



## **Eva Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund**

### **Purpose**

Head Start is a Federally Funded program established over 51 years ago to provide early childhood health and education services to young, preschool children living in poverty and their families. Shasta Head Start has been serving low income families in three Northern California counties since 1965.

Each year, Shasta Head Start presents an Eva Johnson Memorial Scholarship to one graduating high school senior who is an alumni of a Head Start Program and is planning to continue their education in a college, university or technical school setting. The Eva Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in memory of Eva Johnson. Eva, a child care provider for many years and a dynamic leader in the Martin Luther King community, was a member of Shasta Head Start's Board of Directors. She was a true friend to children everywhere, no matter what their background.

The purpose of the Eva Johnson Scholarship Program is to recognize alumni of Head Start in academic achievement, school and community involvement and citizenship. Our goal is to encourage high school seniors to pursue postsecondary education in a public or non-public college, university or technical school. The Foundation awards one \$1,000 scholarship to one high school graduate from either Shasta, Siskiyou or Trinity County. For the academic year 2025-2026, the \$1,000 Eva Johnson Memorial Scholarship is being funded through a grant by the Redding Bank of Commerce. This is a competitive scholarship.

An Eva Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund scholarship may be used to directly reimburse tuition and other costs and fees associated with post secondary education. The Eva Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund will make the grant directly to the student. Scholarship recipients will be honored at the award ceremony at their high school.

## **Eligibility**

Applicants must be high school graduates that are alumni of Head Start, who intend to enroll in a postsecondary institution, which may be a public or non-public university, college or technical school. Applicants must be able to provide documentation of the year and location of the Head Start Program they attended as a preschool child.

## **Selection Criteria**

Applicants will be evaluated on their academic achievement, school and community involvement and citizenship.

Applicants will be evaluated on ability to articulate goals in four areas: future educational goals, community service goals, personal life goals and career goals.

Recipients are required to write a short letter of thanks to the Redding Bank of Commerce. The donor will enjoy learning more about you and how the scholarship has helped you. Your thank you note should be sent to Shasta Head Start for forwarding to the Redding Bank of Commerce.

## **Application Process**

Each student must:

- 1) complete an Eva Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund application, (download a copy at [www.shastaheadstart.org](http://www.shastaheadstart.org));
- 2) have a minimum, cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale, (provide unofficial transcripts);
- 3) demonstrate an interest in the welfare of children and families in our community by submitting a two-page essay stating:
  - a. where and when they attended Head Start as a child, and the memories and benefits they've received from the program;
  - b. what their educational and career goals are;
  - c. what community service they have performed, including how service has made a meaningful impact in your education (provide agency letter);
  - d. future community service goals;
  - e. what (paid or unpaid) work experience you have had, if any.

- 4) submit two letters of recommendation from two different sources of any of the following:
  - a. Teacher
  - b. Counselor or principal
  - c. Community member
  - d. Family friend (family members are excluded)
  - e. Employer;
- 5) provide a current photo (and photo of your Head Start experience, if available.) Submission of your photo grants Shasta Head Start permission to include it in any media publicity as appropriate.

The Scholarship Committee will evaluate and score all eligible scholarship applications based on established criteria. Essays will be scored based on completeness and organization.

If for any reason the scholarship award cannot be used as requested, or if a student terminates his or her courses for any reason, any unused portion of the scholarship award **MUST** be returned directly to The Eva Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Shasta Head Start, Attention: Jan Phillips Sotka. All scholarship awards must be claimed within 120 days of award date or they will be forfeited.

**Deadline** for the application is April 11, 2025 by 5:00 p.m. Type or print legibly. Illegible applications will be returned. Applications postmarked after this date will not be considered. No emailed or incomplete applications will be considered.

Please mail OR submit application in person to:

Shasta Head Start Child Development, Inc.  
Eva Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund  
375 Lake Blvd., Ste. 100  
Redding, CA 96003  
Attention: Jan Phillips Sotka

Press releases regarding the scholarship recipients will be sent to appropriate media upon selection of recipients. Recipients will also be listed on the Shasta Head Start Child Development, Inc. website ([www.shastaheadstart.org](http://www.shastaheadstart.org)).

Evidence of enrollment in classes to a post-secondary institution must be provided to Shasta Head Start before award funding will be distributed to the scholarship winner.