

Massachusetts Assistance for Student Success Program

XVI. One Family, Inc. Scholarship

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
ONE FAMILY, INC. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

PURPOSE

The One Family Scholarship Program was established by the Massachusetts Legislature to assist heads of households to achieve their academic goals by offering the opportunity for a permanent path out of poverty through the pursuit of higher education. Recipients of this scholarship receive an integrated network of services through the non-profit organization, One Family, Inc., whose mission is to serve residents of the Commonwealth who are low-income and homeless, or have experienced homelessness within the prior year.

DEFINITIONS

INSTITUTION:

A public, private, independent, for-profit or nonprofit postsecondary institution in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts authorized to offer undergraduate degrees or certificate programs. The institution must be accredited and eligible to participate in the Federal Title IV programs.

ELIGIBLE PROGRAM:

Any undergraduate degree or certificate program offered by an eligible institution.

ELIGIBLE STUDENT:

To receive scholarship funds, the applicant must meet the following criteria:

- a) Physically reside in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of the enrolled term, with an intent to remain in Massachusetts consistent with Board of Higher Education policy;
- b) Be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations; or have an approved eligibility status designated by the Board of Higher Education pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023;
- c) Qualify as a head-of-household, with children under age 18;
- d) At risk of homelessness, based on federal poverty standards, or has experienced homelessness within the previous 12 months;
- e) Be an active participant of One Family, Inc., services and activities, including the Leadership Seminar program;
- f) Enroll, full- or part-time, in an eligible certificate or degree program at an eligible institution;
- g) Maintain satisfactory academic progress on all academic work as determined by the institution;
- h) complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or another state-approved equivalent form, annually for consideration of assistance by any designated deadline, as may be determined by the Department of Higher Education, and comply with financial aid verification requirements in either the FAFSA or the alternative state-approved form, as applicable.

STUDENT AWARD

The scholarship under this program may be awarded as follows:

- 1) Scholarships may be awarded to cover tuition and fees and related living expenses during the period

of enrollment

- 2) The value of the tuition and fee portion of the scholarship, in combination with other financial aid, may not exceed the recipient's cost of attendance as determined by the institution

DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

- 1) Scholarship expenses paid on behalf of an eligible student shall be reimbursed to One Family, Inc., by the Board of Higher Education each semester, as invoiced
- 2) One Family, Inc., must supply documentation to support student enrollment and living expenses and documentation to support matching requirements as stipulated by the Massachusetts Legislature. This information provided by One Family, Inc., to the Board of Higher Education shall include the name, Social Security Number, scholarship award, institution enrolled for each scholarship recipient to facilitate the reimbursement and reporting requirements to the Massachusetts Legislature. One Family, Inc. shall notify the Board of Higher Education of any changes to the recipient's scholarship award and enrollment status
- 3) The Board of Higher Education may require One Family, Inc., to provide additional information to support the reimbursement of administrative and other expenses.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions participating in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' One Family, Inc., Scholarship Program must file a Financial Aid Program Participation Agreement to be maintained on file in the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

AUDIT REQUIREMENT

The Commissioner shall require each participating institution to furnish annually the following:

- a) Documentation of cost of attendance and eligibility status of each recipient.
- b) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this program shall at all times be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records and documents are located. The institution shall retain such financial books, records and documents for not less than seven years.