



AMERICAN PAKISTANI
ADVOCACY GROUP

“Building Bridges to Empower Communities”

Engage.Empower.Elevate

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 3

January 2022



About Us

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) is a not-for profit organization that seeks to promote Pakistani ethnic identity and customs through: civic engagements, educational resources, career opportunities, and personal advancements. We seek to uplift and honor the principles of democracy, freedom, and hard work—characteristics that make us unconditionally American. We aspire to engage, empower and elevate.

Our Mission

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group's mission is multi-dimensional rooted in our mantra, Engage, Empower, and Elevate. We seek to engage our community by providing objective information. We empower by focusing on civic engagement and raising awareness to ensure equal representation, and we elevate through promotion of policies that seek to uplift Pakistani Americans.

Our Goals

Our goals are to:

- Provide community resources
- Encourage equal political representation
- Foster women and youth engagement
- Advance community-based businesses and entrepreneurship
- Promote Pakistani culture and arts

Message from the President of APAG, Ali Rashid



I am excited to share with you the third iteration of APAG's annual newsletter. In this newsletter we highlight the extensive progress we have made throughout this past year in uplifting the cultural decadence of our peoples. The past few years have not been easy for many of us, plagued by the COVID pandemic which has had far reaching implications – we have lost loved ones, we have lost jobs and we have lost livelihoods; however, it is important that we maintain steadfast in our desire to overcome. A new year is representative of a new beginning, a rebirth to start anew and begin bettering ourselves and improving facets of our lives one step at a time. As such, as we look forward to the new year ahead, we must keep in our hearts and souls this message. We must strive to uphold the values that make our Pakistani culture beautiful. We must continue to foster and cultivate a desire to learn and be inquisitive – to never take things for granted. We must continue to fight for the opportunity for equal representation, so that we may continue to develop a better world for our progeny.

As an organization the American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) has been leading this charge from the forefront. We have worked passionately with a plethora of elected individuals in order to champion causes that we find important to the success of Pakistani Americans and those in need of representation. The past year was immensely turbulent. With a new wave of COVID cases and the NYC mayoral election, the city and its people found themselves divided. APAG recognized this and sought to engage our community. We understood that the greatest way to illicit change is through active discourse which allows us to engage in a pedagogy that is transformative. The capacity to provide information that is non-biased, and objective is the gold standard. APAG acted hastily in this manner to conduct a plethora of workshops and forums – so that individuals can truly understand the power that information carries. APAG was instrumental in working to pass legislation into 1867, which grants eligible lawful permanent residents in New York City the right to vote in municipal elections. In doing so we are actively working to help restore agency to immigrants by providing them with a voice to speak – giving them the opportunity to make changes that impact them. By accomplishing this feat, APAG has paved the way as New York City has become the largest city in the country to implement such policy. Likewise, APAG worked with city leaders in a redistricting process that groups communities together, allowing them to elect a representative that is indicative of them and their needs.

One of our greatest achievements to date is part of our mission to elevate the Pakistani diaspora. Our team has worked immensely hard alongside officials to establish February 5th as “Kashmir Day”. This historic day marks an incredible achievement and monumental progress for our Kashmiri brothers and sisters. New York becomes the first state in the United States of America to mark February 5th, “Kashmir Day”. These programs only scratch the surface of the work that APAG is conducting. Our work has only just begun, and we look forward to accomplishing much greater things in the future.

I wish you all a healthy and happy new year. I wish that you hold true to yourself and the goals that you have set forth.

Thank You

Ali Rashid, President of APAG



American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) 2021 Year in Review



Historic “Kashmir Day” Resolution by American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) making February 5th, “Kashmir Day” in New York State!

After years of effort, advocacy and engagement with alongside elected officials, the American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) announces its latest collaborative accomplishment. With the passing of this resolution, New York State became the first state in the United States of America to mark February 5th, “Kashmir Day”. This historic day marks an incredible achievement and monumental progress for our Kashmiri brothers and sisters.

We would like to thank Assemblymember Nader Sayegh for sponsoring this resolution. Co-Sponsor Assembly members: Assembly Member Kevin Byrne, Assembly Member William Colton, Assembly Member Steven Cymbrowitz, Assembly Member Steve Englebright, Assembly Member Harvey Epstein, Assembly Member Donna Lupardo, Assembly Member Angelo Morinello, Assembly Member Amy Paulin, Assembly Member Nick Perry, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, Assembly Member Christopher Tague and Assembly Member Stefani Zinerman



“The State of New York endeavors to champion human rights including the freedom of religion, movement, and expression for all Kashmiri people”.



American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) and NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer conduct workshop on Prevailing Wage

January 2021

NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER
SCOTT M. STRINGER

AMERICAN PAKISTANI
ADVOCACY GROUP

INVOKE YOU TO A

PREVAILING WAGE WORKSHOP

LEARN ABOUT:

- New York City's Prevailing Wage Law
- How the Comptroller's Office recoups and returns wages stolen from workers
- How you can help identify workers who may be owed wages

Wednesday
January 27, 2021
6:00 pm

REGISTER VIA EVENTBRITE
www.cutt.ly/djHlTA
Facebook Live: [facebook.com/apagusa](https://www.facebook.com/apagusa)



American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) host workshop on new system of voting for NYC municipal elections - Rank Choice Voting

RANK THE VOTE NYC

How Ranked Choice Voting Works

Ranked Choice Voting allows you to rank up to five candidates in order of preferences instead of choosing just one

After Polls close, election officials tally the results and show how many times a candidate was marked as the voter's first choice

If the candidate gets more than 50% of the first choice rankings, they win the election

Tally	
Candidate A	14%
Candidate B	61%
Candidate C	25%

IF NO CANDIDATES GET MORE THAN 50% OF THE VOTE, THE COUNT GOES INTO AN INSTANT RUN OFF

- In this scenario, the candidates with the least amount of votes for first choice is eliminated
- The voters who had that candidate as their first choice will then have their vote count for the candidate they marked as their second choice
- The process continues until one candidate gets more 50% of the votes

اردو اور پنجابی زبان میں مدد دستیاب ہے۔
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RANK THE VOTE NYC

درجہ بندی پسند و ننگ کیسے کام کرتی

- درجہ بندی پسند و ننگ آپ کو اس بات کی اجازت دیتی ہے کہ آپ ایک امیدوار کے بجائے پانچ امیدواروں کو اپنی ترجیح کے مطابق دوش سے دیکھ سکتے ہیں۔
- پانچ کے اختتام پر پانچوں حکام متنازع کا شمار کریں گے اور یہ تاہم کسی کے امیدوار کو ووٹ دینے کی بجائے ترجیح دی ہے۔
- اگر کوئی امیدوار پہلی درجہ بندی پسند و ننگ میں 50 فیصد سے زائد ووٹ حاصل کرے گا تو وہ انتخاب جیت جائے گا۔

شمار کرنا	
14 فیصد	امیدوار برائے "اے"
61 فیصد	امیدوار برائے "بی"
25 فیصد	امیدوار "سی"

اگر کوئی امیدوار بھی 50 فیصد سے زیادہ ووٹ حاصل نہیں کر پاتا تو فوری طور پر دوبارہ الیکشن ہونگے

- اس صورتحال میں پہلی دو ننگ
- جس امیدوار کو ووٹ دینے کی ترجیح دی ہوگی تو ان کے ووٹ دوسری ترجیح کے امیدوار کے ساتھ شمار ہونگے
- میں کم تر ووٹ حاصل کرنے والے امیدوار مقابلے سے خارج ہونگے۔

اردو اور پنجابی زبان میں مدد دستیاب ہے۔
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APAG providing community with Free COVID-19 testing 7 days a week in Queens.

February 2021



APAG and MCN Community Action Forum to Meet & Greet with Muslim Candidates Running for NYC City Council.

SUMMIT 2021: A COMMUNITY ACTION FORUM
 WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10TH, 2021

Register Here:
<https://bit.ly/3bVITRs>

JOIN PANEL I: 1:00-2:00 PM
 Meet & Greet with the Muslim candidates
 running for NYC City Council

Soma Syed CD 24	Al-Hassan Kanu CD 27	Shanana Hanif CD 39	Kalad Alamarie CD 32	Mohammed Uddi CD 24
Abdourahamane Diallo CD 16	Moumita Ahmed CD 24	Mammun Haq CD 39	Fatima Baryab CD 25	



Pakistan Resolution Day!

March 2021



APAG celebrates Pakistan Resolution Day at Times Square in New York. Pakistan Day provides an excellent way to learn more about the rich and diverse cultures within Pakistan. It seeks to encourage future generations to be proud of their culture while helping showcase it to all Americans.

US Congressman Jamaal Bowman Message for the Pakistani American Community on Pakistan Day!



“Pakistan Day provides an excellent means by which all Americans learn more about the rich Pakistani heritage, while fostering an appreciation for this ancient culture among future generations.

New York is the home to over 250,000 American-Pakistanis; the community of people who came to New York from Pakistan, or who have ancestral ties to the homeland, share their cherished culture and traditions with Americans of all backgrounds.

Members of the Pakistani-American community demonstrate a strong work ethic that has enabled them to realize many accomplishments and find

continued success in this State and Nation, and they continue to excel in a wide range of professions such as education, medicine, science, technology, business and many more.”



APAG in collaboration with other community organizations, hosted a virtual New York City Mayor Candidate Forum.



APAG in collaboration with Engage conducted forums with NYC candidates running for governmental positions of: Borough President, District Attorney, and City Council

May 2021





APAG Hosted Iftar at Queens Borough Hall



APAG proudly hosted the first Iftar on the stairs of the Queens Borough Hall. With the assistance of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, we broke fast and distributed toys and gifts in celebration of Eid.

This was an important milestone for the Islamic community during the Holy Month of Ramadan and Asian American Heritage Month!





APAG participated in Our City Our Vote Rally to schedule the Intro 1867 Legislation hearing

June 2021



Rally for One Million Voices! To celebrate obtaining a supermajority of the City Council’s support for legislation Introduction 1867. We encouraged the NYC Council and Speaker Corey Johnson to schedule a hearing right away and pass this legislation immediately.

APAG invited NYC Mayoral candidate Kathryn Garcia to “Little Pakistan” in Brooklyn



APAG invited NYC Mayoral candidate Kathryn Garcia to “Little Pakistan” in Brooklyn to visit the Pakistani American and Muslim community. Kathryn met community members, business owners and Imams. She spoke at Makki Masjid Muslim Community Center and gave her commitment to support the community.



Pakistan Independence Day!

August 2021

On August 14th 2021, APAG Team Hiked to Breakneck Ridge Mountain in New York to celebrate Pakistan Independence Day and raised the Pakistan flag at the summit. Pakistan Zindabad!



APAG: Community Resource Kit

AMERICAN PAKISTANI
ADVOCACY GROUP



Hate Crimes

What is a Hate Crime

A hate crime is an offense that is motivated by bias. A person commits a hate crime when one of a specified set of crimes is committed targeting a victim because of a perception or belief about their race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, religion, religious practice, age, disability or sexual orientation, or when such an act is committed as a result of that type of perception or belief.

Governor Cuomo created the Hate Crimes Taskforce to fight the increase in reports of bias-motivated threats, harassment, and violence throughout New York State.

When hate crimes are reported all information regarding your experience, identity, and others remains confidential.



IF YOU SEE SOMETHING OR ARE A VICTIM OF A HATE CRIME REPORT IT TO THE POLICE AND CALL THE DIVISION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Call: 1-888-392-3644 or Text "HATE" to 81366

IF YOU NEED HELP WITH MEDICAL EXPENSES, BURIAL COSTS AND OTHER EXPENSES DUE TO THE VICTIMIZATION OF A CRIME, CALL THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

Call: 1-800-247-8035 or Visit <https://ovs.ny.gov/help-crime-victims>

IN NYC:

- Public Advocate
 - 212-669-7250
- NY District Attorney Office Hate Crimes Unit
 - Manhattan 212-335-3100
 - <https://www.manhattanda.org/victim-resources/hate-crimes/>
 - Brooklyn 718-250-4949
 - <http://brooklynda.org/hate-crimes-bureau/>
- New York City Human Rights Commission
 - 718-722-3131
 - <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/cchr/help/general-public.page>
- Safe Horizon Victim Assistance
 - 866-689-4357

OUTSIDE NYC:

- Nassau County District Attorney
 - 516-571-3505
 - nassauda.org
- Nassau County District Attorney, Office of Immigrant Affairs
 - 516-571-7756
- Nassau County Executive Laura Curran
 - 516-571-3131
- Suffolk County District Attorney
 - 631-853-4161
 - suffolkcountyny.gov/da
- Suffolk County Police Dept, Hate Crimes Unit
 - 631-852-6323
- Suffolk County Dept of Minority Affairs
 - 631-853-4738
- Westchester County Human Rights Commission
 - humanrights.westchestergov.com
 - 914-995-7710

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APAG Community Resource Kit on Hate Crime

APAG has put together a set comprehensive resources and information on reporting hate crimes and obtaining support with hate crime-related medical and burial expenses via state and local resources. As we start to see increase in hate crimes, we want communities to know where to reach out and report each and every incident to the authorities. Feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.



APAG Back to School Drive



APAG in collaboration with ICNA Relief and Kingsland Properties conducted a Back to School Drive in Jamaica, Queens. APAG distributed free backpacks and school supplies to children. It was so heartwarming to see smiles on the children faces as they get ready to go back to school. Thanks to all APAG members and volunteers who participated in this noble cause. APAG will continue to work and collaborate to assist communities in need and make sure communities get resources that are much needed.



APAG Team Meet NYC Mayoral Candidate Eric Adams

September 2021



APAG met with NYC's new elected mayor Eric Adams. New York City itself hosts the largest concentration of Pakistani Americans of any U.S. city, with a population of approximately 200,000, primarily in the boroughs of Queens and Brooklyn. APAG and its members spoke intimately with Eric, and he reassured us that he has our best interest in mind and that he will be a resource to our community.

Business Conference



APAG co-organized a business conference and business expo with the Asian American Chamber of Conference and Greater New York Chamber of Commerce.



APAG GOTV Rally for Election

October 2021

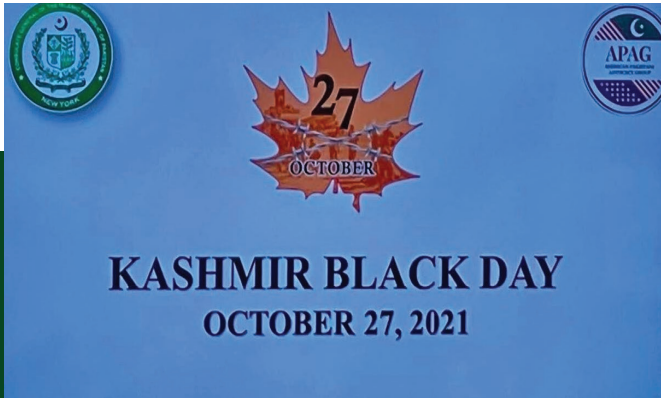


Get out the Vote rally organized by APAG with elected officials, candidates and community members. The event highlighted the importance of voting at the city level and introduced candidates to the community.

Thank you to Senator John Liu, Assemblymember David Weprin, Assemblymember Jenifer Rajkumar, Councilmember James Gennaro, Councilmember Candidate Sandra Ung, Councilmember Candidate Linda Lee, Judge Candidate Cassandra Johnson, Judge Candidate Soma Syed and Judge Candidate Andrea Ogle for attending and meeting with community.



APAG Kashmir Black Day event with Consulate General of Pakistan New York



APAG and the Consulate General of Pakistan New York hosted a Kashmir Black Day and highlighted human rights violations that have been occurring in Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Various speakers highlighted the gross injustices of occupying forces.

Thank you to the APAG youth and women members who played an instrumental role in bringing Pakistani American students and young professionals to highlight the cause of Kashmir with special guest and Keynote speaker Hon. Munir Akram, Ambassador of a Pakistan to United Nations.



APAG Redistricting Webinar

November 2021

APAG conducted a webinar to educate our community on what is redistricting, why it's important, how our community can participate and how our community can prevent getting gerrymandered. The state's newly created Independent Redistricting Commission is hosting their final round of Public Hearings. APAG wanted everyone to participate and testify to protect our communities so that we can strengthen our political representation.

The redistricting process will redraw the current lines for different state and federal legislative districts (such as for State Senate and Congress). This is a great opportunity to make sure our communities can be consolidated into voting blocs, to further our political empowerment! During the webinar we broke down the process of redistricting and how individuals and organizations can get involved.

APAG testimony for New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

APAG testified in front of the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission. APAG recognized that the South Asian, Muslim and Pakistani communities of Eastern Queens have historically been shut out of the redistricting process, their voices literally cannot be heard, and then they cannot have the seat at the table they deserve. The majority of the South Asian and Pakistani American community is being sidelined in Eastern Queens. In particular, Assembly districts 33, 32, 26, 24, 25, which represent a large Muslim and South Asian population, has been lumped together by faulty boundary lines that do not allow for fair representation for South Asian and Muslim communities.



Also, while the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission was holding a series of public hearings, APAG called on the commission to expand access to non-English speakers in upcoming public meetings, especially Urdu.



APAG Cares Thanksgiving Halal Turkey giveaway and Food Drive



The American Pakistani Advocacy Group Cares distributed over 300 Halal turkeys and food packages amongst the community. The response by the people was overwhelming and thankfully we were able to put a smile on people's faces. Unfortunately, this serves as yet another reminder that food insecurity is still relevant and APAG will provide its best effort to combat it.

Thank you to all APAG members and volunteers who assisted by packing and distributing in a cold weather. We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the community.

Our food packages consisted of fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs, bread, rice, flour, and other non-perishable items.



Legislation Intro 1867 Our City Our Vote Victory Rally

December 2021

A historic day for New York City. After many years of advocating, Our City Our Vote legislation intro 1867 was passed by NYC Council.

The newly enacted legislation granted eligible lawful permanent residents in New York City the right to vote in municipal elections, paving the way to make New York City the largest city in the country to do so.



Victory rally of this momentous legislation!

NYC has an aura. There is something palpable in the air that draws people to it. It is the city of dreams; a city that is built on the diversity of its people. NYC is an amalgamation of people of different backgrounds, cultures, and socioeconomic standings. People from all over the world immigrate here in the hopes to obtain opportunity - to gain a chance to chase the American dream. It is heartwarming for the APAG to be a part of the Our City Our Vote Coalition in passing historic legislation Intro 1867. It is the culmination of tireless efforts both day and night to allow NYC to become the largest city in the nation on enfranchise immigrants - to give them agency and opportunity to grasp at their dreams."



APAG Cares Holiday Food and Toy Drive



APAG Cares Holiday Toys and Food Drive. APAG Cares distributed toys and candies to children. The Santa brought smiles and cheer to kids' faces. Also, APAG Cares team distributed groceries and food to the community. Thank you to all APAG Team members who participated in this event. It was another great show of team work and it was wonderful to see smiles on children faces.

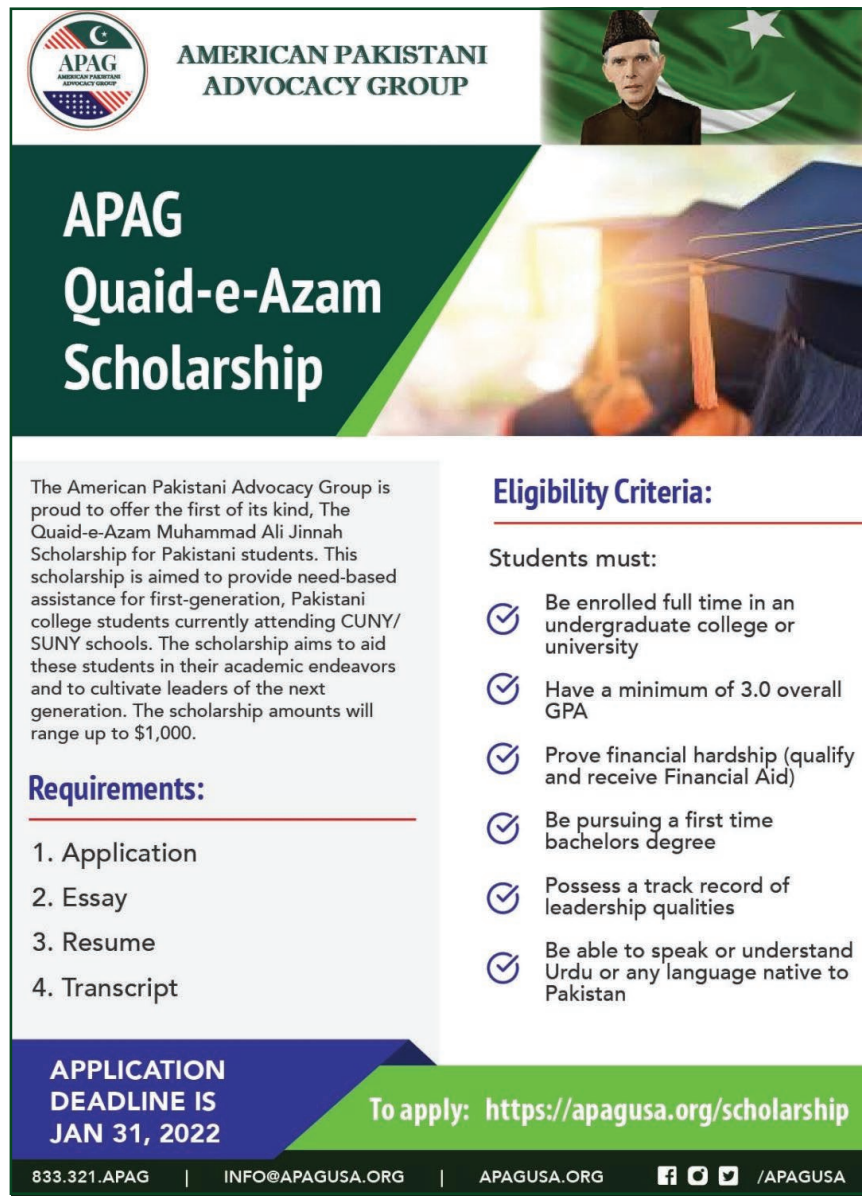
This was our 2nd annual holiday toy and food drive. We had prepared for a larger turnout than last year. Thankfully, we were able to put smiles on the faces of hundreds of people and are absolutely looking forward to doing it again next year!

Special thanks to Queens Borough President Donovan Richards. Assemblymember David Weprin and Councilmember Council Member Adrienne Adams office for joining us and showing APAG support, as always.

Upcoming initiatives for 2022

APAG Quaid-e-Azam Scholarship!

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group is proud to offer the first of its kind, The Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah Scholarship for Pakistani students in New York. This scholarship is aimed to provide need-based assistance for first-generation, Pakistani college students currently attending CUNY/ SUNY schools. The scholarship aims to aid these students in their academic endeavors and to cultivate leaders of the next generation.



The poster features the APAG logo (American Pakistani Advocacy Group) in the top left corner, a portrait of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in the top right, and a background image of a graduation ceremony. The main title 'APAG Quaid-e-Azam Scholarship' is prominently displayed in the center. Below the title, the text describes the scholarship's purpose and eligibility criteria. A list of requirements is provided on the left, and a list of eligibility criteria is on the right. At the bottom, the application deadline is stated as January 31, 2022, and the application link is provided.

AMERICAN PAKISTANI ADVOCACY GROUP

APAG Quaid-e-Azam Scholarship

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group is proud to offer the first of its kind, The Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah Scholarship for Pakistani students. This scholarship is aimed to provide need-based assistance for first-generation, Pakistani college students currently attending CUNY/ SUNY schools. The scholarship aims to aid these students in their academic endeavors and to cultivate leaders of the next generation. The scholarship amounts will range up to \$1,000.

Requirements:

1. Application
2. Essay
3. Resume
4. Transcript

Eligibility Criteria:

Students must:

- ✓ Be enrolled full time in an undergraduate college or university
- ✓ Have a minimum of 3.0 overall GPA
- ✓ Prove financial hardship (qualify and receive Financial Aid)
- ✓ Be pursuing a first time bachelors degree
- ✓ Possess a track record of leadership qualities
- ✓ Be able to speak or understand Urdu or any language native to Pakistan

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JAN 31, 2022

To apply: <https://apagusa.org/scholarship>

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AMERICAN PAKISTANI ADVOCACY GROUP

**We would love to hear your feedback.
Contact Us Today**

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Join Us, Work with Us, Collaborate with Us.

