



Educational Rewards Grant Program Application 2009-2010

Priority Application Deadline: September 15, 2009
(All other applicants will be reviewed on a funds available basis)

*A grant program for eligible dislocated or low income
Incumbent workers to enable them to receive the education
and training they need to transition into jobs in
targeted high demand occupations.*

Massachusetts Office of Student
Financial Assistance

www.osfa.mass.edu/edrewards

617-727-9420

EDUCATIONAL REWARDS GRANT PROGRAM

The Massachusetts *Educational Rewards Grant Program* was established by the Legislature for the purpose of providing financial assistance to dislocated or incumbent low income workers to enable them to receive education to transition into jobs in targeted high demand occupations. The grant program emanates from the Economic Stimulus Bill that is contained in Chapter 123 of the Acts of 2006 (Ch. 29 Sect. 2SSS of the M.G.L.). Such a bill is relative to the economic investments in the Commonwealth to promote job creation, economic growth, competitiveness and overall stability in the Massachusetts economy. This need-based grant program is to serve as a last resort after all other federal and state grant resources have been exhausted in meeting postsecondary education enrollment costs. The Educational Rewards Grant Program also allows up to thirty percent of the grant amount to be used by the recipient for living expenses.

ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS

An eligible institution is defined as a public, private, independent, for-profit or non-profit, or vocational technical institution located in Massachusetts and authorized to offer post-secondary certificate or undergraduate degrees. The institution must be accredited and eligible to participate in both Federal Title IV and Massachusetts State Financial Aid Programs.

ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS

A program is eligible if it is an accredited post-secondary certificate or vocational technology program or an associate or bachelor degree program in high-demand occupation fields. *For a list of high demand occupations please refer to the following page.*

The Board of Higher Education and the Department of Workforce Development, in consultation with the Massachusetts Workforce Board Association, State Workforce Investment Board, Reach Higher Initiative, and the Workforce Accountability Task Force, shall determine the eligible high demand occupations.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Student applicants enrolled in an eligible program must meet the following criteria to be considered for an award under the Massachusetts *Educational Rewards Grant Program*:

- Shall be a dislocated worker or an incumbent worker whose income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level or meet other criteria as established by the Department of Workforce Development and the Board of Higher Education, in consultation with the Workforce Accountability Task Force.
- Has applied for financial aid using the standard Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and submitted necessary documentation to verify dislocated worker status and/or an income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Is not in default of any federal or state student loans for attendance at any institution or owe a refund for any previous financial aid received.
- Is enrolled in an approved full time or part time certificate or degree program located in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and meets the institution's requirements for satisfactory academic progress.
- Is a Massachusetts resident living in The Commonwealth for at least one year prior to the beginning of the current academic year.
- Is a United States citizen or eligible non-citizen capable of receiving federal financial aid under Federal Title IV.
- Has not received a first bachelors degree.
- Is not considered a dependant for the purpose of state or federal financial aid.



ELIGIBLE OCCUPATIONS

This list of eligible occupations for the *Educational Rewards Grant Program* includes growth occupations with current vacancies as compiled by the Department of Workforce Development. Some of the occupations require an associate's degree, while some require shorter term training resulting in a certificate, or other credential.

Note: The list of eligible occupations will change periodically based on updated labor market information. Check www.osfa.mass.edu/edrewards for the most up-to-date list.

HEALTHCARE

Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians
Dental Assistants
Dental Hygienists
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers
Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics
Health Technologists and Technicians
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians
Medical Assistants
Medical Records and Health Information Technicians
Medical Transcriptionists
Nuclear Medicine Technologists
Occupational Therapists Assistants
Physical Therapist Assistants
Psychiatric Technicians
Radiation Therapists
Radiologic Technologists and Technicians
Registered Nurses
Respiratory Therapists
Respiratory Therapy Technicians
Surgical Technologists
Veterinary Technologists and Technicians

LIFE, PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Biological Technicians
Chemical Technicians
Nuclear Technicians
Environmental Science and Protection Technicians
Life, Physical, and Social Science Technicians

PERSONAL CARE AND SERVICE

Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists
Manicurists and Pedicurists
Fitness Trainers and Aerobics Instructors

OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Legal Secretaries
Medical Secretaries
Desktop Publishers

INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPAIR

Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics
Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists
Electric Motor, Power Tool, and Related Repairers
Electrical and Electronics Repairers, Commercial and Industrial Equipment
Electronic Equipment Installers and Repairers, Motor Vehicles
Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics
Security and Fire Alarm Systems Installers
Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers

ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING/COMPUTER

Architectural and Civil Drafters
Mechanical Drafters
Civil Engineering Technicians
Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technicians
Electro-Mechanical Technicians
Environmental Engineering Technicians
Industrial Engineering Technicians
Mechanical Engineering Technicians
Engineering Technicians
Computer Specialists

CONSTRUCTION/PRODUCTION

Carpenters
Construction Laborers
Electricians
Glaziers
Hazardous Materials Removal Workers
Highway Maintenance Workers
Jewelers and Precious Stone and Metal Workers
Operating Engineers and Other
Construction Equipment Operators

OTHER INDUSTRIES

Appraisers and Assessors of Real Estate
Paralegals and Legal Assistants
Broadcast Technicians
Sound Engineering Technicians
Chefs and Head Cooks
Travel Agents
Real Estate Sales Agents



STUDENT AWARD

The award under this program shall be a minimum of \$200 and not exceed \$3,000 within an academic year (fall, spring, summer) depending upon funding, and shall be used to fund tuition, fees, and books and may include up to 30 percent of the student's calculated cost of living as determined by the institution or the Department of Higher Education.

The funds from this grant shall serve as a last resort, after other federal, state and institutional grant aid has been exhausted. To comply with this provision, institutions shall complete and submit to the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance a detailed financial aid cost of attendance and a listing of all financial aid awarded.

Institutions must also verify the student's enrollment information as requested. Only students who are not considered dependants for the purpose of state of federal financial aid and who have not completed a first bachelors degree are eligible.

POVERTY INCOME

The chart below may be used to determine if an applicant meets the income requirement for the Educational Rewards Grant Program calculated at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline. Total income is verified through the submission of 2008 Federal Tax information or other official financial documentation, including information provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Persons in Family/ Household	2009 HHS Poverty Guidelines at 200%	Persons in Family/ Household	2009 HHS Poverty Guidelines at 200%	Persons in Family/ Household	2009 HHS Poverty Guidelines at 200%
1	\$21,660	4	\$44,100	7	\$66,540
2	\$29,140	5	\$51,580	8	\$74,020
3	\$36,620	6	\$59,060	For each additional person, add:	\$3,740

SOURCE: *Federal Register*, Vol. 74, No. 14, January 23, 2009, pp. 4199-4201.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for the *Education Rewards Grant* are available on-line at: www.osfa.mass.edu/edrewards, and from many locations including One-Stop Career Centers and the financial aid office at postsecondary institutions in Massachusetts. Interested applicants must be admitted to, or currently enrolled in, a certificate or degree program in an eligible occupation as defined for this program.

Applicants must provide written proof that they meet the criteria of a dislocated worker and/or show that their income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level as well as file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is available online and through the One-Stop Career Centers.

Mail completed applications and proof of income (ex. 1040EZ, 1040A, W-2, SSI, TAFDC) to:

Educational Rewards Grant Program
Office of Student Financial Assistance
454 Broadway, Suite 200
Revere, MA 02151

The **2009-2010 FAFSA** form must be completed and can be submitted online at: www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Go to www.osfa.mass.edu/edrewards or visit with a Career Center counselor for a list of current eligible training programs. For more information concerning this and other workforce development programs please visit a One-Stop Career Center and meet with a career counselor. A list of Career Center locations can be found on the back of this page.



ONE-STOP CAREER CENTERS

You may visit any Career Center in Massachusetts to learn more about the Educational Rewards Grant Program. Hours of operation vary from center to center. Please visit www.mass.gov/dcs for more information.

GREATER BOSTON

Boston Career Link

1010 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02119
(617) 536-1888
TTY: (617) 867-4687

JobNet

210 South Street – 1st Floor
Boston, MA 02111
617-338-0809, (800) 5JOBNET
TTY #: 711 (statewide relay number)

The Work Place

29 Winter Street, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 737-0093, (800) 436-WORK (9675)
TTY #: (617) 428-0390

Career Source

186 Alewife Brook Parkway-Suite 310
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 661-7867, (888) 454-9675
TTY #: (800) 439-2370

Everett Career Source (limited services)

1935 Revere Beach Parkway
Everett, MA 02149
617-389-8025

Employment and Training Resources

201 Boston Post Road West
Suite 200
Marlborough, MA 01752
(508) 786-0928

Employment and Training Resources

449 Newtonville Avenue
Newtonville, MA 02460
(617) 928-0530

Employment and Training Resources

275 Prospect Street
Norwood, MA 02062
(781) 769-4120

The Career Place

Trade Center Park
100 Sylvan Road — Suite G-100
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 932-5500, (888) 273-WORK

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

Workforce Central

5 Optical Drive — Suite 200
Southbridge, MA 01550
(508) 765-6430, TTY #: (508) 765-6437

Career Center of North Central Massachusetts (limited services)

25 Main Street
Gardner, MA 01440
978-632-5050, TTY #: (508) 792-7571

Career Center of North Central Massachusetts

100 Erdman Way
Leominster, MA 01453
(978) 534-1481
TTY #: (978) 534-1657

Workforce Central Career Center

425 Fortune Blvd. – Suite 201
Milford, MA 01757
(508) 478-4300
TTY #: (508) 478-1887

Workforce Central Career Center

44 Front Street — 6th Floor
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 799-1600

NORTHERN MASSACHUSETTS

North Shore Career Center of Gloucester (limited services)

11-15 Parker Street
Gloucester, MA 01930
978-283-4772

ValleyWorks Career Center

192 Merrimack Street
Haverhill, MA 01830
(978) 722-7000

ValleyWorks Career Center

Heritage Place
439 South Union Street, Bldg. #2
Lawrence, MA 01843
(978) 722-7000

Career Center of Lowell

18 John Street
Lowell, MA 01852
(978) 458-2503, TTY #: (978) 805-4915

North Shore Career Center of Lynn

181 Union Street
Lynn, MA 01901
(781) 593-0585

North Shore Career Center of Salem

70 Washington Street
Salem, MA 01970
(978) 825-7200

SOUTHERN MASSACHUSETTS

Attleboro Career Center

67 Mechanic Street
Attleboro, MA 02703
(508) 222-1950

CareerWorks

34 School Street
Brockton, MA 02301
(508) 513-3400

Fall River Career Center

446 Main Street
Fall River, MA 02720
(508) 730-5000

Career Opportunities Falmouth

205 Worcester Court Unit B-3
Falmouth, MA 02540
(508) 548-4828, TTY #: (800) 439-2370
MassRelay: 711

Career Opportunities Hyannis

372 North Street
Hyannis, MA 02601
(508) 771-JOBS (5627), TTY #: (508) 862-6102

Career Opportunities Orleans

77 Finlay Road
Orleans, MA 02653
(508) 240-1900, TTY #: (800) 439-2370

Greater New Bedford Career Center

618 Acushnet Avenue
New Bedford, MA 02740
(508) 990-4000

Plymouth Career Center

36 Cordage Park Circle – Suite 200
Plymouth, MA 02360
(508) 732-5399, TTY #: (508) 732-5300

Quincy Career Center

152 Parkingway
Quincy, MA 02169
(617) 745-4000

Taunton Career Center

72 School Street
Taunton, MA 02780
(508) 977-1400

Wareham Career Center

48 Marion Road (Route 6)
Wareham, MA 02571
(508) 291-7062

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Franklin/Hampshire Career Center

One Arch Place
Greenfield, MA 01301
(413) 774-4361, TTY #: (413) 772-2174

CareerPoint

850 High Street
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 532-4900, TTY #: (413) 535-3098

Berkshire Works

37 Main Street
North Adams, MA 01247
(413) 663-1111, TTY #: (413) 663-5442

Franklin/Hampshire Career Center

178 Industrial Drive – Suite 1
Northampton, MA 01060
(413) 586-6506, TTY#: (413) 586-4921

Berkshire Works

160 North Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 499-2220, TTY #: (413) 499-7306

FutureWorks

One Federal Street Bldg. 103-3
Springfield, MA 01105
(413) 858-2800, TTY #: (413) 858-2800



Section C - Applicant's Financial Information

Employment:

Job Title/Occupation

Name of Employer

Dates of Employment Start End

Self-Employed Yes No

I have enclosed proof of income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Yes No
(Proof of income required of all applicants)

I have enclosed proof of my dislocated worker status (If applicable). Yes No

Please state the document(s) you are enclosing. (ex. 1040EZ, 1040A, W-2, SSI, TAFDC): _____

Please indicate income below:

1. Adjusted gross income for 2008 \$ _____
2. Monthly amounts received from:
 Social Security \$ _____
 V.A. Benefits \$ _____
 Child Support \$ _____
 Welfare \$ _____
 Unemployment Wages \$ _____
3. Current balance of savings/checking accounts \$ _____
4. Other Non Taxable Income (Please specify) _____ \$ _____

Section D - Certification and Signatures (Failure to sign and date this application will result in a delay in processing your application.)

I have completed this application and certified under penalty that the above statements are true and complete, to the best of my knowledge and belief. In addition to completing this application, I have/will provide verification of my dislocated worker status, that my income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level **and** I have/will complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). I also authorize any educational institution I may attend, to release to the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education any information pertinent to this grant.

Applicant Signature

Date

Return this application and proof of income to:
Educational Rewards Grant Program
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Student Financial Assistance
454 Broadway, Suite 200
Revere, MA 02151
Telephone: (617) 727-9420
Facsimile: (617) 727-0667

Return completed FAFSA to:
Federal Student Aid Programs
P.O. Box 7001
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864-0071
Online: www.fafsa.ed.gov

Before you mail your application materials, make sure you:

- **Sign and date** the application form.
- Make copies for your own record