified on or around May 8, 2020. Awardees and their families will be invited to an awards celebration which will be held the evening of May 21, 2020

Eligibility Criteria

- Undergraduate student or high school graduate (with high school or equivalency diploma) transitioning to college or post-secondary vocational school/program.

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- Minimum grade point average of 3.0 or equivalent.
- Attending or planning to attend an accredited post-secondary school/program.
- Planning to attend school for the entire 2020 academic year on a full or part-time basis.
- Cannot have received the Lois A. Braithwaite Scholarship in the past.
- Must demonstrate economic need.

~ INSTRUCTIONS ~

1. **Application Form (Attached)**

Please complete the attached form in its entirety. No question should be left unanswered.

2. **Official Academic Transcript**

Applicants must provide an official academic transcript from their most recent school or college attended.

3. **Proof of Post-Secondary School Attendance or Plan To Attend**

Applicants must provide some evidence of their acceptance or enrollment into a post-secondary school or program. Such evidence can include a letter of acceptance, registration receipt or similar proof of acceptance.

4. **Essay**

Applicants are required to submit an essay of between 500 and 1,000 words, typed and double-spaced, on the following theme:

Why I believe that I am a good candidate to receive an award from the Lois A. Braithwaite Scholarship Fund, including a statement of economic need.

Applicants should describe the nature of their need and how this assistance will help them in fulfilling their goal to attain a post-secondary education. The applicant should also express plans for their future, including what career path they aspire to. Essays should be compelling and express the applicant's desire and passion to further their education, as well as the applicant's contribution to their community. Essays should be composed by the applicant alone and represent the applicant's own thoughts and words.

5. **Reference Letter**

Applicants must provide at least one (1) letter from non-related individuals who are familiar with the applicant's education and career aspirations and can speak to the applicant's character.

