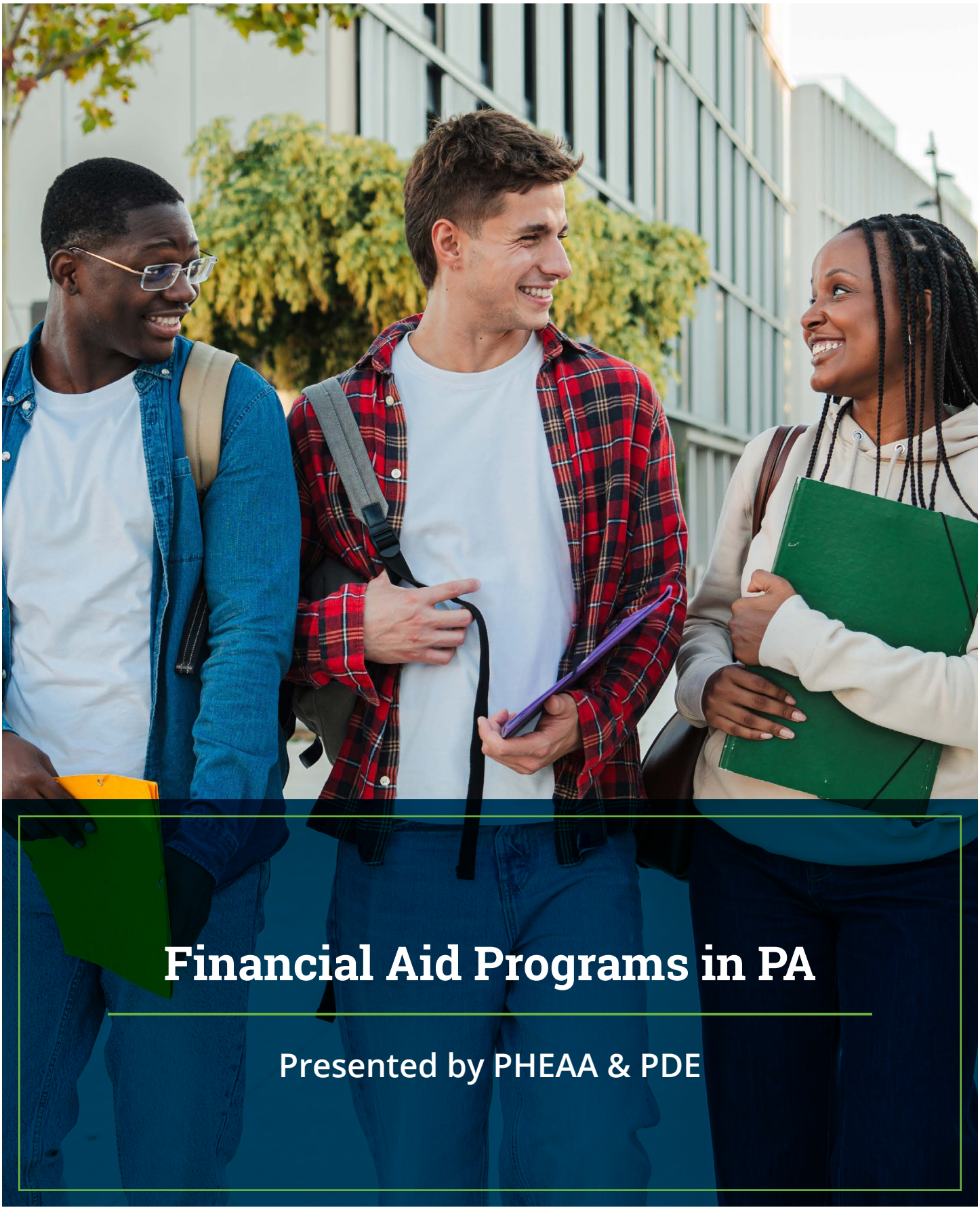
Pennsylvania
Department of Education

PHEAA
Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency



Financial Aid Programs in PA

Presented by PHEAA & PDE

Student Funding

These programs provide financial aid for students both in and out of PA. Eligible students who fulfill all their obligations (including work and residency requirements) usually do not have to repay this money.

Students With **Financial Need**

PA Partnerships for Access to Higher Education (PATH) Program

At a Glance	FAFSA®	PA State Grant Form Required	Maximum Award	Webpage
For students who are nominated by a community-based PATH Partner.	Y	Y	$5,000	pheaa.org/path

Details

PA students who are first awarded a scholarship or grant by a participating PATH Partner and receive a PA State Grant can qualify for extra funds based on need. These scholarships have the potential to be matched by PHEAA on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to the annual maximum.

PA Ready to Succeed Scholarship (RTSS) Program

At a Glance	FAFSA®	PA State Grant Form Required	Maximum Award	Webpage
For students demonstrating both academic merit and financial need.	Y	Y	$2,500 full-time $1,250 part-time	pheaa.org/rtss

Details

PA students from middle-income families who meet GPA and family income requirements (up to $200,000) may qualify. Participating schools nominate college sophomores, juniors, and seniors based on eligibility criteria.

PA State Grant Program

At a Glance	FAFSA®	PA State Grant Form Required	Maximum Award*	Webpage
For students with financial need.	Y	Y	$5,750	pheaa.org/grant pheaa.org/StateGrant

Details

Pennsylvania's flagship aid program. The amount of money PA residents can expect to receive is based on their financial situation, the school they attend, and the availability of funding. Students going to school outside PA may qualify for a smaller award based on the state and type of school they attend.

Postsecondary institutions must be approved by PHEAA for students to receive awards.

PA State Work-Study Program (SWSP)

At a Glance	FAFSA®	PA State Grant Form Required	Maximum Award	Webpage
Qualifying students can earn money through a paycheck.	Y	Y	$10,000 in the academic year	pheaa.org/swsp pheaa.org/WorkStudy

Details

PA students must be enrolled at least half-time in a PA State Grant Program-approved higher education institution. Undergraduates must be eligible for a PA State Grant to qualify for the SWSP. Graduate students must demonstrate financial need after gift aid—including federal, state scholarships, and grants—has been applied. Students work at an eligible job, which they can find online.

* Maximum awards may change from year to year, based on the PA State Budget and allocations. The information provided is for the 2025-26 academic year. For the most up-to-date information about a program's maximum award, check the program webpage.

PA Targeted Industry Program (PA-TIP)				
At a Glance	**FAFSA®**	**PA State Grant Form Required**	**Maximum Award**	**Webpage**
For students with financial need in programs lasting at least 10 weeks but less than 2 academic years in length.	Y	N	$6,000	pheaa.org/pa-tip pheaa.org/PATip
Details				
PA students with financial need can receive this grant if they are enrolled in programs that teach skills for high-demand fields. High-demand fields include energy, health, advanced materials and diversified manufacturing, and agriculture and food production programs. Students who qualify for a PA-TIP award cannot get a PA State Grant for the same program.				

Students With Special Circumstances

PA Blind or Deaf Higher Education Beneficiary Grant (BDBG) Program				
At a Glance	**FAFSA®**	**PA State Grant Form Required**	**Maximum Award**	**Webpage**
For PA students who are blind or deaf.	Y	N	$500	pheaa.org/BlindDeaf
Details				
PA residents with visual or hearing impairments can submit written documentation to apply for funding. This program funds both graduates and undergraduates on a first-come, first-served basis.				

Chafee Education & Training Grant (Chafee ETG) Program				
At a Glance	**FAFSA®**	**PA State Grant Form Required**	**Maximum Award**	**Webpage**
For students who are or have been in foster care.	Y	N	$5,000	pheaa.org/chafee
Details				
Provides federal grants to PA undergraduates who experienced foster care at age 16 or older—including students who were adopted or entered permanent legal custodianship after turning 16. Students must also be younger than age 26 by July 1 of the upcoming academic year.				

PA Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver (FosterEd) Program				
At a Glance	**FAFSA®**	**PA State Grant Form Required**	**Maximum Award**	**Webpage**
For students who are or have been in foster care.	Y	Y	All remaining tuition and fees	pheaa.org/FosterEd
Details				
Waives outstanding tuition and mandatory fees in PA schools for students who also qualify for Chafee ETG. It covers all remaining tuition and mandatory fees after gift aid—including federal, state scholarships and grants—is applied.				

Bond-Hill Scholarship (Bond-Hill) Program				
At a Glance	**FAFSA®**	**PA State Grant Form Required**	**Maximum Award**	**Webpage**
For select graduate students who are alumni of PA's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).	N	N	May fund tuition, fees, and books	PDE Online
Details				
Provides a scholarship for eligible alumni of PA's two HBCUs (Lincoln and Cheyney Universities). Students must pursue professional study in competitive fields like law, medicine, dentistry, and other selected graduate programs at the Commonwealth's state-related universities and PA State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) institutions.				

PA Internship Program (PIP)				
At a Glance	**FAFSA®**	**PA State Grant Form Required**	**Maximum Award**	**Webpage**
For PA students participating in an internship or seminar through The Washington Center (TWC).	N	N	See details below.	twc.edu
Details				
Provides funds to PA students attending PA-based colleges or universities and participating in internship or seminar programs with TWC. The maximum award for internships is $7,250 for students attending a public institution; it is $8,500 if attending a state-related or PASSHE institution and using TWC housing; it is $4,000 if attending a private school. Students attending an academic seminar can receive a scholarship for up to $4,000.				

Students With Work or Volunteer Commitments

PA Active Volunteer Tuition & Loan Assistance (Active Volunteer) Program				
At a Glance	**FAFSA®**	**PA State Grant Form Required**	**Maximum Award**	**Webpage**
For PA volunteer first responders and firefighters.	N	N	$1,000 full-time $500 part-time	pheaa.org/ActiveVolunteer
Details				
Provides tuition and loan assistance to help the state recruit and retain volunteer first responders at volunteer fire companies and emergency medical services companies. Volunteers must also meet active participation requirements for at least 1 year prior to applying for this program.				

Grow PA Scholarship Grant (Grow PA Grant) Program				
At a Glance	**FAFSA®**	**PA State Grant Form Required**	**Maximum Award**	**Webpage**
For in-state students pursuing high-demand majors and careers in PA.	Y	N	$5,000	pheaa.org/GrowPAGrant
Details				
Provides grants to PA residents who attend a PA college to pursue a degree in a high-demand occupation and agree to work and live in Pennsylvania after graduation. **NOTE:** Award converts to a loan if recipient does not meet the work and residency requirement.				

Grow PA Tuition Waiver (Grow PA Waiver) Program

At a Glance	FAFSA®	PA State Grant Form Required	Maximum Award	Webpage
For out-of-state students pursuing high-demand majors and careers in PA.	Y	N	Waives out-of-state tuition surcharge	pheaa.org/GrowPAWaiver

Details

Provides in-state tuition to out-of-state residents who attend a PASSHE university to pursue a degree in a high-demand occupation. Students must agree to live and work in PA after graduation.

NOTE: Award converts to a loan if recipient does not meet the work and residency requirement.

PA Mental Health Education Learning Program in Schools (PA HELPS)

At a Glance	FAFSA®	PA State Grant Form Required	Maximum Award	Webpage
For school-based counselors, nurses, social workers, and psychologists completing an internship.	N	N	Specific to each field	pheaa.org/PAHelps pheaa.org/pa-helps pheaa.org/pa-helps-info

Details

Provides a stipend to support school-based mental health professionals enrolled in one of four PA Department of Education approved Educational Specialist Preparation Programs. Students must agree to work in PA after graduation. Students who successfully complete their work commitment may receive an additional $5,000 award.

The maximum award for school psychologists is $25,000; it is $2,500 for school nurses; it is $10,000 for school counselors and school social workers.

PA Student Teacher Support Program (STSP)

At a Glance	FAFSA®	PA State Grant Form Required	Maximum Award	Webpage
For student teachers in PDE-approved programs.	N	N	$10,000	pheaa.org/stsp pheaa.org/StudentTeacher

Details

Provides financial support to help students complete student teaching requirements at school. The goal of this program is to reduce teacher shortages in PA. Students must agree to work in PA after graduation.

NOTE: Award converts to a loan if recipient does not meet the work requirement.

PA Student Loan Relief for Nurses (SLRN) Program

At a Glance	FAFSA®	PA State Grant Form Required	Maximum Award	Webpage
Closed program from the COVID-19 pandemic.	N	N	Up to $2,500 for each year of work with a max benefit of $7,500.	pheaa.org/slrn

Details

Nurses can no longer apply for this program; it was limited to 3 years from 2020-2022. SLRN provided a financial incentive, in the form of student loan relief, for PA nurses who worked fighting the COVID-19 pandemic to continue within the nursing profession.

Act 105 Program

At a Glance	FAFSA®	PA State Grant Form Required	Maximum Award	Webpage
For surviving spouses of deceased National Guard service members.	Y	N	–	–

Details

Provides a waiver of tuition and fees for unmarried surviving spouses up to 10 years after the PA National Guard service member was killed or died as a result of injuries while in federal or state active duty. To contact the National Guard, call 1-800-GO-GUARD.

PA National Guard Educational Assistance Program (EAP)

At a Glance	FAFSA®	PA State Grant Form Required	Maximum Award	Webpage
For PA National Guard service members.	N	N	Based on tuition and fees at state-owned institutions.	pheaa.org/eap

Details

Provides tuition assistance for students who enter an additional 6-year service commitment with the PA National Guard. This program is administered by PHEAA and the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. To contact the National Guard, call 1-800-GO-GUARD.

PA Military College Educational Assistance Program (MCAP)

At a Glance	FAFSA®	PA State Grant Form Required	Maximum Award	Webpage
For select Valley Forge Military College students.	N	N	Full tuition and fees	Valley Forge Military College

Details

Provides full tuition coverage, plus room, board, and stipends, for up to 10 students per year. This accelerated ROTC program allows participants to pursue their education while serving PA and the nation. Students earn a degree and attain the rank of Second Lieutenant in the PA National Guard.

This scholarship is based on merit and grades.

PA National Guard Military Family Education Program (MFEP)

At a Glance	FAFSA®	PA State Grant Form Required	Maximum Award	Webpage
For children and spouses of PA National Guard service members.	N	N	Based on tuition and fees at state-owned institutions.	pheaa.org/mfep

Details

Provides tuition assistance for dependents (children and spouses) of a service member who enters an additional 6-year service commitment with the PA National Guard. This program is administered by PHEAA and the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. To contact the National Guard, call 1-800-GO-GUARD.

PA Postsecondary Educational Gratuity Program (PEGP)				
At a Glance	**FAFSA®**	**PA State Grant Form Required**	**Maximum Award**	**Webpage**
For PA residents whose parent or spouse died protecting the Commonwealth.	Y	Y	All remaining tuition and fees	pheaa.org/pegp
Details				
Waives any remaining institutional charges at state-owned and supported institutions of higher education after gift aid—including federal state scholarships, and grants—has been applied. The waiver covers all remaining costs of tuition, fees, on-campus housing, and food. Spouses and birth or adoptive children of PA police officers, firefighters, rescue and ambulance squad members, corrections employees, and National Guard members who died in the line of duty since January 1, 1976, can apply.				

School Funding

These programs provide financial aid for students both in and out of PA. Eligible students who fulfill all their obligations (including work and residency requirements) usually do not have to repay this money.

Institutional Aid & Funds Matching

PA Act 101 Program				
At a Glance	**FAFSA®**	**PA State Grant Form Required**	**Maximum Award**	**Webpage**
For postsecondary schools with approved Act 101 Programs.	Y	N	N/A	pheaa.org/act101
Details				
These funds support services for academically and financially qualified undergraduates. Act 101 Programs exist to help students who may struggle to graduate due to their economic or educational backgrounds.				

PHEAA Federal Work-Study Community Service (FWS-CS) Program				
At a Glance	**FAFSA®**	**PA State Grant Form Required**	**Maximum Award**	**Webpage**
For schools that need help matching FWS funds.	N/A	N/A	N/A	pheaa.org/federal-work-study pheaa.org/FederalWorkStudy
Details				
Provides funds for institutions that apply for and receive federal dollars through the FWS program for community service jobs. Institutions must spend at least 7% of FWS funds received from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to employ students in community service positions. PHEAA's FWS-CS Program provides eligible PA postsecondary institutions with funds to help meet their FWS community service requirement.				

PHEAA Federal Work-Study On-Campus (FWS-ON) Program				
At a Glance	**FAFSA®**	**PA State Grant Form Required**	**Maximum Award**	**Webpage**
For schools that need help matching FWS funds.	N/A	N/A	N/A	pheaa.org/federal-work-study pheaa.org/FederalWorkStudy
Details				
Provides funds for institutions that apply for and receive federal dollars through the FWS program for on-campus jobs. Institutions must match FWS funds received from ED. PHEAA's FWS-ON Program provides eligible PA postsecondary institutions with funds to help meet their FWS institutional match requirement. Institutions receiving Title III Waivers are currently eligible to receive FWS-ON funds even though they are exempt from the matching requirement.				

PA Institutional Assistance Grants (IAG) Program				
At a Glance	**FAFSA®**	**PA State Grant Form Required**	**Maximum Award**	**Webpage**
For schools that need help stabilizing educational costs.	Y	Y	N/A	pheaa.org/iag
Details				
Provides funds to help independent, postsecondary institutions maintain enrollment levels and stabilize their educational costs. Eligible institutions receive block grants based on the number of PA State Grant-receiving students in attendance. The institution must spend the grant on eligible institutional expenses, such as staff salaries, operating expenses, utilities, or maintenance. IAG funds may not be spent on sectarian or denominational expenses.				

Scholarship & Recruitment Funds

Cheyney University Honors Academy Scholarship Program				
At a Glance	**FAFSA®**	**PA State Grant Form Required**	**Maximum Award**	**Webpage**
For Cheyney University, the nation's first HBCU, to recruit gifted students.	N	N	N/A	cheyney.edu/cheyney-university-honors-academy
Details				
Scholarship program to recruit gifted students to enroll at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania. Developed by PASSHE in collaboration with the Commonwealth administration and PDE. This program is co-administered by PDE and PASSHE.				

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