Agenda

Housekeeping
Panelists introduce themselves, explain how to acquire program materials, and review agenda items

Background
PHEAA staff provides a brief history of the program, details on program legislation, and eligibility requirements for students and schools

Determining Unmet Costs
Presenters discuss the student and institutional policy changes made effective for the 2021-22 Academic Year and review related awarding activities

Wrap-up
Attendees are offered answers to questions asked during the session and provided with program resources

This content has been abridged and does not supersede current program policy. For complete guidance on program administration, please refer to the appropriate year Chafee ETG Program Guidelines.
Background

• Enacted into law as the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999
  – Amended with the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2001
  – Additional flexibility for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 Academic Years provided through the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) of 2021

• PHEAA partners with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) for program administration within the Commonwealth
  – State funding allotted annually to DHS through the Education and Training Voucher (ETV)
    • Funds may be used for various services (e.g., educational assistance, mentoring, preventative health services, etc.)
    • Awards = $500 – $5,000

Federal program under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide states with funds to support current and former foster youth
Institution Eligibility

• An eligible institution:
  – Must be approved by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) for Title IV funding
  – Should also:
    • Complete PHEAA paperwork (e.g., Automated Clearing House (ACH) Agreement, Remote Access Agreement, etc.)
    • Notify PHEAA when institutional changes occur (e.g., status, name, location, etc.)

\textit{PHEAA will exercise its right to determine an institution’s eligibility and may withhold disbursements.}
To be eligible for a Chafee ETG award, students must meet program criteria, including:

**Student Eligibility**

- Be a Pennsylvania resident
- Be eligible for services under the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program
  - Have been in foster care or was discharged or adopted after age 16
- Comply with the age requirements (under age 26)
- Complete a PA Chafee ETG application and FAFSA® by the annual deadline (December 31)
  - Renewal applicants only require a FAFSA® application
  - Application also used for PA Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver (FosterEd) Program
- Attend a Title IV postsecondary institution
  - Enroll at least half-time as an undergraduate in an approved Title IV certificate, diploma, or degree program of study
- Maintain federal Title IV satisfactory academic progress (SAP)
- Not be in default or owe a refund on federal Title IV aid
- Have not exhausted their award counter
  - Defined as 5 years
- **Have unmet cost of attendance (COA)**
Student Eligibility – CAA Adjustments

Due to the CAA, the following eligibility criteria changes are temporarily in effect for the 2021-22 Academic Year

• Chafee ETG maximum award is increased to $6,000
  – Applies to all eligible youth that have applied by the annual deadline (December 31, 2021)

• Additional eligibility criteria adjustments available ONLY for those students who applied by September 30, 2021
  – Part-time enrollment may drop below half-time
  – SAP requirement is waived
  – Age for eligibility is expanded to 27
  – Unmet cost/need is not considered in determining award amounts
    • Award value should not exceed cost of attendance minus federal gift aid if the application is submitted on or after October 1

• Details on award determination and the CAA adjustments are available in the 2021-22 Chafee ETG Program Guidelines.

• Review the new Chafee Applications Received Date report in PageCenter.
Determining Unmet Costs

- Unmet cost = student’s COA – federal gift aid
  - Federal gift aid includes:
    - Pell Grant;
    - Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG);
    - Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants; and
    - Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is not used when determining eligibility
- Non-federal gift aid (e.g., loans, PA State Grant, institutional scholarships, etc.) also not included in the calculation
Determining Unmet Costs

• Chafee ETG awards may not exceed the student’s COA regardless of application submission date

• Allowable costs of attendance may include:
  – Direct costs billed by the institution (e.g., tuition and fees, room and board, etc.); and
  – Indirect costs of attendance (e.g., books and supplies, study abroad expenses, transportation, etc.)

• Schools may estimate average expenses for the same enrollment statuses
  – Multiple estimate tiers may also be determined based on attendance considerations
    • Examples: programs of study, commuter vs. on-campus, dependent vs. independent, etc.
  – Adjustments to base COA estimates may be allowed for special circumstances (e.g., disability expenses, childcare, etc.)

Additional details on determining students’ COA is available in the 2021-22 Federal Student Aid (FSA) Handbook.
Determining Unmet Costs

Example

• Chafee ETG eligible student, Cameron K. attends PHEAA State University and incurs the following costs
  – Direct costs total $27,500, including $19,000 in tuition & fees and $8,500 in room & board
  – Estimates for indirect costs total $1,750, including transportation ($500), books & supplies ($750), and miscellaneous costs ($500)
• Cameron is receiving $10,495 in federal gift aid, including $6,495 in Pell and $4,000 TEACH Grant

Questions

• If Cameron applied by September 30, would the unmet costs be a factor in Chafee ETG award determination?
  – What would be the award amount, if Cameron were eligible?
• If Cameron applied on or after October 1, would the unmet costs be a factor in Chafee ETG award determination?
  – What would be the award amount, if Cameron were eligible?
• Bonus: What would the award be if Cameron were receiving $5,000 in PA State Grant and $2,500 in an institutional scholarship?
Determining Unmet Costs

Results

- If the application was submitted by September 30, then unmet costs are not considered
  - Cameron’s 2021-22 Award would be $6,000, since the COA is higher
- If the application was submitted on or after October 1, but by the annual deadline, then unmet costs would be $18,755 ($29,250 - $10,495)
  - Cameron’s 2021-22 Award would be $6,000
- **Bonus:** Non-federal gift aid like the PA State Grant and institutional scholarship will have no impact to Cameron’s Chafee ETG award value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allowable Cost of Attendance</th>
<th>Federal Gift Aid</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition &amp; Fees</td>
<td>$19,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room &amp; Board</td>
<td>$8,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Books &amp; Supplies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Expenses</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$29,250</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNMET CHAFEE ETG COSTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$18,755</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Determining Unmet Costs

• Chafee ETG-eligible student, Padgett S. attends PHEAA Community College
• PHEAA Community College charges $6,000 in tuition & fees
• Additional estimated costs total $7,000
  – Including off-campus room & board ($6,050), books & supplies ($500), and miscellaneous costs ($450)
• Padgett is receiving $10,495 in federal gift aid ($6,495 in Pell and $4,000 in FSEOG)

Questions:
• If Padgett applied by September 30, would the unmet costs be a factor in Chafee ETG award determination?
  – What would be the award amount, if Padgett were eligible?
• If Padgett applied on or after October 1, would the unmet costs be a factor in Chafee ETG Award determination?
  – What would be the award amount, if Padgett were eligible?
• Bonus: What is the award impact if Padgett reports having childcare costs?
Determining Unmet Costs

**Answers:**

- **No.** If the application was submitted by September 30, then unmet costs are not considered
  - Padgett’s 2021-22 Chafee ETG award would be $6,000, since the COA is higher

- **Yes.** If the application was submitted on or after October 1, but by the annual deadline, then unmet costs are considered and would be $2,505 ($13,000 - $10,495)
  - Padgett’s 2021-22 award would be $2,505

**Bonus:** Padgett’s addition of childcare costs would increase the total award value, but only if Padgett applied after September 30

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<td>Room &amp; Board</td>
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<td>Books &amp; Supplies</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNMET CHAFEE ETG COSTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,505</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Deduct Federal Pell | $6,495 |
| Deduct FSEOG        | $4,000 |
• Reviews renewal status/application completion, FAFSA status, PA residency, age requirements, foster youth eligibility, award counter, etc.

• Students are notified of Chafee ETG eligibility/ineligibility via letter
  – Awards are issued on a first-come, first-served basis

• Institutions are notified via the Applicant Certification and Status Listing (ACSL) and Chafee ETG Denial Listing in PageCenter
  – Listings are generated every other Tuesday (regardless of changes)

**Award Determination**

• Institutions review ACSL for student award/reject information
  – Satisfactory Academic Progress, enrollment status, unmet costs, etc.

• Ineligible reasons are reported on ACSL

• All eligible students initially awarded the maximum, $6,000, for the 2021-22 Academic Year
  – No summer awards issued

Postsecondary institutions confirm eligibility and awarding
**Award Certification**

- Institutions must certify student eligibility prior to disbursement
  - Confirm eligibility or make changes via an ACSL
  - Update each term-level field for proper certification
    - If incomplete, PHEAA will not process
  - Avoid certifying awards for terms that have not begun
  - If the student is currently not enrolled or has withdrawn, they are ineligible
  - If student eligible for partial year award (e.g., only fall award) and the amount is below $500, the student is ineligible

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT INFORMATION</th>
<th>TERM AND CURRENT STAT</th>
<th>INELIGIBLE REASONS</th>
<th>PROGM</th>
<th>PROGRESS</th>
<th>ENRLLMNT</th>
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<td>PENDING CERT</td>
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<td>$3,000</td>
<td>$_____</td>
<td>$_____</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Award Certification

- Only submit subsequent ACSLs when changes/updates need to be reported (e.g., new term-level certification, enrollment decreases, etc.)

- Review the Chafee ETG Denial Listing in PageCenter to determine if student’s eligibility can be established
  - May aid the student in obtaining FosterEd eligibility as well

- Awards pending greater than 90 days are subject to cancellation
  - Awards uncertified by July 1, 2022 may be cancelled by PHEAA

- Contact PHEAA with eligibility and certification questions
Enrollment Changes

• All enrollment changes must be reported regardless of crediting status
  – Report via an ACSL or roster until the end of the term
  – Withdrawals or drops to less-than-half-time enrollment prior to final crediting require a full refund of Chafee ETG funds
  – If withdrawal (of any type) occurs after disbursement and award crediting, then follow school's tuition refund policy and return funds to PHEAA

• Consider all modular periods when making final enrollment and eligibility decisions

**Example:** School offers three 4-week modules to make a 12-week quarter term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module 1</th>
<th>Module 2</th>
<th>Module 3</th>
<th>School Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alden</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>6 credits Report student as full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brin</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>Not enrolled</td>
<td>6 credits Report student as half-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nisha</td>
<td>6 credits</td>
<td>Not enrolled</td>
<td>Not enrolled Report student as half-time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PHEAA – Providing affordable access to higher education. (Public Information)
• Credit (pay) awards on a term-by-term basis
  – Crediting means your institution:
    1. Performed all eligibility checks
    2. Certified the student’s eligibility in advance
  – Record as “Chafee ETG” and include the term, date of crediting, and amount
  – Do not issue awards for incarcerated students
• Remit credit balances created directly to the student
Disbursements

• Disbursements run monthly and generate a roster to PageCenter
  – Only includes funds for students with certified awards
  – Certify and return each disbursement roster within 30 days of receipt or within 30 days of the first day of the term (whichever is later)

• Awards are term-specific and intended to assist students with costs incurred during that term
  – Outstanding items and noncompliance with policies will result in disbursement holds which prevent students from receiving awards in a timely manner
  – Develop institutional cash management and accounting procedures to ensure proper Chafee ETG fund management
    • Separate bank account is recommended, not required
      – If no separate account, institution may be required to submit a summary attesting to fund management measures
Reconciliation & Refunds

Reconciliation

• Annual reconciliation process provides schools with final opportunity to report ineligible students or submit changes
  – Funds not disbursed during reconciliation period
• Reconciliation roster must be certified and returned to PHEAA within 30 days of generation
  – Contact PHEAA for a supplemental reconciliation roster

Refunds

• Refund disbursed funds for ineligible students
  – Report eligibility changes via disbursement roster or ACSL
  – Refunds must be remitted within 60 days of reporting to PHEAA
• Track refund receipt via Outstanding Items Report in PageCenter
• Encourage eligible students to apply early
  – Application deadline for CAA policy adjustments was September 30, 2021
  – Students applying by December 31, 2021 will still be eligible for the $6,000 award maximum

• Document COA estimates and student-level considerations

• Review ACSLs and make enrollment and eligibility updates prior to disbursement
  – Certify all pending awards by July 1, 2022, to avoid cancellation

• Retain records for 5 years from the date on which the reconciliation roster is certified

• Update contacts and report institutional changes that may occur (e.g., status, demographic information, etc.)

• Perform periodic reviews to maintain user access requests
Join Us Next Time!

- Thursday November 18, 2021
  - PA Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver (FosterEd) Program
    - The Role of the FosterEd POC

Session description, registration information, and recordings from other sessions can be found on PHEAA.org/SGSPtraining.

Have a specific session that you would like to see featured? Send us an email via the program mailbox with the subject line: Training Topic.
Web Resources
- PHEAA.org
- Alec

SGSP Staff
- 1-800-443-0646
- paetg@pheaa.org

Resources

Print Materials
- Student-facing
- School-facing

Events
- Webinar Series
- Conferences
- Workshops

Connect with PHEAA socially!
Thank You!