

About Nevada Hands & Voices

Nevada Hands & Voices is a Nevada non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families and their children who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as the professionals who serve them. We are a parent-driven, parent/professional collaborative group that is unbiased towards communication modes and methods. Our diverse membership includes those who are d/Deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing impaired and their families who communicate orally, with signs, cue, and/or combined methods. We exist to help our children reach their highest potential.

Scholarship Information

The Nevada Hands & Voices scholarship awards applicants funding to attend a college, university, community college, technical school, certification program, or other form of higher education upon graduation from high school. Awarded amounts are dependent upon the number and quality of applicants. To qualify to apply for this scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- You were diagnosed with unilateral or bilateral hearing loss prior to age 18.
 - Applicants must have an unaided Pure-Tone Average (PTA) of 35 dB or greater in the worse hearing ear.
- You will be graduating from a Nevada high school in 2026 with an Advanced, Standard or Adjusted Diploma with a GPA of 2.50 or higher.
- You are enrolled in or plan to attend a college, university, community college, technical school, certification program or other form of higher education upon graduation (Summer or Fall 2026 application or enrollment is required).

All awards will be submitted directly to the higher education program on behalf of the student. Proof of enrollment will be required prior to any payments.

Due Dates

April 10, 2026	All materials must be submitted at one time through the digital application form.
April 10, 2026	Transcripts sent from the educational institution must be postmarked by this date.
May 4, 2026	Winners will be announced no later than this date.

Application Checklist

Please use this checklist to ensure your application is complete:

- ☐ All fields of the application and support materials must be submitted through the digital application form. (Form Link: <https://zfrmz.com/aryzearHl8AmPvNX2nLR>)
 - The application and all attachments must be completed in English, except for video student essays which may be in a signed language.

- ☐ All applicants must submit an unaided audiogram performed within the **last 5 years** OR applicants with cochlear implants may submit their most recent Cochlear implant mapping report (first page only).
- ☐ Official transcripts for the most recent two years of high school completed.
 - If your school will only release transcripts directly to Nevada Hands & Voices, please have them delivered to the address noted below and indicate this on your digital application.
 - If your school will only release digital transcripts directly to Nevada Hands & Voices, please have them digitally delivered to info@nvhandsandvoices.org
- ☐ Verification of the student's application or acceptance to higher education institution.
 - A readable photocopy of a letter or receipt of online application or acceptance is allowable.
- ☐ Student Essay, as indicated in the application (maximum of two single-sided pages) or a signed video submitted by an unlisted YouTube link or accepted file on the digital application form.
- ☐ 2 letters of recommendation (See the specific instructions that should be provided to those asked to submit letters of recommendations.)
 - 1 Recommendation from an educational professional, such as a teacher or vocational rehabilitation counselor, who is not related to the applicant.
 - 1 Personal recommendation from a non-family member.

NOTE: Please do NOT include any additional information, such as extra letters of recommendation, photos or tax returns; all such items will not be considered. In addition, please do NOT include your social security number anywhere on your application. If it is included on transcripts that are sent by you, or on your audiogram or Cochlear implant mapping report, please black it out.

For mailed transcripts, please address to:

Nevada Hands & Voices
Attn: Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 15332
Las Vegas, NV 89114

Nevada Hands & Voices does NOT accept responsibility for delays or delivery errors on the part of delivery services; applicants are encouraged to submit the application well in advance of the deadline.

For further questions, please email Nevada Hands & Voices at info@nvhandsandvoices.org

Scholarship Essay Instructions

Your essay response must answer the following three questions:

1. How do you feel that being Deaf/Hard of Hearing has impacted your life?
2. Tell us what you hope your life looks like in one year **and** in 10 years.
3. How do you believe that you will achieve your short-term and long-term goals?

Essay Format Options:

1. Option 1 (open to all applicants): Your essay may be typed and no more than two pages. Please upload your document as a PDF or Word document to the digital application form.
2. Option 2 (for student whose primary language is a signed language): Nevada Hands & Voices wants equal access for all Deaf/Hard of Hearing students. As such, if your primary language is some form of sign language, Nevada Hands & Voices will allow a video essay answering the three provided questions.

Criteria for video essay (presented in sign only):

- Sign Language must be your primary language
- The video should be 15-20 minutes
- The background in the video needs to be plain (e.g., a bare wall)
- Your clothing should be plain absent of designs/words
- Review your video to ensure you are framed well so your signs are visually clear, and your hands are within the frame
- Visual aids and/or props are not acceptable
- Please stand while presenting your essay, unless standing is inaccessible
- Any video essays will be submitted by copying the URL into the online application. To accomplish this, you can:
 - i. Upload the video to YouTube, unlisted, and title the video with your name and sign language/system that is being used [e.g., James Smith, ASL];
 - ii. Upload the video to Google Drive and use the share link (ensure settings allow for those with link to view the video; OR
 - iii. Upload the video directly to the digital application if it is smaller than 20 MB in size.