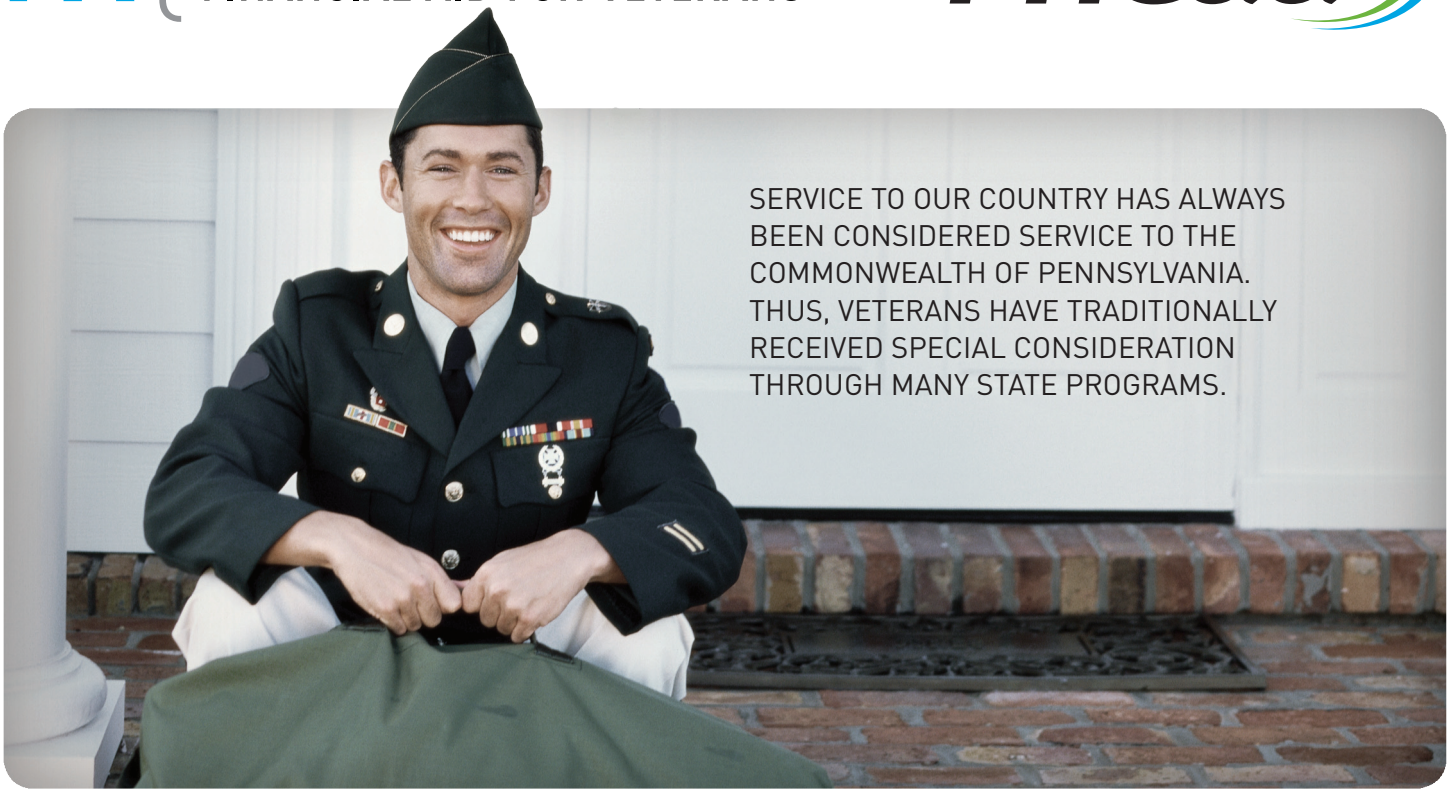
PA { STATE GRANTS & OTHER FINANCIAL AID FOR VETERANS

PHEAA



None, perhaps, is more important than the Pennsylvania State Grant Program, which has helped many veterans finance their postsecondary educations. Such an education opens many doors to career opportunities not available to high school graduates or those with only military training and experience. Coupling a State Grant with other forms of student financial aid such as a Federal Pell Grant and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits can enable you to pursue virtually any educational program for which you qualify.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania provides State Grants for qualified veterans who need financial assistance to complete approved programs of postsecondary education. All veterans are considered without regard to the financial status of their parents.

Which Schools May a State Grant Recipient Attend?

Many schools throughout the United States are approved for participation in the Pennsylvania State Grant Program. With certain limited exceptions, applicants attending institutions in Maryland, New Jersey, or New York are not eligible.

How Much State Grant Aid is Available?

The State Grant maximum award amount levels may change each academic year. **The exact amount you receive will depend on available funding, the other benefits and aid you are receiving, and the cost of the school you are attending.**

State Grant Filing Deadlines

- **MAY 1ST,** immediately preceding the academic year for all renewal applicants and new applicants who plan to enroll in an undergraduate, baccalaureate degree program and those in college transfer programs at two-year public or junior colleges.
- **AUGUST 1ST,** immediately preceding the academic year for first-time applicants who plan to enroll in a business, trade or technical school, a hospital school of nursing, or a two-year nontransferable degree program of study at a community, junior or four-year college.

Applications will be accepted after the filing deadlines and, funds permitting, may be processed for all or a portion of the year. First priority is given to veterans who have separated from active duty after January 1st, immediately preceding the academic year. However, all veterans who are in need of aid should apply, regardless of their date of separation.

How to Qualify

To be eligible for a Pennsylvania State Grant, you must:

- **Have engaged in active service** with the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, or were a cadet or midshipman at one of the service academies, and were released under a condition other than dishonorable, bad conduct, uncharacterized, or other than honorable conditions, or are not a veteran now, but will be one by June 30th of the academic year for which aid is being requested. National Guard or Reserve enlistees must also have been activated for duty other than training;
- **Be a bona fide domiciliary of Pennsylvania** for a period of at least 12 months immediately preceding the date of application;
- **Be a graduate of an approved high school** or have a Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma;
- **Be enrolled in a school approved by PHEAA** for State Grant purposes;
- **Be enrolled in an approved program of study** of at least two academic years in length;
- **Be enrolled in a program of study where at least 50 percent of the total credits/clock** hours needed for completion of the program must be earned through classroom instruction;
- **Be enrolled as an undergraduate student on at least a half-time basis** defined as at least six credits per semester (or the equivalent);
- **Have successfully completed the minimum number of credits or clock hours** commensurate with enrollment status for the last academic year during which State Grant aid was received;
- **Not be in default or have a claim of default pending** on an educational loan (also applies to programs where awards have been converted to loans due to failure to meet all eligibility or service requirements and the loan is in a default status); and
- **Not be incarcerated.**

How To Apply

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the first step in the financial aid application process. It serves as the application for the Pennsylvania State Grant, as well as for most federal and college-based financial aid, such as grants, loans and work-study funds. A FAFSA must be completed each award year.

The FAFSA can be accessed online at **PHEAA.org/FAFSA** or fafsa.gov. You may request a paper FAFSA by calling the U.S. Department of Education at **1.800.4.FED-AID**. You can also obtain a PDF FAFSA at **FederalStudentAid.ed.gov**.

Investigate All Your Options

Financial aid for veterans does not stop with the State Grant Program. If you qualify for a **Federal Pell Grant**, you can receive aid depending on your financial need, which is determined by your FAFSA. Pell Grants do not have to be repaid.

The **GI Bill** provides educational benefits for veterans, service members and other eligible persons. Contact your local U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs representative for more detailed information and assistance with applying.

You can also contact the **financial aid office** at the school you are planning to attend. They have information on additional grants, scholarships, loans and work-study programs for which you may be eligible.

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

What is the POW-MIA Program?

PHEAA provides special Pennsylvania State Grants to the children of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who served on active duty after January 31, 1955, and **who has been a prisoner of war or reported as missing in action and was a resident of Pennsylvania for at least 12 months preceding his/her service on active duty.** This does not include the child of any such member of the U.S. Armed Forces who deserted, defected to the enemy, or has otherwise been discharged under other than honorable conditions.

These materials have been developed and paid for by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) for informational purposes. Although the Information contained in this document is believed to be accurate at the time of printing, PHEAA does not guarantee its accuracy. You should independently verify that this information is correct.

GR-VETSE
062910