

Brothers and Sisters,

The OAPFF Higher Education Initiative has been suspended as our higher education partners resolve regulatory compliance issues related to the program. In the meantime, we urge prospective students to find out if they are eligible for Pell Grants, which can substantially defray or even pay for their educational expenses. This federal program provides eligible students with up to \$6,895 a year in education assistance, depending on various factors such as income, cost of attendance and full or part-time student status. The grants are portable and can be used at almost any accredited college or university. To find out if you are eligible, you will need to complete an application form and the college's financial office will calculate your eligibility before you enroll. Click on this link to learn more.

Frequently Asked Questions

I am interested in enrolling in OAPFF Higher Education Initiative. Will I be able to do so in the future?

The U.S. Department of Education has determined that the way scholarships are used in the OAPFF Higher Education Initiative to pay for students that are not eligible for Pell Grants is inconsistent with its regulations. The OAPFF and its higher education partners disagree with this determination, and discussions are ongoing. However, unless and until the Department of Education changes its opinion, the program may not be offered in its current form.

I am eligible for a Pell Grant. Can I continue my education with the OAPFF Higher Education Initiative partners Eastern Gateway Community College, Central State University or Paul Quinn College?

Yes. However, if the Pell Grant is not sufficient to cover the entire cost, you are responsible for paying the balance. Talk with the institution's financial office for more details. As a Pell grantee, you are also eligible to attend any other school to which you are admitted. The Pell Grant belongs to you, not the school.

I am not eligible for a Pell Grant. Can I continue in the OAPFF Higher Education Initiative program?

It has not yet been determined how an existing student will be treated if they are not eligible for a Pell Grant. Discussions between the Department of Education and our higher education partners should resolve this issue. Existing students will be directly notified of their status by the colleges.

How do I know if I am eligible for a Pell Grant?

If you are enrolled in a school, talk with the school's financial office and they can verify your eligibility. If you are not currently enrolled at any school, you will need to complete an application form and the financial office of any college at which you are considering enrollment will calculate your eligibility before you enroll. Click on this **link** to learn more.

What is a Pell Grant?

Pell Grants are part of a federal program that provides eligible students with up to \$6,895 a year in education assistance depending on various factors such as income, cost of attendance and full or part-time student status. The grants are portable and can be used at almost any accredited college or university. Click on this **link** to learn more.

As a current or former student, will I be responsible to pay for any costs that I have already incurred?

No.

If you have any questions please email Bill Mastroianni at bmastroianni@oapff.org

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