



Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King, Jr., Project

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<u>Board Members</u> Chair Shannay Sampson Co-Chair Rita Shaw Secretary Kristin Walters Treasurer Gayle Claiborne Emeritus Sherie Rodgers <u>Committee Chairs</u> Community Affairs Richard Nichols Cynthia Barnes-Slater Chare Swodeck Dwayne Smith Marketplace Jamie Lindsay Public Relations Renee Barbee National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) Pomona Valley Section Social Media Jamie Lindsay, Kristin Walters Chaplain Natalie Shiras Intern Randy Pierre <u>Applicants must reside in the following areas:</u> Alta Loma Chino Chino Hills Claremont Diamond Bar Fontana La Verne Montclair Ontario Pomona Rancho Cucamonga Rialto San Dimas Upland	2026 Application Information 44th Annual Celebration on January 18, 2026 Martin Luther King, Jr., Youth Social Justice Awards The Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King, Jr., Project is now accepting applications for the 2026 Martin Luther King, Jr., Youth Social Justice Awards. This year's theme is taken from Martin Luther King, Jr. speech, <i>Where Do We Go From Here?</i> The award amounts range from \$1,000 to \$2,500, and is given to students, ages 15-19, who have demonstrated leadership in the spirit of Rev. Dr. King in their schools and communities. These awards are intended to honor youth who strive to promote social justice through their community service and their involvement in school and religious organizations. The awards are presented at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration. Please note to receive the award, recipients MUST ATTEND the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Annual Celebration at Pilgrim Congregational Church located at 600 N. Garey Ave., Pomona, CA 91767. The celebration begins at 6:00 pm, Sunday, January 18, 2026. For the past 44 years, the Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King, Jr., Project (PIV-MLK) has worked to honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The mission of the Project is to <i>commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and empower the community to promote social justice and unity, through service.</i> The Youth Social Justice Awards commemorate Dr. King's legacy that lives on through youth who believe in the importance of following in his footsteps. Applications are accepted September 22, 2025 - November 1, 2025. Your application must be submitted online at piv.mlkjrproject@gmail.com or at https://tinyurl.com/pivmlkscholarship by 11:59 pm on November 1, 2025. PIV-MLK is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us via email piv.mlkjrproject@gmail.com. In Unity, Shannay Sampson, Chair Rita Shaw, Co-Chair 2025 PIV-MLK Board & Committee
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Pomona Inland Valley
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2026 Youth Social Justice Award Application Form

Please Type or Print Clearly, use blue or black ink only.

Personal Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

School Name: _____ Class Year: _____

Birthday (month/date/year): _____

Parent/Guardian(s) Information:

Parent/Guardian 1 Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Parent/Guardian 2 Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Additional Information:

If selected, how would this award benefit you?

How did you hear about this award?

Good Character Statement: We expect that all of our award recipients will be of good character. If any unlawful act is discovered by the Pomona Inland Valley MLK, Jr., Project Board Members, your award will be revoked.



Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King, Jr., Project 2026 Application Checklist

Please provide the following as instructed below. These are the criteria which will be used to score your application. **All applications must be received online by 11:59 pm on November 1, 2025.** Identify and submit your documents as instructed. Incomplete applications or those received after the deadline will **not** be considered.

All documents must be either:
emailed to piv.mlkjrproject@gmail.com
or

uploaded to the online application at <https://tinyurl.com/pivmlkaward>.

☐ **Formatting Directions:**

All documents must be sent or uploaded as a pdf attachment. Essay must be 2 - 3 pages (1200 - 1500 words). Please TYPE in black using 12-point font in Times New Roman or Arial ONLY, double spaced, set the page layout with one-inch margins and SINGLE SIDED pages. **DO NOT SUBMIT SCREENSHOTS OR FILES.**

☐ **Application Form:** *Please submit as LastName_2026App.*

Please answer all questions on the Martin Luther King, Jr., Youth Social Justice Award Application Form (page 2 of this packet and page 1 on the online application).

☐ **Essay:** *Please submit as LastName_2026Essay.*

The mission of the Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King, Jr. Project is to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and empower the community to promote social justice, and unity through service. In your essay, please answer questions:

- (A) In his speech "Where Do We Go From Here?" Dr. King spoke of transforming a neighborhood into a beloved community. Describe how you have worked, or plan to work, to strengthen unity and justice in your school or community?

☐ **Two Letters of Support:** *Please submit as LastName_2026Reccomendation.*

Please request and include two different, signed recommendation letters from school representatives, civic leaders, spiritual/religious leaders, or organization leaders who can comment on your accomplishments, and your commitment to social justice. Your recommendation letters **may not** be from the same person nor from representatives of the same organization and **may not** be from your parent/guardian(s).

☐ **Proof of Community Service:** *Please submit as FirstName_2026SVC.*

Please provide proof of at least **20 community service hours** from different organizations on their letterhead, including; the number of hours completed, the date and name of the tasks, and it **must** be signed by a representative of the organization. Your proof may not be signed by your parent/guardian(s).

☐ **Deadline - No Exceptions:**

The application and all required information must be submitted by email to piv.mlkjrproject@gmail.com or the online application at <https://tinyurl.com/pivmlkaward>. Please submit all information by **11:59 pm on November 1, 2025. EARLY SUBMISSIONS ARE ENCOURAGED.** A confirmation email will be sent within 72 hours of receiving your completed application. If selected as a 2025 MLK Youth Social Justice Honoree, notification will be sent on November 18, 2025.