

News to Know

Florida Department of Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance
February 2009

Health and Human Services (HHS) Poverty Guidelines Update

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary announced the Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines. This notice provides an update of the HHS poverty guidelines to account for last calendar year's increase in prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

2009 POVERTY GUIDELINES

Hawaii

Number of persons in family

1	\$12,460
2	\$16,760
3	\$21,060
4	\$25,360
5	\$29,660
6	\$33,960
7	\$38,260
8	\$42,560

Note: For families with more than eight persons, add \$4,300 for each additional person.

To learn more, read about it in the [Federal Register](#)

HHS Poverty Guidelines Update (*Continued*)

2009 POVERTY GUIDELINES

Alaska

Number of persons in family

1	\$13,530
2	\$18,210
3	\$22,890
4	\$27,570
5	\$32,250
6	\$36,930
7	\$41,610
8	\$46,290

2009 POVERTY GUIDELINES

Hawaii

Number of persons in family

1	\$12,460
2	\$16,760
3	\$21,060
4	\$25,360
5	\$29,660
6	\$33,960
7	\$38,260
8	\$42,560

Note: For families with more than eight persons, add \$4,300 for each additional person.

College Goal Sunday – February 21- 22, 2009

More than 200 volunteers will help college-bound Florida students and their families complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) during the statewide College Goal Sunday events on February 21- 22, 2009.

College Goal Sunday is sponsored by Lumina Foundation, and is a collaborative effort of the YMCA in partnership with ENLACE FLORIDA. This national program is designed to increase the number of Florida residents who continue education beyond high school to earn postsecondary degrees. The FAFSA must be completed by students seeking financial aid, including grants, loans, and many scholarships.

To learn more, please visit the national College Goal Sunday [Web site](#) or the Florida [Web site](#).

Want to make a difference on College Goal Sunday? Become a [volunteer](#) today!

Check event locations, dates, and times for your specific [area](#).

State Scholarship and Grant Programs Calendar

February 2009

The Master Eligibility List (MEL)

- Check the 2008-09 MEL frequently for permission to fund additional 2008-09 Bright Futures reinstatement/restoration students.
- The 2009-10 Bright Futures MEL for 7th semester early evaluated eligible Bright Futures students only begins populating in March and will be continuously updated throughout the year.

Reinstatement/Restoration Application

- The 2008-09 Florida Financial Aid Reinstatement/Restoration Application remains open for Bright Futures reinstatement/restoration applicants until May 30, 2009. Other program deadlines for reinstatement have passed.

The 2009-10 Florida Financial Aid Reinstatement/Restoration

- Application opened online February 1, 2009, and remains open until May 30, 2010.

State Scholarship and Grant Programs Calendar (*Continued*)

Online Certification Activities

- Continue to check your online certification pages to certify grade point average and courses/degrees earned for students and teachers who have applied for state scholarships and grants.

Disbursement Activities

- Term 2 and 3 DERs are due 30 days after the last day of drop/add.

Audit Activities

- Compliance audits are due from private institutions participating in state scholarship and grant programs for the 2007-08 year by March 1, 2009.

To learn more, visit our [Web site!](#)

NyFF Spotlights Career Planning

- The Career Planning [brochure](#) provides information about how career choices directly impact the ability to make payments on student loans.
- Earning a degree, certificate, or taking some courses after high school will not only build students' knowledge, but also gives students stronger skills for reaching their career goals. Education is the most important step for students to become successful in a career and in achieving their goals.
- With a career and steady salary, former students and graduates can budget for consistent and timely loan payments. The information in this brochure is designed to offer tips and ideas for career planning as students and graduates navigate through their financial future.

Do you want to learn more? Visit our [Web site](#).

FY 2007 Draft Cohort Default Rates Released Feb. 9

On February 9, 2009, the FY 2007 Draft Cohort Default Rates were released to all eligible schools as follows:

Domestic Schools – The U.S. Department of Education sent each domestic school its FY 2007 Draft Cohort Default Rate and accompanying documentation to the school's Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailbox.

Foreign Schools – The U.S. Department of Education mailed each foreign school a notification package via the U.S. Postal Service. If a foreign school has one or more borrowers in repayment, the package will include a Loan Record Detail Report (LRDR) as an encrypted Portable Document Format (PDF) file on a CD-ROM and will mail a separate letter providing the password needed to decrypt the LRDR.

For more information, [click here!](#)

U.S. Department of Education Announcement

On August 14, 2008, President Bush signed the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) (Pub. L. No. 110-315) into law, amending the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA). Section 483(f)(2) of the HEA, as amended by the HEOA, requires the Secretary of Education to submit to Congress a Report on the Secretary's efforts to simplify the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Margaret Spellings, former U.S. Secretary of Education, transmitted the Report to Congress on January 16, 2009. The Report included a response to seven specific inquiries made by Congress, utilized analysis conducted by the Department in its determination that using just two data elements (income and family size) to determine a student's eligibility for federal student aid would be feasible, equitable, and verifiable. While reduction in data elements is an important step in the simplification process, the Report points out that such simplification cannot occur unless the Congress amends the need analysis formula in the HEA.

Read more in the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) [Web site](#).

U.S. Department of Education Announcement

Participation in the Work Colleges Program

- In order for a school to participate in the Work Colleges Program for the 2009-2010 Award Year, the school must comply with all provisions of Section 448 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), and the applicable program regulations.
- A school must apply electronically by visiting the eCampus-Based (eCB) [Web site](#) and must submit to the U.S. Department of Education a printout of the application, signed by the authorized official of the school.
- Additionally, a participating school must follow a similar process when it submits its expenditure report for the 2008-2009 Award Year in October 2009.

For more information, please visit the eCampus-Based (eCB) [Web site](#).

Call for Gubernatorial Fellowship Program Applicants

On January 14, 2009, Governor Charlie Crist announced the opening of the application process for the 2009-10 Gubernatorial Fellows program. The Gubernatorial Fellowship program is designed to provide Florida university students firsthand, high-level experience and insight into how government operates, by providing the unique opportunity to spend a semester working alongside state government's top staff.

Gubernatorial Fellows are assigned to the Executive Office of the Governor or the Governor's agencies, based on their major or area of concentration. To be eligible for a [Gubernatorial Fellowship](#), candidates should be enrolled at a Florida college or university as a graduate student or an upperclassman (junior or senior). Approximately 12 students from around the state will be selected based on a competitive application process.

The Fellowship year will follow the university calendar, starting in August 2009 and ending in May 2010. Applications are due no later than Friday, March 20, 2009. The Governor's Screening and Selection Committee will announce the program participants by the first week of June 2009.

FASFAA 2009 Regional Workshop and Conference

- You still have time to register for the Region 4 FASFAA workshop scheduled February 18, 2009! The workshop will be held at the EPI Center of St. Petersburg College.
- OR
- Register for the FASFAA 2009 Spring Conference, which will be held May 26 - 29, 2009, in Jacksonville, Florida.

Mapping Your Future® Creates MySpace Web Page

Those searching for money management information are now able to find answers through Mapping Your Future's new Money Management MySpace Web page. It is important for individuals to have the proper tools and knowledge to manage their finances.

"Mapping Your Future has always provided students and families with money management tools and services, and this is another step that we are taking to reach more people," said Cathy Mueller, Executive Director of Mapping Your Future. "This new page serves as a supplement to the information on the Mapping Your Future website."

The MySpace page will provide objective material on money management and help Mapping Your Future fulfill its mission of enabling individuals to achieve life-long success by empowering students and families with free, Web-based money management information.

OSFA Online Ordering

•OSFA's online ordering process meets all of your form request needs! Please visit <https://www.osfaffelp.org/requestforms/> to order MPNs, and deferment or forbearance forms.

•To order NyFF supplies or other default prevention materials, please visit <http://www.navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org/Home.aspx>.

— Username and Password Required

- Click on Partner Log-In
- Enter your User Name and Password
- Click on order form
- Complete the form and submit

OSFA Online Entrance and Exit Counseling

- Stafford, Grad PLUS, and Combined Entrance and Exit Counseling are all available through our Web site at: <https://www.osfaffelp.org/studentcounseling/>.
- If you are interested in signing up for Online Entrance and Exit Counseling for your institution, please contact your OSFA [Outreach Representative](#) for assistance.

OSFA Training

With over 30 years of combined training, presentation, and facilitation experience, OSFA's Training and Development Section provides training on a variety of financial aid and professional development topics. Individual classes or entire curriculums can be customized to fit the needs of your organization or staff. We provide both online and on-site training to suit your needs and schedule. To learn more about OSFA Training, visit our [Web site](#) today!

IFAP Announcements

The following announcements have been posted to the IFAP Web site:

- Tentative 2009-2010 [Funding Levels](#) for the campus-based programs.
- COD Processing [Update](#).
- Updated [Listing](#) of TEACH Grant Eligible Institutions.
- 2008-2009 [Pell Grant](#) CFL Reduction to NAPD Warning Message.
- Updated [Guidance](#) on Making Direct Loan Refunds of Cash (Returning Excess Cash).
- Updated [Guidance](#) on Making Direct Loan Borrower Payments.
- 2009-01-26 (Grants) Subject: Updated [Listing](#) of TEACH Grant Eligible Institutions.
- NSLDS Reference Materials: [GA-2009-01](#): Lender Code Reporting for PUT Loans.

KUDOS Announcement!

OSFA recognizes the following Financial Aid Administrator for his contribution towards enhancing OSFA's products and services by offering valuable comments and suggestions:

Joe Joseph, Florida Community College at Jacksonville

February is Black History Month

Governor Charlie Crist addressed the State in a compelling letter of African-American achievements. He states, "As Americans and as Floridians, we see evidence during this historic year that we are closer to fully embracing the truth on which our nation was founded – that all men are created equal. . . . [M]any Floridians have paved the way for freedom and equal opportunity. Their efforts and legacy inspire us to work together so that our people, our state and our nation can continue to grow and prosper. Florida is one of our nation's most diverse states, with a rich African-American history. As we remember the past, we each must do all we can to ensure an even brighter future for Florida and her citizens of every background."

Read the full letter on the Florida Black History [Web site!](#)

Mission Statement

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) serves as a guarantor for the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP), and the administrator of Florida's scholarship and grant programs. The OSFA Mission is to facilitate higher education access and services by providing exemplary customer attention, comprehensive financial aid information, and convenient and efficient products.

Philosophy

As a public agency, OSFA has the ability to offer its partners and customers something few guarantors can: the ability to shape OSFA programs and services based on their specific concerns. Earnings generated from OSFA's loan programs are used to provide financial aid workshops, publications, and better services for our participants, and to help fund scholarship and grant programs. When schools and students choose to use the OSFA guarantee for student loans, they are actually helping countless other needy and deserving students by investing in education programs. So, if a participant has a problem or suggestion, OSFA management listens and does whatever it takes to implement a solution that meets their needs. Public dollars deserve that kind of accountability in education finance.

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And Finally...

Confidence in the institution's ability to determine our integrity, character, and truthfulness is of the utmost importance to OSFA. The Office of Student Financial Assistance wants to know and deliver what you seek in a partner. You have the right to choose. Together, we have the power to make a difference. Trust the Office of Student Financial Assistance to help you help your students. They are our future.

News to Know Archives

The News to Know is now available on the [Policy, Regulations, and Guidance Page](#) of our Web site. Previous editions may be viewed on our [Archives Page](#).