



2026–2027

FLORIDA FIRST RESPONDER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (FFRS)



Quick Guide for Students & Staff

The Florida First Responder Scholarship Program (FFRS) helps eligible students with the cost of approved training programs for certain first responder careers.

WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE?

A student may qualify if they:

- Are enrolled in an approved first responder training program at an eligible Florida institution.
- Are not sponsored by an employer that is already paying the cost of the training program.
- Complete the scholarship application found in their FOCUS portal.
- **Have an error-free 2026-27 FAFSA on file** so eligibility can be determined. Complete the FAFSA at StudentAid.gov using MTC School Code 031039.
- Meet all other state eligibility requirements.
- Apply while funding is still available.

WHAT PROGRAMS QUALIFY?

The scholarship is limited to these approved training programs offered at MTC:

- Firefighter (FFR)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) - ATD
- Firefighter/EMT Combined (FMT)

Important: Simply being enrolled at MTC does not automatically make a student eligible. The student must be enrolled in a qualifying first responder training program.

HOW ARE STUDENTS SELECTED?

FFRS is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

The student's place is based on the date MTC receives a completed scholarship application.

Funding is limited and depends on the amount provided by the State of Florida. Submitting an application does not guarantee an award.

WHAT CAN THE SCHOLARSHIP PAY?

FFRS is considered last-dollar funding.

This means that it may cover remaining eligible educational expenses after other grants, scholarships, and financial aid have been applied. FFRS may then help cover remaining eligible costs (if applicable). The scholarship may cover:

- Eligible tuition and required fees
- In-state tuition
- Certain required program fees
- Out-of-state tuition/fees are not covered



EXAMPLE:

Eligible tuition & fees: \$4,000

Other state/federal financial aid: - \$3,000

Remaining eligible tuition & fees: \$1,000

FFRS may be used toward that remaining eligible amount, subject to program rules and available funding.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW:

FFRS is not automatically awarded. Students must apply and be determined eligible.

Other financial aid matters. The scholarship amount is determined after applicable state and federal financial aid is considered. **Funding is limited.** Awards are first-come, first-served and depend on available state funding.

Not every school or program qualifies. The student must be enrolled in an approved first responder training program.

Employer paying for your training? If an employer is already covering the cost of the training program, you are not eligible for FFRS.

QUESTIONS OR READY TO APPLY?

Contact the MTC Financial Aid Office for:

- Help accessing the FFRS application in their FOCUS portal
- Help determining whether your program qualifies
- Questions about your financial aid and potential scholarship amount
- Information about eligible additional program expenses

When in doubt—ask Financial Aid! We can review your individual situation and explain what funding may be available.

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