



Pell Grants

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate and certain post-baccalaureate students to promote access to postsecondary education. Students may use their grants at any one of approximately 5,400 participating postsecondary institutions. Grant amounts are dependent on: the student's expected family contribution (EFC) (see below); the cost of attendance (as determined by the institution); the student's enrollment status (full-time or part-time); and whether the student attends for a full academic year or less.

 **TO APPLY FOR A PELL GRANT, YOU MUST SUBMIT A COMPLETED FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)**



Quick information

A Federal Pell Grant, unlike a loan, does not have to be repaid. These were formerly called Basic Educational Opportunity Grants (BEOGs).

The maximum Pell grant for the 2015–16 award year (July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016) is \$5,775.

The amount depends on your financial need, costs to attend school, status as a full-time or part-time student, and plans to attend school for a full academic year or less.

Eligibility

Who May Apply:
Undergraduate and vocational students enrolled or accepted for enrollment in participating schools may apply.

To be eligible for a Pell grant, you must also meet the general federal student aid eligibility requirements.



Financial need is determined by the U.S. Department of Education using a standard formula, established by Congress, to evaluate the financial information reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and to determine the family EFC. The fundamental elements in this standard formula are the student's income (and assets if the student is independent), the parents' income and assets (if the student is dependent), the family's household size, and the number of family members (excluding parents) attending postsecondary institutions.

The EFC is the sum of: 1) a percentage of net income (remaining income after subtracting allowances for basic living expenses and taxes) and 2) a percentage of net assets (assets remaining after subtracting an asset protection allowance). Different assessment rates and allowances are used for dependent students, independent students without dependents, and independent students with dependents.

After filing a FAFSA, the student receives a Student Aid Report (SAR), or the institution receives an Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR), which notifies the student if he or she is eligible for a Federal Pell Grant and provides the student's EFC. Students may not receive Federal Pell Grant funds from more than one school at a time.

Federal Pell Grants are direct grants awarded through participating institutions to students with financial need who have not received their first bachelor's degree or who are enrolled in certain postbaccalaureate programs that lead to teacher certification or licensure. Participating institutions either credit the Federal Pell Grant funds to the student's school account, pay the student directly (usually by check) or combine these methods. Students must be paid at least once per term (semester, trimester, or quarter); schools that do not use formally defined terms must pay the student at least twice per academic year.

CFDA NUMBER: 84.063

LEGISLATION: *HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965, AS AMENDED*, TITLE IV, PART A, SUBPART 1; 20 U.S.C. 1070A.

REGULATIONS: [34 CFR 690](#)

Appropriations

FISCAL YEAR 2011: \$41,674,180,000
FISCAL YEAR 2010: \$21,772,000,000
FISCAL YEAR 2009: \$19,378,000,000
FISCAL YEAR 2008: \$16,256,000,000
FISCAL YEAR 2007: \$13,660,711,000

Note: The amount for FY 2006 includes \$4.3 billion to retire prior-year funding shortfalls; the amount for FY 2008 includes \$2 billion in mandatory funds.

Note: The amounts for FY 2008 and FY 2009 include \$2,000,000,000 and \$2,100,000,000, respectively, in mandatory funds. In addition, the \$17,114,000,000 in 70 U.S. Department of Education Recovery Act funds includes \$1,474,000,000 in mandatory funds, of which 831,000,000 is for use in academic year 2010–11.

Note: The amount for FY 2009 includes \$2,090,000,000 in definite mandatory funds and \$16,283,000,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds, of which \$643,000,000 is mandatory. The FY 2010 appropriation amount includes \$5,299,816,000 in indefinite mandatory funds. The FY 2011 appropriation above includes \$13,500,000,000 in mandatory funds to help reduce discretionary need and \$5,218,184,000, which is the estimate of indefinite mandatory funds needed.

Awards Information

2011

Amount of Aid Available: \$35,772,935,000
Amount of Aid Available represents the amount of funds to be awarded to participants in this program.
Number of New Awards Anticipated: 9,413,000
Average New Award: \$3,800
Range of New Awards: \$555–\$5,550

2010

Amount of Aid Available: \$32,295,226,000
Amount of Aid Available represents the amount of funds to be awarded to participants in this program.
Number of New Awards Anticipated: 8,355,000
Average New Award: \$3,865
Range of New Awards: \$555–\$5,550

2009

Amount of Aid Available: \$25,328,889,000
Amount of Aid Available represents the amount of funds awarded to participants in the Federal Student Aid programs. Depending upon the program, this total may include federal appropriated dollars, institutional or state matching dollars, and federal or private loan capital.
Number of New Awards Anticipated: 7,022,000
Average New Award: \$3,611
Range of New Awards: \$486–\$5,350

2008

Amount of Aid Available: \$16,428,110,000
Amount of Aid Available represents the amount of funds awarded to participants in the Federal Student Aid programs. Depending upon the program, this total may include federal appropriated dollars, institutional or state matching dollars, and federal or private loan capital.
Number of New Awards Anticipated: 5,578,000
Average New Award: \$2,945
Range of New Awards: \$400–\$4,731

2007

Amount of Aid Available: \$13,989,305,000
Amount of Aid Available represents the amount of funds awarded to participants in the Federal Student Aid programs. Depending upon the program, this total may include federal appropriated dollars, institutional or state matching dollars, and federal or private loan capital.
Number of New Awards Anticipated: 5,339,000
Average New Award: \$2,620
Range of New Awards: \$400–\$4,310

NOTE: FY 2007 AWARDS INFORMATION REFLECTS FINAL APPROPRIATIONS ACTION THAT OCCURRED AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2008 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.

NOTE: THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT BOUND BY ANY ESTIMATES IN THIS NOTICE.



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