Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans

Florida Statutes 295.01

Florida Statutes 295.015

State Board of Education Rule 6A-20.019

Program Description

The Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans (CSDDV) provides an award to dependent children or unremarried spouses of qualified Florida veterans. Students who attend an eligible public postsecondary institution will receive funds to cover their tuition and registration fees. Students who attend an eligible private postsecondary institution will receive a fixed award amount by using the average matriculation and fee calculation for full-time attendance at a public postsecondary education institution at the comparable level. A list of eligible participating postsecondary institutions can be found on the OSFA website under the Postsecondary Institutions menu.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

Submit a completed *Florida Financial Aid Application* (FFAA) by **April 1** for priority consideration of an initial award (available **October 1**).

NOTE: Questions 31a-g of the FFAA must be answered with information related to the veteran by **April 1** so that the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs can certify that the veteran qualifies.

General Eligibility Requirements for a Child

The child will:

- Be between the ages of 16 and 22.
- Be initially eligible prior to his or her 23rd birthday.
- Be a dependent child of a qualified veteran whose official military and residency status is certified by the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Receive educational opportunity until such a time as the parent classified as prisoner of war or missing in action is returned alive or otherwise classified.

General Eligibility Requirements for a Spouse

As certified by the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, the spouse of a **disabled** veteran will:

- Be married to a qualified veteran whose official military and residency status is certified by the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Have been a Florida resident for one year immediately preceding the occurrence of the veteran's disability.
- Be married to the disabled veteran for one or more years.
- Accept scholarship funding only during the duration of the marriage and up to the point of termination of the marriage by dissolution or annulment.

As certified by the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, the spouse of a **deceased** veteran will:

- Be unremarried.
- Have been the spouse of a qualified veteran whose official military and residency status is certified by the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Apply for the scholarship within 5 years after the veteran's death.

Qualified Veteran Requirements

The veteran will:

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Have been a Florida resident for one year immediately preceding time of death, determination of 100 percent disability, or prisoner of war/missing in action classification.
- Have met at least one of the following criteria:
  - Died as a result of service-connected disability sustained while on active duty.
  - Be certified by the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs as having service-connected 100 percent permanent and total disabilities.
  - Be classified as a prisoner of war or missing in action by the Armed Forces of the United States or as civilian personnel captured while serving with the consent or authorization of the United States government during wartime service for a dependent child to receive scholarship funding.

Requirements to Receive Funding

The student will:

- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen. A student's residency and citizenship status are determined by the postsecondary institution. Questions regarding such status should be directed to the financial aid office or admissions office of the institution the student plans to attend.
- Not owe a repayment or be in default under any state or federal grant, loan, or scholarship program unless satisfactory arrangements to repay have been made.
- Not have previously received a baccalaureate degree.
- Enroll in an undergraduate degree or certificate program for a minimum of six credit hours, 180 clock hours, or the equivalent, per term at an eligible participating postsecondary institution.
    - A student who is enrolled in at least six credit hours at an eligible Florida **public** postsecondary institution will receive an award equal to the amount of tuition and required registration fees.
    - A student, who is enrolled in a **private** postsecondary institution, shall receive a fixed award calculated by using the average matriculation and fee calculation for full-time attendance at a public postsecondary education institution at the comparable level. A student enrolled part-time shall receive a reduced award by either one-half or three-fourths of the maximum award.

Applying for an Award

- The online *Florida Financial Aid Application* must be completed error-free by **April 1** for priority consideration of an initial award (available **October 1**).
- The online *Reinstatement/Restoration Application for Students* is available in **February** each year and must be completed by **April 1** to be considered for reinstatement or restoration.

  NOTE: Applicants who are deemed ineligible for the academic year, in which they applied, must reapply to receive an evaluation for the next year.

Award Procedures

- Applications received after **April 1** will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis if sufficient funds remain.
- Applicants will be evaluated and notified of eligibility determination mid-summer.
- NOTE: Applicants, not awarded in the academic year in which they applied, must reapply for the next academic year to receive another evaluation.

Award Disbursement

The postsecondary institution will disburse awards to eligible students each term. Awards are not available for the summer term.

Terms of Eligibility

- An eligible student may receive funding for up to 110 percent of the number of the required credit hours of an initial baccalaureate degree or certificate program for which the student is enrolled.
- Unused hours may not be used for further course funding after a student earns a baccalaureate degree.
- The student who enrolls in a 3/2 program ending in an advanced degree is no longer eligible to receive undergraduate funding when the student:
  - Receives a baccalaureate degree,
  - Has changed enrollment status from 'Undergraduate to 'Graduate', or
  - Enrolls in courses leading to a degree.

Student Award Renewal

- A renewal application is not required to renew the award. A recipient is automatically considered for a renewal award.
- Eligibility for renewal is determined at the end of the second semester, third quarter, or the equivalent, each academic year. Credit or clock hours earned the previous summer can be counted toward the total number of credit hours required for renewal.
- To be eligible for renewal, a participant must have earned a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale and earned six credit hours or 180 clock hours, or the equivalent, per term for which the award was received.

Failure to Meet the Minimum Renewal Requirements

- A student who has not met the minimum six credit hours per term, for which the award was received, during the previous summer and two semesters or three quarters, may not receive funding the following academic year.
- A student who met the required hours but earned less than the minimum institutional cumulative 2.0 GPA may be granted a probationary award for no more than two semesters or three quarters or the equivalent.
- To be eligible for renewal the following year after probation, the student must have earned the required credit or clock hours and institutional cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- A student who failed to meet the requirements for renewal during a probationary period will become ineligible for funding. However, the student is eligible to apply for restoration after one academic year. An institutional cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale must be earned at the end of the second semester or third quarter of the academic year proceeding the year the award is sought.

Student Award Reinstatement/Restoration

- A student who was eligible for an award but did not accept an award during the previous academic year may be eligible for reinstatement.
- A student may be eligible for restoration if an institutional cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale is earned at the end of the second semester or third quarter of the academic year for which the student was ineligible.
- The online Reinstatement/Restoration Application for students is available in **February** each year and must be completed by **April 1** to be considered for reinstatement or restoration.

Appeal Process

An applicant who believes financial aid has been wrongly denied has certain rights to appeal.

An applicant may appeal if he or she believes the FDOE erred in determining eligibility or failed to transfer an award. An FDOE appeal is to be filed in writing within 30 days of the date of the notice of ineligibility.

If aid is denied for failure to meet state academic progress requirements, an applicant may appeal the denial to the institution by providing proof of illness or other emergency beyond the applicant's control. An institutional academic progress appeal is to be filed within 30 days of the denial letter or by the date established by the institution's financial aid office, whichever is later.

Use of an Applicant's Social Security Number/Non-discrimination Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 requires state agencies to inform applicants of the reasons for requesting their Social Security Numbers (SSN). The FDOE requests an SSN on all applications for student financial assistance in order to correctly identify applicants, match each applicant's financial aid record with the student record at the postsecondary institution the applicant attends, and help coordinate state student aid programs with federal student aid programs.

An applicant will not be denied financial assistance for failure to disclose the SSN. Without an SSN, correct identification of an applicant's record cannot be assured and may result in an error in the award amount or a delay in the disbursement of an award.

Pursuant to Section 1000.05, Florida Statutes, state student financial assistance is provided to eligible applicants without discriminating on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability, or marital status. Minority status will be considered when required by law as a condition of eligibility or selection.

Updating Information

A recipient must notify OSFA of any change in name, address, or institution attended.

A student may update information by contacting OSFA toll-free at 1-888-827-2004 or online:

www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org

- ✓ Select **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications**
- ✓ Select **Update My Demographics**

Transferring from one institution to another could affect an applicant's award.

Contact Information

Address:
Florida Department of Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance
State Scholarship and Grant Programs
Suite 1314
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Phone:
1-888-827-2004

E-mail:
OSFA@fldoe.org