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**OSFA-STATE: #25-26:13**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Financial Aid Directors at Postsecondary Institutions Participating in the Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program (HDGAP)

**FROM:** Shawn Haskin  
Director, State Scholarship and Grant Programs

**DATE:** August 22, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program Allocation Request

The 2025 Florida Legislature appropriated \$1,000,000 for the Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program (HDGAP) for the 2025-26 academic year. The appropriation will provide need-based veteran educational benefits in the form of supplemental living expenses during holiday and semester breaks.

To qualify for this program, a student must:

- Be a Florida resident;
- Enroll in a program of study at an eligible postsecondary institution;
- Be an active duty or honorably discharged member of the Armed Forces who served on or after September 11, 2001;
- Complete an error-free *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA); and
- Have sufficient unmet need.

Students may receive an annual award for up to \$50 per day for up to 20 days for supplemental living expenses during holiday and semester breaks. The award amount should not exceed the student's unmet need. To receive an award for living expenses during a semester break, the student must have been enrolled in a program of study in the prior semester and pre-registered for the subsequent semester.

Each institution must indicate participation in the program by **November 1, 2025**, by submitting the HDGAP Allocation Request online. As specified in legislation, allocations to postsecondary institutions will be prorated based on the number of total eligible students. Each participating institution will receive a minimum allocation to provide a full award to at least one student. Detailed instructions for completing the allocation request are attached.

Should you have any additional questions regarding the program, you may contact Rain (Madeline) Christensen at [Madeline.Christensen@fldoe.org](mailto:Madeline.Christensen@fldoe.org) or 850-245-1820.

SH/rc  
Attachment: HDGAP Allocation Request Instructions

Suzanne Pridgeon  
Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations