
Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program

[Section 1009.894, Florida Statutes](#)

Program Description

The Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship (FFSS) Program is a need-based merit scholarship that provides financial assistance to a maximum of 50 eligible students who are farmworkers (or children of farmworkers), as defined in section [420.503](#), Florida Statutes. Students who attend a public postsecondary institution will receive an award equal to the amount required to pay tuition and specified fees.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

The student will:

- Be a Florida resident
- Earn a minimum weighted cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 for all high school courses creditable toward a diploma
- Complete a minimum of 30 service hours
- As documented on the student's transcript, the student must:
 - Have a minimum 90% attendance rate; and,
 - Have no disciplinary action brought against him or her.
- Be a farmworker or child of a farmworker.

Definition of a Farmworker (s. 420.503. F.S.)

The farmworker will:

- Be employed on a seasonal, temporary, or permanent basis in the planting, cultivating, harvesting, or processing of agricultural or aquacultural products; and
- Have derived at least 50 percent of her or his income in the immediately preceding 12 months from such employment.
- "Farmworker" also includes those who:
 - Are retired over age 50 and were employed for a minimum of 5 years as a farmworker before retirement, or
 - Are retired as a farmworker due to disability or illness.

Requirements to Receive Funding

The student will:

- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen. A student's residency and citizenship status are determined by the postsecondary institution. Questions regarding such status should be directed to the financial aid office or admissions office of the institution the student plans to attend.
- Enroll in an undergraduate degree or certificate program for a minimum of 12 credit hours per term, or the equivalent, at an eligible participating public postsecondary institution.

Applying for an Award

- Submit a completed, error-free [Florida Financial Aid Application](#) by **April 1, 2021** (available **October 1, 2020**). Applicants will be ranked by their application submission date, if necessary.
- The online Reinstatement/Restoration Application for Students is available **February 1, 2021** and must be completed by **April 1, 2021** to be considered for reinstatement priority funding.
- Complete and submit the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) online in time to be processed error-free by the U.S. Department of Education on or before **May 15, 2021**.

Award Procedures

Eligible applicants will be ranked and selected first by the lowest "expected family contribution" as specified on the [FAFSA](#) and second by the earliest application submission date. Among eligible applicants, priority awarding will be as follows:

- Renewal applicants,
- Initial applicants, and
- Reinstatement applicants.

Award Disbursement

The postsecondary institution will disburse awards to eligible students each term. Awards are not currently available for the summer.

Terms of Eligibility

A scholarship recipient may:

- Receive an award for a maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours required to complete an associate or baccalaureate degree program; or,
- Receive an award for a maximum of 100 percent of the credit hours or clock hours required to complete a program that terminates in a career certificate (up to 90 credit hours).
- Extended hours of funding are available to students enrolled in a single baccalaureate degree program of study requiring more than 120 hours by submitting the following application, "[Extended Hours Application](#)."

Student Award Renewal

- A renewal application is not required to renew the award. A recipient is automatically considered for a renewal award.
- Eligibility for renewal is determined at the end of the second semester, third quarter, or the equivalent, each academic year.
- Students must have earned a minimum institutional cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Student Award Reinstatement

- A student who was eligible for an award but did not use the award during the previous academic year may be eligible for reinstatement.
- A student must complete the online Reinstatement/Restoration Application, which opens February each year, by **April 1, 2021** to be considered for reinstatement. Applications received after **April 1, 2021** will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis if sufficient funds remain.

Use of an Applicant's Social Security Number/Non-discrimination Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 requires state agencies to inform applicants of the reasons for requesting their Social Security Numbers (SSN). The FDOE requests an SSN on all applications for student financial assistance in order to correctly identify applicants, match each applicant's financial aid record with the student record at the postsecondary institution the applicant attends, and help coordinate state student aid programs with federal student aid programs.

An applicant will not be denied financial assistance for failure to disclose the SSN. Without an SSN, correct identification of an applicant's record cannot be assured and may result in an error in the award amount or a delay in the award disbursement.

Pursuant to section 1000.05, Florida Statutes, state student financial assistance is provided to eligible applicants without discriminating on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability or marital status. Minority status will be considered when required by law as a condition of eligibility or selection.

Updating Information

A recipient must notify OSFA of any change in name, address, or institution attended.

A student may update information by contacting Customer Service at 888-827-2004 or logging into his or her online OSFA account:

<https://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome>

Transferring from one institution to another could affect an applicant's award.

Contact Information

Address:

Florida Department of Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance
State Scholarship and Grant Programs
Suite 1314
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Phone:

888-827-2004

Email:

OSFA@fldoe.org