

Special State Aid Programs

Some of these programs require financial need. Eligibility criteria can be found under Funding Opportunities at [PHEAA.org](https://pheaa.org). In addition to demonstrating financial need, you must also meet these general requirements:

- Be a PA resident
- Be a graduate of an approved high school, the recipient of a GED, or have completed an approved home school program
- Attend an eligible postsecondary school
- Not be in default on a federal student loan
- File a FAFSA and apply for a PA State Grant*
- Meet a minimum enrollment status
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress

Program	Program Info	How to Apply
PA Blind or Deaf Higher Education Beneficiary Grant (BDBG) Program	PA residents with visual and/or hearing impairments may apply, provided they are enrolled at least half time and maintain satisfactory academic progress (as defined by the school). The maximum award is \$500.	Visit PHEAA.org/BlindDeaf for an application. Contact PHEAA at 1-800-692-7392 or email bdbg@pheaa.org for more info.
PA Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver (FosterEd) Program	Youth who are or were in foster care can apply for a waiver of tuition and mandatory fees charged by most PA postsecondary institutions. Visit PHEAA.org/FosterEd for more info.	File the current year's FAFSA, enroll in a Title IV approved PA postsecondary institution, and apply for and be eligible for the Chafee Education and Training Grant Program.
PA State Work-Study Program (SWSP)	PA has its own state work-study program outside of the Federal Work-Study Program. It is open to all PA students, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements. Visit PHEAA.org/SWSP for more info.	Visit PHEAA.org/SWSP for an application and eligible employers. You will fill out section 1 in its entirety; then have your employer fill out section 2 and submit the completed application.

* PA-Tip does not require that you apply for a PA State Grant.

Program	Program Info	How to Apply
PA Postsecondary Educational Gratuities Program (PEGP)	Birth or adoptive children of PA police officers, firefighters, rescue and ambulance squad members, corrections employees, and National Guard members who died in the line of duty since January 1, 1976 can apply. The children of sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, National Guard members, or other individuals who were on federal or state active military duty and died after Sept. 11, 2001, as a direct result of performing their official duties may also qualify. This program covers tuition, fees, room, and board not covered by other grants, scholarships, or gift aid at a PA community college, state-owned, or state-related postsecondary institution for full-time students.	Download the application at PHEAA.org/PEGP . Include a certified copy of your birth certificate or adoption record, and a copy of your admission letter from an eligible school. Contact PHEAA at 1-800-692-7392 or email pegp@pheaa.org for more info.
PA Targeted Industry Program (PA-TIP)	PA-TIP is for students enrolled in short-term energy, health, advanced materials and diversified manufacturing, and agriculture and food production programs. Applicants must also have an EFC of 12,000, or less. PA-TIP provides need-based awards up to the equivalent of the maximum award or the student's total direct educational costs after gift aid and employers aid, whichever is less. This program can cover tuition, fees, books, supplies, and specific living expenses.	Download an application at PHEAA.org/PA-TIP . Contact PHEAA at 1-800-692-7392 or patip@pheaa.org for more info. PA-TIP does not require you to apply for a PA State Grant.
PA Partnerships for Access to Higher Education (PATH) Program	The PATH Program partners with nonprofit organizations to provide scholarships to eligible students. These scholarships have the potential to be matched by PHEAA on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to an annual maximum amount. Applicants must first be awarded a scholarship or grant by a participating PATH Partner and receive a PA State Grant. A list of participating PATH Partners is available at PHEAA.org/PATH .	To apply, contact a participating PATH organization in your area. Visit PHEAA.org/PATH or path@pheaa.org for more info.
PA Ready to Succeed Scholarship (RTSS) Program	RTSS scholarships are awarded to high-achieving students whose annual family income does not exceed \$110,000. Scholarships will be awarded to eligible students who are entering their sophomore, junior, or senior year in college and maintain a 3.25 GPA or higher. Funding for this program is limited; students will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis according to the date of FAFSA and PA State Grant Form completion.	There is no separate student application for RTSS, but you must have a completed FAFSA and PA State Grant Form on file. Participating postsecondary schools nominate students based upon the RTSS eligibility criteria. Visit PHEAA.org/RTSS for more info.