



# ***NO HATE* IN THE GARDEN STATE**

## **No Hate in the Garden State Youth Competition 2024-2025**

Earlier this year, Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin announced the launch of [No Hate in the Garden State](#), a statewide public awareness campaign aimed at reversing the upward trend of bias crimes in New Jersey, and encouraging better reporting of bias incidents.

To further the campaign's goals and purpose, the Attorney General, the [Division on Civil Rights](#) (DCR), and the [Division of Criminal Justice](#) (DCJ) invite middle school and high school students with a passion for civil rights and social justice to partake in our ***No Hate in the Garden State Youth Competition***. This statewide initiative empowers the next generation to work to eliminate bias and discrimination in their communities. Participating youth are invited to elevate their voices to act as community change agents. Participants will be invited to a roundtable discussion in 2025 to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Law Against Discrimination (LAD), the first state civil rights statute to go into effect in the country.

### **Program Purpose**

The goal of the Youth Competition is to encourage students to act as community change agents by promoting an inclusive community that stands up against bias and discrimination. Student participants will collaborate on a community-based project incorporating one of the identified themes below. Examples of potential projects include a social media awareness campaign, open mic night, cultural heritage celebration, educational workshops, a podcast, or art work or

exhibition. Students are encouraged to use their creativity.

### The Youth Competition encompasses the following themes:

- No Hate in the Garden State
- Say no to hate
- Stand up to hate
- A vision for a bias-free New Jersey
- Fighting for civil rights
- Inclusivity
- Celebrating diverse cultures
- Community mediation
- Increasing awareness of New Jersey's diversity (such as race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, nationality, or ancestry)

### Program Outcomes

By participating in this program, youth will:

- Have the opportunity to further the goals of a statewide campaign fighting hate and discrimination.
- Gain an understanding of the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, and other laws that help protect against bias crimes.
- Develop a strong sense of civic responsibility, awareness of civil rights, and leadership skills to take on new challenges.
- Connect with students across the state around civil rights topics.
- Elevate their voices and concerns for their community.

### Program Requirements

- Students must be in grades 6-12 to participate.
- Students must be New Jersey residents to participate.
- Students must work in groups with a minimum number of 2 people in a group.
- Groups may be newly established or may already exist as a club or other youth organization.
- Groups must submit an application, including a project proposal, to participate in the competition and be considered for the initiative.
- At least one group member must be present at each group session.

### Application Process

- Interested groups and their parent/legal guardian, if a minor, must complete and submit the project proposal (**one project proposal per group**) with consent form **by January 13, 2025**. Each student must submit a consent form. Consent forms must be submitted to [communityrelations@njcivilrights.gov](mailto:communityrelations@njcivilrights.gov).

- The group’s Project Proposal must list group members, summarize the group’s interest in participating in the campaign, and must include an initial plan for the group project. The final project may differ from the original plans with Division approval.
- Proposed projects that do not align with either the overall campaign or any of the themes may be rejected.
- **Project Proposals that do not have all participants’ consent forms will not be considered.**
- Once the project proposal is received and approved, students will receive a confirmation email by **January 31, 2025**.
- [Link to project proposal.](#)

## Interactive Virtual Group Sessions

Group sessions will be designed to dive deeper into the *No Hate in the Garden State Youth Competition* and network with youth across the state. There will be 3 virtual group sessions that will introduce important skills and themes, including:

- Overview: How We Fight Against Bias in New Jersey
- Bystander Intervention Training
- Careers in civil rights/ public service

## Finalists & Roundtable Discussion

A select number of groups representing those in grades 6-8 and those in grades 9-12 will be selected to present at our student roundtable discussion celebrating the Law Against Discrimination’s 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This roundtable discussion will honor the two winning groups of the No Hate in the Garden State Youth Competition. Students will discuss the project they completed in their community, its impact, and the role of youth activism.

## Project Summary and Assessment

The group project summary consisting of a report of the project, outcome, impact, and youth role in activism is due by **April 30, 2025**. A project summary template will be shared closer to the due date.

Projects selected will be reviewed by a panel of employees from the Division on Civil Rights and Division of Criminal Justice. When evaluating the projects, they will base their scoring on the following categories:

- Relation to one of the themes
- Creativity/Innovation
- Impact on community
- Project execution

## Timeline

Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>

### **Application Deadline**

Application and individual release forms are due by 11:59pm.

Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>

### **Notifications to Students**

Student groups are notified if the proposal is accepted or denied.

Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 6pm – 7:30pm

### **Group Session: Overview: How We Fight Against Bias in New Jersey**

The first session will introduce students to the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, laws that help protect against bias crimes, and the No Hate in the Garden State Campaign.

Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 6pm – 7:30pm

### **Group Session: Bystander Intervention Training**

This session will introduce students to bystander intervention and go over ways they can safely intervene in instances of bias.

Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 6pm – 7:30pm

### **Group Session: Careers in Civil Rights and Public Service**

Students will hear from professionals working in state government and civil rights who will share their career path.

Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

### **Project Summary Deadline**

Student groups must submit their project summary by 11:59pm.

Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

### **Finalists Announced**

Finalist and winners of the No Hate in the Garden State Youth Competition will be announced on May 30<sup>st</sup>.

June 2025

### **Student Round Table Discussion**

Student round table discussion will be held with representatives of the Attorney General's leadership team, as well as the Division on Civil Rights, and the Division of Criminal Justice.

## Student Group Responsibilities

- Work with group members to create a project/event for their community that aligns with the campaign themes.
- Submit project proposal, release forms, and project summary.
- *At least one representative of each group must attend each of the three interactive virtual group sessions.* However, all group members are encouraged to attend these sessions.

- Submit the project summary **by April 30, 2025**. The project summary template will be shared closer to the due date.

## Parent/Legal Guardian Responsibilities

- Complete and submit the project proposal with the student group if the students are minors.
- Stay up to date on the campaign and the group session dates.

## Communication

Student groups and their parents/legal guardians will receive emails with upcoming activities, meetings, and workshop links.

**Any questions please reach out to us by email at [CommunityRelations@njcivilrights.gov](mailto:CommunityRelations@njcivilrights.gov).**

## About No Hate in the Garden State

In alignment with the Attorney General's mission to combat bias and hate, [No Hate in the Garden State](#) is a campaign developed by the Division on Criminal Justice in collaboration with the Division on Civil Rights. Using a combination of television, print, radio, digital, and social media advertising, the No Hate in the Garden State Campaign focuses on three aspects of combating bias: increasing public awareness, teaching the public how to report those incidents, and using training to help prevent bias and hate from spreading.

## About the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights

The New Jersey Division on Civil Rights is the state agency charged with enforcing the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD), the first state civil rights statute to go into effect in the country. DCR also enforces the New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA) and the Fair Chance in Housing Act (FCHA). The mission of DCR is to prevent, eliminate and remedy discrimination and bias-based harassment in employment, housing, and places of public accommodation throughout New Jersey. DCR's vision is a New Jersey free from discrimination and bias, where all people are treated with equal dignity and equal respect and have access to equal opportunity.

## About the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice

The New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) is responsible for investigating and prosecuting violations of New Jersey criminal laws. The Bias Crimes Bureau within DCJ specifically investigates and prosecutes bias crimes. It also coordinates the statewide efforts to eliminate crimes motivated by prejudice against others based on race, color, religion, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, gender identify or expression and national origin.