

CHILDREN OF FALLEN HEROES SCHOLARSHIP

On March 23, 2018, the President signed Public Law 115-141, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, which included an amendment to Section 473(b) of the Higher Education Act, authorizing the Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship.

Under this scholarship, beginning with the 2018-2019 award year, a Pell-eligible student whose parent or guardian died in the line of duty while performing as a public safety officer* is eligible to receive a maximum Pell Grant for the award year for which the determination of eligibility is made.

To qualify for this scholarship, a student must be Pell-eligible according to the current award year Pell chart, and be less than 24 years of age or enrolled at an institution of higher education at the time of his or her parent's or guardian's death. In subsequent award years, the student continues to be eligible for the scholarship, as long as the student has a Pell-eligible EFC and continues to be an eligible student.

*For purposes of the Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship, a public safety officer is:

- An individual serving a public agency in an official capacity, with or without compensation, as a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or chaplain;
- An employee of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) who is performing official duties of the agency, if those official duties—
 - are related to a major disaster or emergency that has been, or is later declared to exist with respect to the area under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; and
 - are determined by FEMA to be hazardous duties;
- An employee of a state, local, or tribal emergency management or civil defense agency who is performing official duties in cooperation with FEMA, if those official duties—

- are related to a major disaster or emergency that has been, or is later declared to exist with respect to the area under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; and
 - are determined by the agency to be hazardous duties;
- A member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew who, as authorized or licensed by law and by the applicable agency or entity, is engaging in rescue activity or in the provision of emergency medical services;
- An individual appointed to the National Disaster Medical System under section 2812 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11) who is performing official duties of the Department of Health and Human Services, if those official duties are—
 - related to responding to a public health emergency or potential public health emergency, or other activities for which the Secretary of Health and Human Services has activated such National Disaster Medical System; and
 - determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to be hazardous;
- An employee or contractor of the Department of Energy who—
 - a nuclear materials courier (as defined in section 8331(27) of title 5, United States Code); or
 - designated by the Secretary of Energy as a member of an emergency response team; and
 - is performing official duties of the Department, pursuant to a deployment order issued by the Secretary, to protect the public, property, or the interests of the United States by—
 - assessing, locating, identifying, securing, rendering safe, or disposing of weapons of mass destruction (as defined in section 1403 of the Defense Against Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 2302)); or

- managing the immediate consequences of a radiological release or exposure.
- A fire police officer, defined as an individual who is serving in accordance with State or local law as an officially recognized or designated member of a legally organized public safety agency and provides scene security or directs traffic in response to any fire drill, fire call, or other fire, rescue, or police emergency, or at a planned special event.

Documentation

The Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship requires the institution's financial aid administrator (FAA) to determine and document, in collaboration with the student, that the student was less than 24 years of age or enrolled at an institution of higher education at the time of his or her parent's or guardian's death. A single, national data source of individuals who died in the line of duty while serving as a public safety officer does not exist. Here are some examples of documents that you will need to submit to serve as proof of eligibility:

- A determination letter acknowledging eligibility for certain federal benefits under the Public Safety Officers Benefit (PSOB) program administered by the Department of Justice;
- A written letter of attestation or determination made by a state or local government official with **supervisory or other relevant oversight authority** of an individual who died in the line of duty while serving as a public safety officer as defined above;
- Documentation of the student qualifying for a state tuition or other state benefit accorded to the children or other family members of a public safety officer consistent with the definition in 42 U.S.C. 3796b, or as a fire police officer as noted above; or
- Other documentation the school determines to be from a credible source that describes or reports the circumstances of the death and the occupation of the parent or guardian.

Award:

The student will be eligible for the maximum Pell Grant for their enrollment status and cost of attendance.

If you believe you are eligible for this award, please contact the Financial Aid Office at your earliest convenience.