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 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 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
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
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.


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

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 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.

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 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 — 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) SJOBNET
TTY #: 711 (statewide relay number)

The Work Place
29 Winter Street, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 737-0993, (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
617-382-8025

Employment and Training Resources
201 Boston Post Road West
Suite 200
Marlborough, MA 01752
(508) 478-4300
TTY #: (508) 478-1887

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) 478-1887

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
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
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) 240-2039, 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