



February 1, 2026

Dear *AKOMA* Scholarship Applicant:

AKOMA African American Women's Gospel Choir is pleased to begin the process for our annual Nona Patterson Chambers merit scholarship. Part of AKOMA's mission is to provide scholarship assistance to deserving college bound African American women who will graduate in June 2025 from an accredited high school in the Greater Rochester area; will attend college full-time in September 2025; and who are involved in community and / or church activities. Applicant can obtain a copy of the scholarship application from our website, www.akoma.org.

In addition to the application, an interview with our scholarship committee is required; the applicant will be notified of the interview details, if all application materials are received by April 1, 2026.

Please carefully complete all sections of the application, including --- **The Application Form, Essay, Three Reference Letters and your official High School Transcript (No copies will be accepted)**. All the above completed documents must arrive on or before the application postmark deadline: **April 1, 2026**. There will be no exceptions. Again, please note: all of the above items (even if sent separately) must be postmarked by **April 1, 2026** and mailed to the following post office box:

AKOMA African American Women's Gospel Choir
Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 19627
Rochester, NY 14619

If mailing a hardcopy application, it is suggested that you collect all materials and mail them together.

If submitting electronically, the completed application documents must arrive in the Akoma email address: akomascholarship@gmail.com by midnight April 1st.

Electronic Application Submission Guidelines.

1. *Applications and Essays – from applicant*
2. *Community Recommendation Letters – from the author*
3. *Transcript and Counselor Recommendation*
(#3 may be submitted electrically **ONLY** by the school counselor)

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Scholarship Committee Member, Ms. Donna M. Jones at (585) 281-8485. Feel free to visit the AKOMA website, www.akoma.org, and click on the Scholarship tab for additional information.

Sincerely,

AKOMA Scholarship Committee

**Founder &
Artistic Director:**
Dr. Arlette Miller Smith

**Executive Music
Director:**
Sherie Hill

President:
Carolyn Butts

Vice President:
Colette Hardaway

Treasurer:
Open

Assistant Treasurer:
Loretta Armstrong

Secretary:
Patricia Starks, Sr.

Assistant Secretary:
Regina Fowler

Chaplain:
Phyllis Griffin

Herstorian:
Open

Conductors:
Kathy Damann
Collette Hardaway

AKOMA

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