PHEAA

Special Programs Basics

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About PHEAA

- Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency
  - Created in 1963 by the Pennsylvania General Assembly
  - Currently one of the nation’s leading student aid organizations
    - Today serves millions of students and thousands of schools through its loan guaranty, loan servicing, financial aid processing, outreach, and other student aid programs
  - Our mission is to create affordable access to higher education
    - PHEAA devotes its energy, resources, and imagination to developing innovative ways to ease the financial burden of higher education for students, families, schools, and taxpayers
  - Earnings used to support public service mission
State Grant Distance Education Pilot Program
SGDEPP

- Five (5) year pilot program launched in 2013-14
  - PHEAA Funded = $10 million
  - Schools apply to participate
    - One-time application
    - Deadline for 2017-18 was July 1, 2017
  - Students must be nominated by the institution
    - Students follow traditional State Grant application process
  - Program provides an exception for two State Grant requirements
    - Programs of Study that are more than 50% online
    - More than 50% online term enrollment
SGDEPP

• Additional institutional reporting component
  – Institutional and student-level reporting

• Student award minimum and maximum is the same as the State Grant

• Disbursement model differs from State Grant model

• Website: PHEAA.org/SGDEPP
Ready to Succeed Scholarship Program
RTSS Program

- Created by the General Assembly in 2014
  - Commonwealth Appropriation = $5 million
  - Schools apply to participate
    - One-time application
    - Deadline for 2017-18 was August 15, 2017
  - No student application
  - Utilizes a student-level disbursement model
    - Same model as the Distance Education Pilot Program
      - School nominates students and PHEAA confirms eligibility
      - School certifies students individually
      - Disbursements and refunds made on a student-level
RTSS Program

- Student eligibility criteria:
  - Must be State Grant eligible with additional qualifications:
    - 3.25 Cumulative GPA
    - Annual family income of $110,000 or lower
    - Academic Level 2 or 24 semester credit equivalent
  - Students may receive both a RTSS and State Grant award up to the combined maximum of $2,000

- Award amounts
  - Minimum: $500
  - Maximum: $2,000 (full-time)

- Website: PHEAA.org/RTSS
Pennsylvania Targeted Industry Program
PA-TIP

- Commonwealth initiative to provide funding for programs that are at least 10 weeks long but less than two academic years in length
  - Degree, diploma, or certificate programs
  - Fields limited to: Energy, Advanced Materials and Diversified Manufacturing, and Agriculture and Food Production
- PHEAA Funded = $6 million
- Currently 100+ approved programs of study
PA-TIP

- Student eligibility criteria:
  - Pennsylvania resident
  - Not eligible for a State Grant due to program length (> 2 years)
  - Possess a high school diploma, GED, or homeschool certificate
  - Not in default or owe a State Grant refund
  - Have an EFC that does not exceed 12,000
- Award maximum consistent with State Grant
- Website: PHEAA.org/PATIP
Blind or Deaf Beneficiary Grant Program
BDBG Program

- Established in 1949
- Program administration transferred from PDE to PHEAA beginning with the 2011-12 award year
- Commonwealth Appropriation = $47,000
- Program assists blind and/or deaf students with the costs of postsecondary education
- Funds awarded on a first-come, first served basis
BDBG Program

- Student eligibility criteria:
  - Pennsylvania resident
  - Filed/completed a FAFSA®
    - Student does not have to be State Grant eligible
  - Be enrolled at least half-time at a Title IV eligible institution
  - Completed a BDBG application by the deadline
    - Application requires certification from a physician or the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
    - Application deadline for 2017-18 is March 31, 2018

- Maximum award: $500
Matching Funds Programs

- Commonwealth Appropriation = $12.4 million
  - Split between four programs

Federal Work-Study On-Campus Program

Federal Work-Study Community Service Program

State Work-Study Program

Partnerships for Access to Higher Education Program
Federal Work-Study On-Campus & Community Service Programs
FWS-ON & FWS-CS Programs

Programs provide matching funds to PA institutions to assist with meeting the federal match requirements for the FWS Program.

**FWS-ON**
- Funding provided on an allocation basis
- School must submit required reports to maintain participation

**FWS-CS**
- Students perform community service in nonprofit jobs
- Funding provided on an allocation basis
- Schools must submit required reports to participate
State Work-Study Program
SWSP

- PHEAA was the first nationwide to develop off-campus work-study referral and placement
- Provides:
  - Students with an opportunity to gain career-related work experience while earning monies to assist in meeting educational goals
  - Employers may be reimbursed up to $5,000 per term (academic year and/or Summer) per student for providing the work opportunity
- Students search online for jobs/employers
Partnerships for Access to Higher Education Program
PATH Program

- Offers Pennsylvania nonprofit, community-based organizations the ability to have their private scholarships matched by PHEAA
  - Match occurs on a dollar-for-dollar basis
- Students use scholarships and Commonwealth matching funds to assist with educational expenses
- Currently 39 approved participating PATH partners
PATH Program

- Student eligibility criteria:
  - Be State Grant eligible
  - Nominated by an approved partner for a matching award
  - Not in default on any federal student loan
  - Enrolled at least half-time
  - Demonstrate financial need (as determined by the school)

- Award amounts:
  - Minimum: $200
  - Maximum: $2,500

- Website: PHEAA.org/PATH
Higher Education of the Disadvantaged (Act 101) Program
Act 101 Program

- Created by the General Assembly in 1971
- Provides funds to schools to assist economically or educationally disadvantaged students
- Program administration transferred from PDE to PHEAA beginning with the 2011-12 award year
- 31 active programs
- Approval is yearly and renewable based on funding
  - Funds issued to schools on a per capita basis
- Commonwealth Appropriation = $2.25 million
Act 101 Program

- School must be approved for State Grant Program
  - Located in the Commonwealth
  - Authorized to grant degrees by PDE
  - Application to and approved by PHEAA
- 70% of funds disbursed at the beginning of the Fall; remainder upon receipt of annual report
- Each program has an Act 101 Director
- Each institution must contribute 25% toward overall program budget
  - 15% match requirement for new schools
Act 101 Program

- No student application
- Students must:
  - Be a Pennsylvania resident
  - Enroll at least half-time in a program leading to an undergraduate credential
  - Meet the definition of:
    - Economically Disadvantaged
    - Educationally Disadvantaged (as determined by the institution)
- Website: PHEAA.org/Act101
New Economy Technology Scholarship Program
NETS Program

• Funded by the Commonwealth from 1999-2011
  – 2010-11 was the final year new NETS awards granted
• Provided scholarships to Pennsylvania students enrolled in approved NETS programs of study
  – SciTech Scholarship: 4 year programs
  – Technology Scholarship: <4 year programs
  – Requires work obligation in PA upon program completion
    • Converts to a loan if work obligation not met (handled by AES)
• Funds no longer disbursed for the program
• Institutions report graduation and/or internship data to PHEAA for students
Pennsylvania Chafee Education & Training Grant Program
Chafee Program

- Federal program
  - Funded under the *John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Act of 1999* as amended by the *Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2001*
- Provides grant assistance to undergraduate students aging out of foster care
- PHEAA administers in conjunction with Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
- PA’s Federal Allotment = $1.59 million
Chafee Program

• Student eligibility criteria:
  – Pennsylvania resident
  – Enrolled at least half-time at a Title IV eligible postsecondary institution
  – Have ‘unmet’ costs as determined by the institution
  – Not in default or owe a refund on Title IV aid
  – Be certified by DHS as eligible for foster care programs

• Award amounts:
  – Minimum: $500
  – Maximum: $5,000
Institutional Assistance
Grants Program
IAG Program

- Created by legislation in July 1974
- Program funds used by schools to maintain enrollment levels and stabilize educational costs
- Utilizes formula grants to assist independent postsecondary institutions
  - Schools that receive a direct appropriation are excluded
  - Payment based on the number of FTE State Grant recipients
- Commonwealth Appropriation = $25.7 million
- 88 eligible institutions
EAP

- Created by Act 56 of 1996
- Provides tuition assistance for Pennsylvania National Guard members who enter into a 6 year service commitment
- Department of Military and Veterans Affairs jointly administers with PHEAA
  - DMVA distributes information, collects applications, verify application data, and determines eligibility
- Commonwealth Appropriation = $12.5 million
  - Made to the DMVA, not PHEAA
EAP

- Student eligibility criteria:
  - Pennsylvania resident
  - Sign a 6 year service agreement with the National Guard
    - Grant converts to loan if commitment not met
  - Enrolled in a Title IV approved degree or certification granting course of study (ex: Act 120 Police Academy or CDL program)
  - Not receiving a ROTC Scholarship
- All questions regarding eligibility should be sent to the National Guard
EAP

• Award maximum based on flat tuition amounts charged at PASSHE schools
  - Maximum award: $7,492
  - Full-time undergrad eligible for 100% of PASSHE tuition
  - Part-time undergrad eligible for the lesser of 100% of their tuition or two-thirds of the full-time PASSHE tuition
  - Graduate students eligible for the lesser of one-half of their tuition or one-third of the PASSHE tuition
  - Must apply FTA payments and other military aid first
Postsecondary Educational Gratuity & Act 105 Programs
PEGP

- Established by the General Assembly in 1998
- Assists with educational costs for children whose parents have given their lives in the line of duty
  - Effective after January 1, 1976
- Must be a child of a police officer, firefighter, rescue/ambulance squad member, corrections employee, or National Guard member
  - Amended to include sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, and other federal/state active duty military members who died after September 11, 2011
• Student eligibility criteria:
  – Pennsylvania resident
  – Must attend a Pennsylvania community college, state-related, or state-owned institution
  – Be 25 years of age or younger when initially applying

• School required to waive costs after all other aid applied
  – No Commonwealth appropriation

• Benefit available for a maximum of 5 years
Act 105 Program

- Provides assistance to unmarried surviving spouses if the National Guard soldier or airman was killed or died as a result of injuries while in federal or state active duty
  - Established in 2006
- School required to waive costs after all other aid applied
  - No Commonwealth appropriation
- Benefit available up to 10 years after spouse death
- Must be a Pennsylvania resident
Questions
Resources

Web Resources

• PHEAA.org
  – About Us
  – Resources & Training
  – Funding Opportunities
  – Partner Access
  – Online Order System

• Document Library

Other Resources

• Contact Us
  – Phone: 1-800-443-0646
  – Fax: 717-720-3786
  – Email: Check out our Contact List for individual program email addresses!

• Higher Education Access Partner