

Topical Heading

Federal Student Aid

Program Title

Federal Pell Grant Program

Also Known as

Pell Grants; formerly called Basic Educational Opportunity Grants (BEOGs)

CFDA # (or ED #)

84.063

Administering Office

Federal Student Aid (FSA)

Who May Apply (by category)

Individuals

Who May Apply (specifically)

Undergraduate and vocational students enrolled or accepted for enrollment in participating schools may apply.

Type of Assistance (specifically)

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.

Appropriations

Fiscal Year 2006 \$17,345,230,000

Fiscal Year 2007 \$13,660,711,000

Fiscal Year 2008 \$16,256,000,000

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.

Fiscal Year 2008 Awards Information

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

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

Legislative Citation

Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, Title IV, Part A, Subpart 1; 20 U.S.C. 1070a

Program Regulations34 *CFR* 690**Program Description**

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate and certain postbaccalaureate 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.

Students may not receive Federal Pell Grant funds from more than one school at a time.

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.

Education Level (by category)

Postsecondary

Education Level (specifically)

Undergraduate

Subject Index

Grants, Low Income, Student Financial Aid

Contact Information

Name Federal Student Aid Information Center

Toll-free 1-800-4FED-AID or 1-800-433-3243

Links to Related Web Sites

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>

<http://studentaid.ed.gov>