Western PA College Success Roundtable

Welcome to our March Meeting!

Guest Presenter: Mallorie Smith
Financial Wellness Coordinator
Mississippi State University

Upcoming Meeting Date

Save the Date!

- **Wednesday, May 21st**
  - In-Person – Allegheny Intermediate Unit

    Homestead, PA 15120
  - 8 am to 9:30 am
  - Details TBA

Statewide Webinar for Students and Families

Understanding and Comparing Financial Aid Offers

Wednesday, March 19th

6 - 7 pm

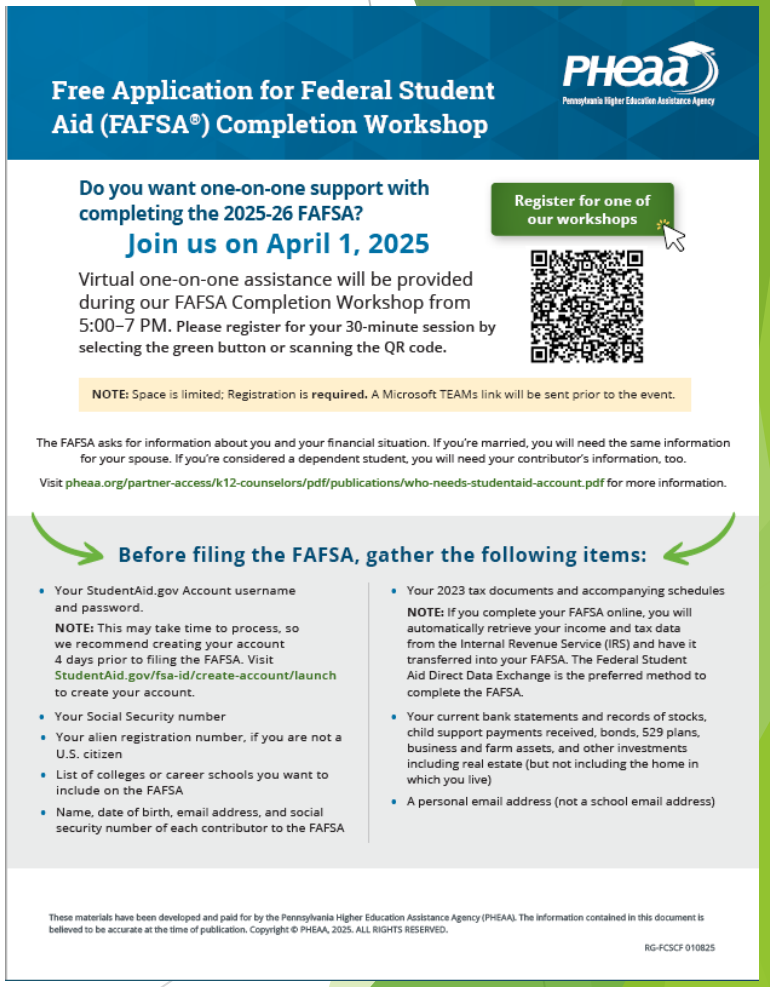
Register at pheaa.org/virtual

Statewide Virtual FAFSA Completion Workshop

One-on-one assistance provided virtually, via Microsoft Teams

- Tuesday, April 1st
- 30-minute sessions will be held between 5 – 7 p.m.
- Space is limited, so registration is required

Open to any student/family completing the 2025-26 FAFSA



Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) Completion Workshop

PHEAA Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency

Do you want one-on-one support with completing the 2025-26 FAFSA?

Join us on April 1, 2025

Register for one of our workshops

Virtual one-on-one assistance will be provided during our FAFSA Completion Workshop from 5:00–7 PM. Please register for your 30-minute session by selecting the green button or scanning the QR code.

NOTE: Space is limited; Registration is **required.** A Microsoft TEAMs link will be sent prior to the event.

The FAFSA asks for information about you and your financial situation. If you're married, you will need the same information for your spouse. If you're considered a dependent student, you will need your contributor's information, too.

Visit pheaa.org/partner-access/k12-counselors/pdf/publications/who-needs-studentaid-account.pdf for more information.

Before filing the FAFSA, gather the following items:

- Your StudentAid.gov Account username and password.
  NOTE: This may take time to process, so we recommend creating your account 4 days prior to filing the FAFSA. Visit StudentAid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch to create your account.
- Your Social Security number
- Your alien registration number, if you are not a U.S. citizen
- List of colleges or career schools you want to include on the FAFSA
- Name, date of birth, email address, and social security number of each contributor to the FAFSA
- Your 2023 tax documents and accompanying schedules
  NOTE: If you complete your FAFSA online, you will automatically retrieve your income and tax data from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and have it transferred into your FAFSA. The Federal Student Aid Direct Data Exchange is the preferred method to complete the FAFSA.
- Your current bank statements and records of stocks, child support payments received, bonds, 529 plans, business and farm assets, and other investments including real estate (but not including the home in which you live)
- A personal email address (not a school email address)

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Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pheaa-statewide-virtual-fafsa-completion-workshop-registration-1259703851129?aff=oddtdtcreator

Webinar Series with ECYEH

Wednesday, April 23 @ 6 - 7:15 PM
From Homelessness and Foster Care to Pursuing Higher Education

Obtaining a postsecondary education is crucial for breaking the cycle of poverty and homelessness, and it sets the stage for a healthy, meaningful, and successful life. However, young people experiencing homelessness and those in foster care encounter obstacles entering postsecondary education. This presentation provides attendees with valuable tips and resources to help ease the transition from high school to higher education. This event is hosted by Tiffanie DeVan from PHEAA and Sonia Pitzi from ECYEH.

Register at pheaa.org/virtual

PHEAA Summer State Grant Workshops **for Financial Aid Staff*

- Dates have been set for the 2025-26 PA State Grant workshops
- You will receive notification when registration opens at PHEAA.org/training
- Visit the Training Events page on PHEAA.org to watch for new events and then click the "Register for an upcoming session" link
  - Upcoming Knowledge Series Webinar:

  PA State Grant Educational Costs Collection

  Monday, March 24, 2025, at 2:00-3:00 PM

2026-2027 Educator Workshops

Save the Date to join us for a free workshop, virtually or in person throughout the Commonwealth, to learn more about:

- The upcoming 2026-27 FAFSA
- Federal financial aid programs
- Financial literacy resources

- **Allegheny Intermediate Unit (Homestead, PA)**
  - Thursday, September 18th 9am – 12 pm
- **Virtual Session**
  - Friday, September 26th 8:30 am – 11:30 am

PHEAA is a provider of Act 48 credits. At the end of the workshop, you will be provided a link to a quiz. Successful completion of the quiz is required in order for you to receive your Act 48 credits.

PA State Grant Update

After careful review, **PHEAA has made the decision to step back from 2025-26 processing in GrantUs and leverage our legacy systems for all 2025-26 PA State Grant and special programs processing activities**. Our legacy system is the system we used prior to the new GrantUS system we released for the 2024-25 PA State Grant application. We anticipate this will take us several weeks and are targeting April 2025 to begin launching the 2025-26 award year.

In the meantime, please continue encouraging your students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) as soon as possible as this is the first step towards eligibility across many of our programs. Once we launch the 2025-26 award year, students will receive an email instructing them how to access their account in the legacy system to complete the State Grant process. Over the coming months, we will continue to assess the impact this decision has on application deadlines and program processes across the PA State Grant Program and special programs. As further decisions are made about 2025-26, we will share program specific updates and resources with our program partners and students.

Grow PA Scholarship Grant (Grow PA Grant)

★ *New program*

This program helps **in-state students** pay for school and builds the workforce for **in-demand occupations in PA**.

Up To $5,000 Per Year

Awards are **first-come, first-served,** so don't delay— get the application at pheaa.org/GrowPA.

Apply for the Grow PA Grant If You Are…

A PA Resident Going to School in PA

- You must also complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®), maintain satisfactory academic progress for Title IV financial aid, and attend a qualifying school at least half-time. In addition, you cannot already hold a bachelor's degree.

Enrolled In a Qualifying Major or Program

- There are over 460 eligible programs of study or majors that lead to in-demand occupations in a variety of fields, such as agriculture, business, education, computer science, STEM, nursing, allied health, and criminal justice.

Committed to Work an In-Demand Job in PA

- Grow PA Grant recipients **must live and work in PA** in their approved occupation after graduation.

REMINDER: If you do not complete the work requirement, you must repay the Grow PA Grant as a loan.

*Visit **pheaa.org/GrowPA** for the full eligibility requirements, approved majors, and other program details.*