

Show Me the Money – Financial Aid Tip Sheet

A. FAFSA

- a. Complete online at – www.fafsa.ed.gov
- b. Tip 1: Complete by February 15th to qualify for Institutional awards
- c. Tip 2: Include a Maryland college or university to apply for Maryland State Aid.
- d. Tip 3: Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to complete the FAFSA using tax returns after Oct 1st.

B. Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) – Maryland College Aid Processing System (MD CAPS) account. Create an account at www.mhec.state.md.us/financialaid/osfamdcapslive.asp to:

- Apply On-Line for certain scholarship programs
- Check your To Do List
- Check your Application Status
- See if MHEC has received your FAFSA
- Accept or Decline Awards
- Check Award and Payment Status
- Transfer and Add Schools
- Change Enrollment Status
- Change Housing Status
- Update Your Contact Information

Here are a few grants available through MHEC that may be of interest:

- ✓ Guaranteed Access Grant – need-based, 2.5 high school GPA, up to \$17,000/year - renewable
- ✓ Legislative Scholarships (Delegate and Senatorial) www.mdelect.net to find your senator or delegate
- ✓ Tuition Waiver for Foster Care Residents - renewable
- ✓ Tuition Waiver for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth – as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- ✓ Tuition Waiver for Maryland National Guard – up front tuition waiver of up to 50% of tuition costs at Maryland State colleges and Washington and Loyola College - renewable
- ✓ Tuition Waiver for Students with Disabilities – for students receiving SSI or SSDI benefits at Maryland community colleges – renewable

C. Financial Aid Sources for Foster Care Students

- a. **Foster Care Tuition Waiver** - is available to foster care youth who are enrolled full time or part time for an associate, bachelor's degree or vocational certificate at a Maryland public institution of higher education.
- b. **ETV Program** - The Maryland Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program is a federally-funded, state-administered program designed to help youth who were in foster care. Students may receive up to \$5,000 a year for qualified school related expenses. Applications are available July 1st and funding begins October 1st. Documents can be downloaded at <http://www.fc2sprogram.org/maryland>

D. Segal AmeriCorps Education Award - AmeriCorps offers post-service education awards to volunteers participating in intensive service projects at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country (i.e. AmeriCorps VISTA and AmeriCorps NCCC). Recipients can use this education award in the following ways, or a combination of them:

- a. to repay qualified existing or future student loans;
- b. to pay all or part of the current education expenses to attend a qualified institution of higher education (including certain vocational programs);
- c. to pay expenses while participating in an approved school-to-work program.

Value of education awards:

- a. If you successfully complete one full-time term of service (at least 1,700 hours over one year or less), you will be eligible for the equivalent to the maximum value of the Pell Grant for the award year in which the term of service was funded.
- b. If you successfully complete one part-time term of service (at least 900 hours over two years or less), you will be eligible for the equivalent of a half award.
- c. If you are in a short-term program, such as a summer program, you will be eligible for a "reduced part-time" award -- usually \$1,000 or less.
- d. If you serve at least 15 percent of your term and leave for compelling personal circumstances (as determined by your project director), you may be eligible for a prorated award based on the number of service hours you complete.

If you have other questions, please visit <http://www.nationalservice.gov> or call the Maryland AmeriCorps office at (800) 321-8657.

E. Scholarships

- a. Central Scholarship -- application deadline is April 1st; applications must be done online at www.central-scholarship.org.
- b. CollegeBound Foundation -- Competitive Scholarship application deadline is March 1st; applications must be done online at <http://www.collegeboundfoundation.org/scholarships-grants/apply-now>.
- c. CollegeBound Foundation -- Last Dollar Grant application portal opens December 1st; deadline is June 1st; applications must be done online at www.collegeboundfoundation.org/scholarships-grants