

# Educational Rewards Grant Program

*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](http://www.osfa.mass.edu/edrewards)  
617-727-9420

## MASSACHUSETTS 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 low income incumbent 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.

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 be an individual 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 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 domiciled in The Commonwealth for at least one year prior to the beginning of the academic year.
- Is a United States citizen or eligible non-citizen capable of receiving federal financial aid under Federal Title IV regulations.
- Has not received a first bachelors degree.
- Is not a recognized dependant for income tax purposes.



## ELIGIBLE OCCUPATIONS

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

**Note:** The list of eligible occupations will change periodically based on updated labor market information. Check [www.osfa.mass.edu/edrewards](http://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) 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 Board 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 report the student's enrollment information as requested. Only students who are not considered dependants for tax purposes and who have not completed a first bachelors degree are eligible.

## POVERTY INCOME

The chart below may be used to determine if you meet the income requirement for the Educational Rewards Grant Program calculated at or below 200% of the federal poverty guideline.

**SOURCE:** *Federal Register*, Vol. 73, No. 15, January 23, 2008, pp. 3971–3972

Persons in Family/ Household	2008 HHS Poverty Guidelines at 200%	Persons in Family/ Household	2008 HHS Poverty Guidelines at 200%	Persons in Family/ Household	2008 HHS Poverty Guidelines at 200%
1	\$20,800	4	\$42,400	7	\$64,000
2	\$28,000	5	\$49,600	8	\$71,200
3	\$35,200	6	\$56,800	For each additional person, add:	\$3,600

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications for the *Education Rewards Grant* are available on-line at: [www.osfa.mass.edu/edrewards](http://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 or currently pursuing a certificate or degree program in an eligible occupation as defined for this program.

Applicants must provide written proof that they meet the definition of a Dislocated Worker 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  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Office of Student Financial Assistance  
454 Broadway, Suite 200  
Revere, MA 02151

The **FAFSA** form must be completed and can be submitted online at: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

For assistance in filling out these forms, visit a One-Stop Career Center and meet with a career counselor. Go to [www.osfa.mass.edu/edrewards](http://www.osfa.mass.edu/edrewards) or visit with a Career Center counselor for a list of current eligible training programs.



## ONE-STOP CAREER CENTERS

You may visit any Career Center in Massachusetts to learn more about the Educational Rewards Grant Program.

Educational Rewards Grant Program applications are available at **One-Stop Career Centers** across Massachusetts. Career Center counselors will also provide assistance in the following services for Education Rewards Grant recipients:

- Career planning
- Training program selection
- Job search

Hours of operation vary from center to center. Visit [www.mass.gov/dcs](http://www.mass.gov/dcs) — select Career Centers under Quick Links on the home page to check the hours or locate your nearest One-Stop Career Center.

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

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



## ONE-STOP CAREER CENTERS (continued)

### NORTHERN MASSACHUSETTS

North Shore Career Center of Gloucester  
(limited services)  
**11-15 Parker Street**  
**Gloucester, MA 01930**  
**978-283-4772**

**Valleyworks Career Center**  
80 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  
(limited services)**  
155 Katherine Lee Bates Road  
Falmouth, MA 02540  
(508) 548-4828, TTY #: (800) 439-2370

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

### Career Opportunities Orleans (limited services)

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, (888) 421-8919  
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



The Educational Rewards Grant Program is offered by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education and the Massachusetts 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.

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Deval Patrick, Governor

Tim Murray, Lt. Governor

