
Florida First Responder Scholarship Program

[Section 1009.896, Florida Statutes](#)

[State Board of Education Rule 6A-20.0284](#)

Program Description

The Florida First Responder Scholarship Program is created to assist in the recruitment of law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and firefighters within the state by providing financial assistance to trainees who enroll in an approved training program.

Applying for an Award

Students will need to meet eligibility requirements through the application process established by the participating institution. Applications may be obtained at the financial aid offices of eligible Florida postsecondary institutions.

Requirements to Receive Funding

To be eligible for the scholarship award, a trainee must:

- Not be sponsored by an employer that is already covering the cost of the training program, and
- Be enrolled in one of the following programs:
 - A commission-approved **basic recruit training program** at a postsecondary institution for the purposes of meeting the minimum qualifications under section (s.) 943.13(9), Florida Statutes (F.S.), for employment or appointment as a law enforcement officer;
 - An **emergency medical technician (EMT) training program** under s. 401.2701, F.S., that is approved by the Department of Health as equivalent to the most recent Emergency Medical Technician-Basic National Standard Curriculum or the National EMS Education Standards of the United States Department of Transportation;

- A **paramedic training program** under s. 401.2701, F.S., that is approved by the Department of Health as equivalent to the most recent EMT-Paramedic National Standard Curriculum or the National EMS Education Standards of the United States Department of Transportation, or
- A **firefighter minimum standards course training program** at a Florida Certified Training Center approved by the Division of State Fire Marshal for the purpose of meeting the minimum qualifications under s. 633.408, F.S.

Award Procedures

The scholarship shall be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Eligibility for awards is based on the date the postsecondary institution receives each completed application from the applicant. Program funding is contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature and each postsecondary institution's intent to participate.

Award Disbursement

The postsecondary institution will disburse awards to eligible students each term. To be eligible for the scholarship award a trainee must:

- Be enrolled in an approved training program at a Florida College System institution or school district career center for the purposes of meeting the minimum qualifications under sections 401.2701, 633.408, or 943.13(9), F.S.
- The award to eligible trainees shall be an amount equal to tuition and fees described below which are necessary to complete the qualifying training program, less any state and federal financial aid received by the trainee. The award to trainees shall cover:
 - The cost of in-state tuition as specified by s. 1009.22(3)(c), F.S., and s. 1009.23(3)(a), F.S.;
 - Applicable fees required by s. 1009.22(5), (6), and (7), or s. 1009.23(4), (7), (8), (10), and (11); however, any award for a nonresident trainee shall not include the out-of-state fee; and
 - Up to \$1,000 for eligible expenses that include:
 - Certification and Examination fees;
 - Textbooks;
 - Uniforms;
 - Required equipment and gear, including but not limited to, ammunition and stethoscopes;
 - Required insurance; and

- Any other costs or fees for necessary consumable materials required to complete the respective training program.

Prohibition on the Awarding of Scholarships, Grants, and Other Aid

Per section 1009.8963, Florida Statutes, a student who promotes a domestic terrorist organization or a foreign terrorist organization whose designation as such has been published in the Florida Administrative Register in accordance with section 943.03102, Florida Statutes, during any term of enrollment, **may not be awarded any institutional or state grants, financial aid, scholarships, or tuition assistance** under this chapter. This language affects all state scholarship and grant programs under the purview of the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

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 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, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, 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/>

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

Contact Information

For further information, contact the financial aid office at eligible participating postsecondary institutions or the Florida Department of Education at:

Address:

Florida Department of Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance
State Scholarship and Grant Programs
Suite 1344
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Phone:

888-827-2004

Email:

OSFA@fldoe.org