



MHEC

Creating a state of achievement

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Anwer Hasan
Chairperson

James D. Fielder, Jr.
Secretary

September 12, 2016

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller
President
Senate of Maryland
H-107 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker
Maryland House of Delegates
H-101 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: Maryland Higher Education Commission –
Scholarship/Grant End of Year Fiscal Reports
End of Year Fiscal Reports
MSAR #10051, #9665, #9450, #9473, and #9425**

Dear President Miller and Speaker Busch:

In accordance with Sections 18-301, 18-603, 18-604, 18-708, and 18-2901 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Maryland Higher Education Commission is required to provide an annual report on each scholarship/grant fund that includes an accounting of all financial receipts and expenditures. This report combines all of the required scholarship/grant reports into one single document and provides annual expenditures and number of recipients' data for the following programs:

1. *Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant (#10051)*
2. *Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraqi Conflicts Scholarship (#9665),*
3. *Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency Medical Service Tuition Reimbursement Program (#9450)*
4. *Maryland First Scholarship (#9473), and*
5. *Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards Program (#9425).*

In FY 2016 the expenditures and total number of recipients for each scholarship/grant program is as follows:

Program	Expenditures	Number of Recipients
Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant:	\$1,034,500	327
Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraqi Conflicts Scholarship	\$662,551	126
Charles E. Riley Fire and Emergency Medical Service Tuition Reimbursement Program	\$188,706	80
Maryland First Scholarship (not funded)	\$0	0
Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards	\$75,155,740	26,878

Overview of Scholarship/Grant Programs:

The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) is an office within the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) responsible for the administration of a variety of state-funded financial assistance programs. These programs are designed to improve access to higher education for needy students; encourage students to major in areas of great economic need to the State, such as teaching and nursing; provide loan repayment assistance to Maryland residents working in select fields; and encourage Maryland’s brightest students to attend college in the State. Maryland students use the assistance from these programs at community colleges, independent colleges and universities, private career schools, and the State’s public four-year campuses.

1. Workforce Shortage Assistance Grant

The purpose of the Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Program is to assist in meeting the State’s need for well trained and highly skilled workers in shortage areas. Students who perform well academically and agree to use their training in eligible programs as members of Maryland’s workforce may qualify for scholarship assistance.

2. Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraqi Conflicts Scholarship

The Veterans of Afghanistan and Iraqi Conflict (VAIC) Scholarship is a state-funded program that provides financial assistance to United States armed forces personnel who served in the Afghanistan or Iraqi Conflicts, and their sons, daughters, or spouses who are currently high school seniors and enroll in an eligible accredited Maryland postsecondary institution.

3. Charles E. Riley Fire and Emergency Medical Service Tuition Reimbursement

The purpose of this tuition reimbursement program is to encourage members of firefighting, ambulance, and rescue organizations serving Maryland communities to improve their professional skills by reimbursing them for the tuition costs of courses leading to a degree in fire service or emergency medical technology. It is important to note that fiscal year (FY) 2016 is the last year of the tuition reimbursement program.

4. Maryland First Scholarship

The Maryland First Scholarship provides financial assistance to select Maryland residents attending accredited Maryland postsecondary institutions. This scholarship is awarded to first-generation students whose parents have not earned a degree from an institution of higher education.

5. Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards Program

The purpose of the Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Program of Educational Excellence Awards program is to provide need-based scholarship assistance. The State's neediest students will be guaranteed access to postsecondary education in Maryland through Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Guaranteed Access (GA) Grants. Low and middle-income students will be awarded financial assistance through Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Educational Assistance (EA) Grants. Students who miss the March 1 deadline but still have demonstrated need will be awarded financial assistance through the Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Campus Based Educational Assistance Grant Award.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Mr. Lee Towers, Legislative Liaison at 410-767-3059, or lee.towers@maryland.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James D. Fielder, Jr." in a cursive style.

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph.D.
Secretary