

The Ray Johnson Scholarship for the Arts

\$500 Scholarship Award

Application deadline October 31, 2026

About Ray Johnson

For Ray Johnson, music has never simply been about singing a song or performing on a stage. Music has been a source of purpose, connection, expression, healing, and service.

Throughout his life, Ray has used music to bring people together and to create opportunities for others—particularly young people. His work has included directing choirs, developing youth music programs, mentoring young artists, serving through music ministry, and creating Music for Mental Health, an organization that uses music and creative expression to support and empower others.

Music has opened doors for Ray, helped him navigate different seasons of life, and given him a way to pour into the lives of others. The Ray Johnson Scholarship for the Arts was created from the belief that financial circumstances should never prevent a talented young person from discovering what the arts can become in their life.

What This Scholarship Stands For

The Ray Johnson Scholarship for the Arts recognizes Maryland students who have a meaningful connection to music and the arts.

This scholarship isn't simply looking for the "best" singer, musician, dancer, actor, or artist. It seeks young people who understand the power of creativity and can share what music has meant in their own lives.

The recipient will receive a \$500 scholarship to support their continued growth, education, training, or participation in the arts.

Eligibility

Applicants must be a Maryland resident and Medicaid recipient and demonstrate an interest or involvement in music or the performing arts. Students in grades 3 through 12 and college-age applicants are eligible.

Applicants must submit a one-page essay responding to:

"What does music mean to you, and how has music impacted your life?"

Sponsored By

Music for Mental Health • Baltimore Advocates for Arts Education • OrchKids

Our Purpose

Talent exists everywhere. Opportunity does not.

The Ray Johnson Scholarship for the Arts exists to help close that gap—giving young artists an opportunity to continue creating, learning, expressing themselves, and discovering where their gifts can take them.

\$500 can help fund an opportunity.

Music can help change a life.