

FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLEGE BOUND SENIORS

Here are some of the many financial opportunities that may be available to you and your child. Please continue to do your own research and investigation into other sources of aid **IN ADDITION** to reviewing this information!

1) FAFSA:

- Now available **OCTOBER 1st** – the earlier you apply the better!!!
- Families wishing to be eligible for any form of financial aid must fill out the FAFSA. Federal Student Aid is responsible for managing the student financial assistance programs authorized under Title IV of the *Higher Education Act of 1965*. These programs provide grants, loans, and work-study funds to students attending college or career school.
- Apply online at:
 - <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

2) CSS PROFILE:

- Please be aware that many private colleges want the CSS profile completed **IN ADDITION** to the FAFSA
- According to the CollegeBoard, the CSS Profile enables colleges and universities to see a true picture of a family's financial need and supports the mission of making college affordable
- Check each schools websites to see if they require the CSS profile. You can also access a list of colleges requiring the CSS profile at:
 - <https://profile.collegeboard.org/profile/ppi/participatingInstitutions.aspx>
- Apply online at :
 - <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

3) NYS TAP:

- <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/apply-for-financial-aid/nys-tap/apply-for-tap.html>
- The New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) helps eligible New York residents pay tuition at approved schools in New York State. Depending on the academic year in which you begin study, an annual TAP award can be up to \$5,165. Because TAP is a grant, it does not have to be paid back.
- Effective for the 2007-08 academic year and thereafter, TAP is available for students attending SUNY, CUNY and not-for-profit independent degree-granting colleges on a part-time basis

4) NYS PELL GRANT:

- Pell Grants are awarded to eligible undergraduate students and do not have to be repaid.
- **Award Amount:** The amount each student gets depends on:
 - ✓ Financial need
 - ✓ Cost of attendance
 - ✓ Status as a full-time or part-time student
 - ✓ Plans to attend school for a full academic year or less
 - ✓ The maximum Federal Pell Grant award is \$5,815 for the 2016–17 award year (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017). Amounts can change yearly.

5) NYS EOP:

- The State University of New York's Educational Opportunity Program provides access, academic support and financial aid to students who show promise for succeeding in college but who may not have otherwise been offered admission. Available primarily to full-time, matriculated students, the program supports students throughout their college careers within the University.
- EOP is designed for students who need special academic assistance as well as financial aid. You will be asked to complete additional application materials and financial aid forms by the colleges to which you are applying. Be sure to complete any materials and return promptly as directed
- **Eligibility:** To be eligible for admission to EOP you must be:
 - ✓ A New York State resident for 12 months prior to enrollment;
 - ✓ Require special admissions consideration; and
 - ✓ Qualify as economically disadvantaged according to the guidelines. In selecting students for the program, priority is given to applicants from historically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Note: Applicants deemed ineligible for EOP may still qualify for admission and financial aid through other admission processes.

- **Support Services**
 - ✓ Educational Opportunity Program students may receive support services, such as academic, career, and personal counseling; tutoring and supplemental instruction. As part of a student's overall financial aid package, the Educational Opportunity Program provides financial assistance for non-tuition related expenses (e.g. books, supplies, etc.).

6) NYS HEOP:

- **Purpose:** To help provide a broad range of services to New York State residents who, because of academic and economic circumstances, would otherwise be unable to attend a postsecondary educational institution.
- **Student Eligibility:** HEOP serves New York State residents who are both academically and economically disadvantaged. Disadvantaged students are individuals from low-income families with potential for successful collegiate experiences but who have not acquired the verbal, mathematical, and other cognitive skills required to complete their college work.
- **Institutional Eligibility:**
 - ✓ Competitive grants are awarded to Independent institutions of higher education incorporated by the New York State legislature or chartered by the Board of Regents and offering two- or four-year degree programs registered with and approved by the Board of Regents.
 - ✓ Programs must serve matriculated students who are working toward a degree.
 - ✓ Students shall be selected without regard to age, color, religion, creed, disability, marital status, veteran status, national origin, race, gender, genetic predisposition or carrier status, or sexual orientation.
- **Program Services:**
 - ✓ HEOP provides funds to assist in the screening and testing of prospective students.
 - ✓ Higher Education Opportunity Programs also provide structured support services including a pre-freshman summer program, counseling, tutoring, and remedial/developmental coursework.
 - ✓ In addition to academic support, program participants receive financial assistance toward their college expenses.
- **HEOP Addresses Students Total Needs**
 - ✓ Introduces students to college expectations via a Pre-freshman Summer Program
 - ✓ Offers academic, career, financial, and career counseling
 - ✓ Provides one-on-one and small-group tutoring
 - ✓ Offers remedial, developmental, and supportive courses

7) NYS TEACH GRANT PROGRAM:

- The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program provides grants to students in exchange for a completion of a service obligation teaching in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families.
- **Award Amount:** Grants up to \$4,000 per year may be awarded.
- **Service Obligation:** In exchange for receiving a TEACH Grant, you must agree to:
 - ✓ Serve as a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves low-income students.

- Schools serving low-income students include any elementary or secondary school that is listed in the Department of Education's Annual Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits.
 - ✓ Teach for at least four academic years within eight calendar years of completing the program of study for which you received a TEACH Grant.
 - ✓ If you fail to complete this service obligation, all amounts of the TEACH Grants that you received will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. You must then repay this loan to the U.S. Department of Education. You will be charged interest from the date the grant(s) was disbursed.
- **Student Eligibility Requirements:** To receive a TEACH Grant you must:
 - ✓ Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), although you do not have to demonstrate financial need.
 - ✓ Be a U.S. Citizen or eligible non-citizen.
 - ✓ Be enrolled as an undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, or graduate student in a postsecondary educational institution that has chosen to participate in the TEACH Grant Program.
 - ✓ Be enrolled in coursework that is necessary to begin a career in teaching or plan to complete such coursework. Such coursework may include subject area courses (e.g., math courses for a student who intends to be a math teacher).
 - ✓ Meet certain academic achievement requirements (generally, scoring above the 75th percentile on a college admissions test or maintaining a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25).
 - ✓ Sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve
 - High-need fields are the following subject areas:
 - ✓ Bilingual Education and English Language Acquisition
 - ✓ Foreign Language
 - ✓ Mathematics
 - ✓ Reading Specialist
 - ✓ Science
 - ✓ Special Education
 - ✓ Other identified teacher shortage areas as of the time you begin teaching in that field. These are teacher subject shortage areas (not geographic areas) that are listed in the Department of Education's Annual Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing

8) NYS IRAQ & AFGHANISTAN SERVICE GRANT:

- You may be eligible to receive the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant if:
 - ✓ You are not eligible for a Federal Pell Grant on the basis of your Expected Family Contribution but meet the remaining Federal Pell Grant eligibility requirements, and
 - ✓ Your parent or guardian was a member of the U.S. armed forces and died as a result of military service performed in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11, and

- ✓ You were under 24 years old or enrolled in college at least part-time at the time of your parent's or guardian's death.
- **Award Amount:** The grant award is equal to the amount of a maximum Federal Pell Grant for the award year, currently \$5,775 for the 2015–16 award year, but cannot exceed your cost of attendance for that year.

9) NYS STEM INCENTIVE PROGRAM:

- The NYS STEM Incentive Program provides a full SUNY tuition scholarship to the top 10 percent of students in each NYS high school if they pursue a STEM degree in an associate's or bachelor's degree program and agree to live in NYS and work in a STEM field in NYS for five years after graduation.
- **Eligibility:** An applicant must:
 - ✓ be a NYS resident and have resided in NYS for 12 continuous months prior to the beginning of the fall college term;
 - ✓ be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
 - ✓ be a high school senior/recent high school graduate who will be enrolled full time at a SUNY or CUNY college, including community colleges and the statutory colleges at Cornell University and Alfred University, beginning in the fall term following his or her high school graduation;
 - ✓ be ranked in the top 10 percent of his/her high school graduating class at a NYS high school;
 - ✓ be matriculated in an approved undergraduate program leading to a degree in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics at a SUNY or CUNY college;
 - ✓ earn a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher each term after the first semester;
 - ✓ Execute a Service Contract agreeing to reside and work in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics in NYS for five years. View the terms and conditions of the service contract.
- ✓ Students matriculated in these programs of study may be eligible for a STEM Incentive Program award. The program of study must result in an approved occupation.
- **Award Amount:** A recipient receives an annual award for full-time study equal to the annual tuition charged to NYS resident students attending an undergraduate program at the State University of New York (SUNY), or actual tuition charged, whichever is less. For the 2016-2017 academic year, the standard SUNY tuition rate is a maximum of \$6,470 per year.
- The STEM Incentive Program award will be reduced by the amount of any other tuition-only assistance award, such as the NYS Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), received.
- **How to apply:**
 - ✓ Complete and submit the NYS Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Incentive Program Application (online, NYS HESC website). Be sure to print the Application Confirmation, sign and submit it, along with the required documentation, according to the instructions.

10) NYS EXCELSIOR SCHOLARSHIP:

- The Excelsior Scholarship, in combination with other student financial aid programs, allows students to attend a SUNY or CUNY college tuition-free.
- **Eligibility:** An applicant must:
 - ✓ be a resident of NYS and have resided in NYS for 12 continuous months prior to the beginning of the term;
 - ✓ be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
 - ✓ have either graduated from high school in the United States, earned a high school equivalency diploma, or passed a federally approved "Ability to Benefit" test, as defined by the Commissioner of the State Education Department;
 - ✓ have a combined federal adjusted gross income of \$100,000 or less;
 - ✓ be pursuing an undergraduate degree at a SUNY or CUNY college, including community colleges and the statutory colleges at Cornell University and Alfred University;
 - ✓ be enrolled in at least 12 credits per term and complete at least 30 credits each year (successively), applicable toward his or her degree program;
 - ✓ if attended college prior to the 2017-18 academic year, have earned at least 30 credits each year (successively), applicable toward his or her degree program prior to applying for an Excelsior Scholarship;
 - ✓ be in a non-default status on a student loan made under any NYS or federal education loan program or on the repayment of any NYS award;
 - ✓ be in compliance with the terms of the service condition(s) imposed by a NYS award that you have previously received; and
 - ✓ Execute a Contract agreeing to reside in NYS for the length of time the award was received, and, if employed during such time, be employed in NYS.
- **Award Amount:**
 - ✓ A recipient of an Excelsior Scholarship may receive up to \$5,500.
 - ✓ To determine the award amount, the resident tuition rate charged by SUNY (currently \$6,470) or CUNY (currently \$6,330) will be reduced by the amount of certain other student financial aid awards which an applicant has or will receive for the academic year, including a NYS Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) award and/or federal Pell grant. The Excelsior Scholarship will cover any remaining tuition liability up to \$5,500; and a tuition credit will cover any remaining tuition expenses not covered by the Excelsior Scholarship.
- **Apply online at:**
 - <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grants-scholarships-awards/the-excelsior-scholarship.html>

11) NYS ENHANCED TUITION AWARD:

- The Enhanced Tuition Awards program provides tuition awards to students who are New York State residents attending a private college located in New York State. Recipients will receive \$6,000 through a combination of their TAP award, ETA award and a match from their private college.
 - **Eligibility:** An applicant must:
 - ✓ be a resident of NYS and have resided in NYS for 12 continuous months prior to the beginning of the term;
 - ✓ be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
 - ✓ have either graduated from high school in the United States, earned a high school equivalency diploma, or passed a federally approved "Ability to Benefit" test, as defined by the Commissioner of the State Education Department;
 - ✓ have a combined federal adjusted gross income of \$100,000 or less, as reported on their family's 2015 tax return;
 - ✓ be pursuing an undergraduate degree at a participating private college or university located in New York State;
 - ✓ be enrolled in at least 12 credits per term and complete at least 30 credits each year (successively), applicable toward his or her degree program;
 - ✓ if attended college prior to the 2017-18 academic year, have earned at least 30 credits each year (successively), applicable toward his or her degree program prior to applying for an Enhanced Tuition Award;
 - ✓ be in a non-default status on any student loan(s) made under any NYS or federal education loan program or on the repayment of any NYS award;
 - ✓ be in a non-default status on a student loan made under any NYS or federal education loan program or on the repayment of any NYS award;
 - ✓ be in compliance with the terms of the service condition(s) imposed by any NYS award(s) that you have previously received; and
 - ✓ Execute a Contract agreeing to reside in NYS for the length of time the award was received, and, if employed during such time, be employed in NYS.
 - Apply Online at the NYS HESC website:

<https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grants-scholarships-awards/enhanced-tuition-awards.htm>

12) NYS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:

- The NYS Memorial Scholarship provides financial aid to children, spouses and financial dependents of deceased firefighters, volunteer firefighters, police officers, peace officers (including NYS Correction Officers), and emergency medical service workers who have died as the result of injuries sustained in the line of duty in service to the State of New York.
- **Eligibility:** An applicant must:
 - ✓ be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
 - ✓ be a child, spouse or financial dependent of deceased firefighter, volunteer firefighter, police officer (including NYS Correction Officers), or emergency medical service worker who have died as the result of injuries sustained in the line of duty in service to the State of New York;

- ✓ have graduated from high school in the United States, earned a high school equivalency diploma earned, or passed a federally approved "Ability to Benefit" test as defined by the Commissioner of the State Education Department;
 - ✓ study at an approved postsecondary institution in New York State;
 - ✓ be matriculated in an approved undergraduate program of study;
 - ✓ be enrolled as a full-time student taking 12 or more credits per semester applicable toward the degree program;
 - ✓ be in good academic standing;
 - ✓ be in a non-default status on a student loan made under any NYS or federal education loan program or repayment of any NYS award; and
 - ✓ Be in compliance with the terms of any service condition imposed by a NYS award.
- **Award Amount:** A recipient will receive a maximum of \$23,045 for the 2016-17 academic year if living on campus and a maximum of \$15,125 if commuting to college. Students choosing to live off campus when housing is available will be paid the lower commuter rate.
 - ✓ **Tuition:** an amount equal to your actual tuition or the State University of New York's (SUNY) in-state tuition, whichever is less.
 - ✓ **Non-tuition Costs:** such as room and board, books, supplies and transportation up to the non-tuition cost allowances at SUNY colleges.
 - Type of housing affects the total amount, with an on-campus student receiving a higher room and board allowance than a commuter student; however, if housing is not available on campus, the student will receive the same allowance as students living on campus.
 - ✓ Receipt of other grants and scholarships may reduce the Memorial Scholarships award amount. The total of all aid received cannot be greater than the cost of attendance determined for federal Title IV student financial aid purposes.
 - **How to Apply:**
 - ✓ Complete and submit the NYS Memorial Scholarship Web Supplement (online – NYS HESC website). Be sure to print the Web Supplement Confirmation, sign, date and submit it, along with the required documentation, according to the instructions.
 - ✓ If more than one member of a family applies for a Memorial Scholarships award, each family member must submit a separate supplement.

BE SURE TO MONITOR DATES AND DEADLINES FOR ALL FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES!!!