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*Planning Ahead:*

# Financial Aid for Students with Disabilities

2015 - 2016 Edition

HEATH RESOURCE CENTER  
AT THE NATIONAL YOUTH TRANSITIONS CENTER

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# About this Resource Paper

While education beyond high school in the United States is optional, it has become a necessary investment in future employment and life satisfaction for many people. Most, however, cannot afford to make this investment without some outside monetary assistance. Over the years, public and private sources of money have been developed specifically to meet this need. As increasing, but limited, amounts of money have become available, a standardized method of determining eligibility has evolved to promote equitable distribution of student financial aid.

Financial aid is a partnership among the student, parents, postsecondary educational institutions, state and federal governments, and available private resources. For the student with a disability, the partnership also may include a Vocational Rehabilitation Agency and the Social Security Administration. This partnership requires cooperation from all entities and an understanding of their unique responsibilities within the financial aid process. Obtaining financial aid can be a complex process due to many laws and regulations that govern various aid programs. Therefore, becoming knowledgeable about student financial aid is extremely important. As the costs of a postsecondary education rise, keeping informed about changes in the financial aid system becomes imperative.

This resource paper provides an overview of student financial aid and discusses the roles and responsibilities of those who play a significant part in the process of providing aid to students with disabilities. The paper also addresses the financial aid application procedure and suggests timelines and resources for those individuals who are seeking financial aid. The information in this paper was based on the best available information at the time of publication in **September 2015** and reflects information for the **2015-2016** school year. This is a resource paper for students, parents, and all professionals who assist students with disabilities in securing financial assistance for postsecondary education.

It is recommended that students and families use this resource paper in conjunction with [Funding Your Education: The Guide to Federal Student Aid](#) (Published November 2014) by the U.S. Department of Education, available on the Internet, at this [link](#).

The discussion below covers the various types of financial aid, the technical words and phrases used to describe them, and the process involved in their disbursement. Particular attention is given to those expenses that are considered disability-related, and suggestions are made about ways in which some of those expenses may be met. In addition, a brief description of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Agencies, the services that they may provide, and the interaction between the state VR

agency and the financial aid office of a postsecondary institution. Finally, suggestions are offered about additional possibilities for financial assistance.

## WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

Financial aid is designed to help individuals meet their educational expenses when their own resources are not sufficient. A student who believes that his or her own and family resources are not sufficient to pay for all the costs of attendance (tuition, room and board, books, transportation, campus activities, etc.) should apply for financial aid through the financial aid office of the institution he or she plans to attend.

### Four types of aid are available:

- Grants—Need-based aid that generally does not have to be repaid.
- Loans—Money borrowed to cover school costs, which must be repaid (usually with interest) over a specified period of time (usually after the student has left school or graduated).
- Work-study—Employment that enables a student to earn money toward a portion of school costs during or between periods of enrollment.
- Scholarships—Gifts and awards based on student's academic merit, talent, achievement, background or other criteria. It is aid that generally does not have to be repaid.

## FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

The federal government contributes to the first three types of student financial aid.

These programs are explained in a booklet called [Funding Your Education --The Guide to Federal Student Aid](#) from the U.S. Department of Education. For a free copy (English and Spanish), write to: U.S. Department of Education's Publication Center, or call (877) 4ED-PUBS (1-887-433-7827) or (877) 576-7734 (TTY), or online: [www.edpubs.gov](http://www.edpubs.gov). This publication is available in alternate formats, such as Braille, large print, or CD by contacting the U.S. Department of Education's Publication Center at [1-877-4ED-PUBS \(1-877-433-7827\)](tel:1-877-4ED-PUBS) or [1-877-576-7734 \(TTY\)](tel:1-877-576-7734).

The programs described in the chart at the end of this booklet are (see [Appendix B](#)):

1. Federal Pell Grants
2. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)
3. Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grants
4. Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant
5. Federal Work-Study (FWS)
6. Federal Perkins Loans
7. William D. Ford Direct Loans including:
  - a. Federal Direct Loans (subsidized and unsubsidized)
  - b. Federal Direct PLUS Loans (parents and graduate students)

All of these, except PLUS and unsubsidized Federal Direct Loans as well as TEACH Grants, are based on the financial need of the student

and his or her family. Although the PLUS and unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan programs do not take into account any family contribution, these loans (individually or combined) cannot exceed the difference between the student's cost of attending a postsecondary institution and the student's other financial aid (including scholarships).

Financial assistance is also available through [AmeriCorps](#), a program authorized under the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. The [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#) provides individuals ages 17 and over with the opportunity to earn education awards of \$5,730 in exchange for full-time service of at least one year or part-time service of at least two years in an approved program of community service.

The education awards correspond to the maximum amount of the Pell Grant. An individual may serve up to two terms and earn up to two education awards. In addition, postsecondary institutions are recruiting AmeriCorps alumni by offering to match the education award. To learn about which institutions are offering to match the education awards, please go visit this [page](#). For more information about exchanging national or community service for educational funding, contact AmeriCorps at (202) 606-5000 or TTY: (800) 833-3722 or visit their web site that can be found at this [here](#).

Some colleges, states, and other entities may also offer need based grant aid that is merit-based, which means that funds are provided to students without regard to financial need if certain conditions (such as high grades) are met. The financial aid administrator at the

school of your choice is the best resource for locating merit-based or any other financial aid resources for attending that school.

*Students can only receive the Federal Pell Grant for no more than six years and/or twelve semesters. To learn more about the Federal Pell Grant Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU), please go to:*  
<http://studentaid.ed.gov/types/grants->

*From the U.S. Department of Education: As part of the Obama Administration's commitment to create a fairer, more effective criminal justice system, reduce recidivism, and combat the impact of mass incarceration on communities, the Department of Education announced on July 31, 2015 the [Second Chance Pell Pilot program](#) to test new models to allow incarcerated Americans to receive [Pell Grants](#) and pursue the postsecondary education with the goal of helping them get jobs, support their families, and turn their lives around. For more information on this opportunity, please visit this [link](#).*

*The U.S. Department of Education has increased Financial Aid Awareness through workshops, online resources, and scholarship funds. Be sure to check <http://studentaid.ed.gov/> website often!*

## WHICH APPLICATION DO I COMPLETE?

All students applying for federal assistance are required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). There is no charge to complete or process the FAFSA.

The Department of Education develops the [FAFSA](#) in both English and Spanish versions. The FAFSA is available in electronic and paper

formats. To apply, students may use any of the following formats:

- FAFSA online
- The paper FAFSA
- Downloadable PDF FAFSA

FAFSA online allows students to complete and submit a FAFSA. A PDF FAFSA is available to help filers collect information needed to complete the application. Students who file a FAFSA electronically may request an electronic access code number or FSA ID. The FSA ID serves as an electronic signature for the student and the dependent student's parent when completing the FAFSA electronically. The FSA ID also serves as an identifier to access personal federal student aid information in various Department of Education databases. All students and dependent parents of students can learn more about FAFSA on the internet and the FSA ID process on the following web site: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

Copies of the paper FAFSA are available at high schools and colleges or by contacting the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (800) 4-FED-AID (433-3243) or 319-337-5665. The TTY line for the paper FAFSA, 1-800-730-8913.

Once the application has been processed, students will receive the processed result in one of two ways:

- Students who provide an e-mail address on the application will receive an e-mail

notification containing a direct link to the student's Student Aid Report (SAR) data on the Web.

- Students who do not provide an e-mail address on the paper or electronic FAFSA will receive either 1) a paper SAR, or 2) a paper SAR acknowledgement.

## WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION?

The estimated family contribution (EFC) is the amount of money the family of a student is expected to contribute toward college expenses. The family includes the student and the student's parents in the case of a dependent student, or the student (and spouse, if any) in the case of an independent student. The amount the family is expected to contribute is calculated by a standardized formula that takes into account the family's financial resources (income and assets), family size, and basic living expenses. The calculation of family contribution is based on information provided by the student's family on a standardized need analysis form. The estimated family contribution will be reported on the Student Aid Report (SAR).

Before completing the 2015-16 FAFSA, students must first determine their dependency status. If, for the purposes of applying for financial aid, the student is considered to be dependent, then the student and the student's parents must complete the FAFSA.

If the student is considered to be independent, only the student (and the student's spouse, if married) must complete the FAFSA. A student may qualify as financially independent if he or she was born before January 1, 1992, is married as of the date he or she applies, will be a graduate or professional student at the start of the award year, is currently serving on active duty for purposes other than training, is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, has dependents other than a spouse, was an orphan, foster child, or ward/dependent of the court at any time since the age of 13, is an emancipated minor, is in legal guardianship or was determined at any time on or after July 1, 2014 to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or was self-supporting and at risk of being homeless or a student for whom a financial aid administrator makes a documented determination of independence by reason of unusual circumstances.

Students who are applying for non-federal financial assistance from postsecondary institutions may be required to complete an additional form. Check with the financial aid offices of the colleges or universities that you are interested in attending to determine what additional forms for non-federal assistance you should file.

The financial aid office can also tell you about the availability of state aid and whether you will need to file an additional form to apply for such aid. The financial aid office can either supply you with any additional forms needed to apply for state aid or tell you how to obtain the necessary forms. If you reside in a state other than the one in which the college is located,

the college can tell you where to obtain this information for the state in which you reside.

## **WHAT IS THE COST OF ATTENDANCE?**

Each college or university must estimate the costs a student will reasonably encounter in order to attend that institution. Cost of attendance will always include a figure for tuition and fees. Supplies needed for coursework are sometimes included in tuition, but more often books and supplies are estimated separately. Cost of attendance will include estimates for living expenses—primarily room and board, as well as a moderate amount for transportation and miscellaneous personal expenses. Cost of attendance is sometimes called “cost of education” or “student budget.”

For students living in dormitories or other local housing, cost of attendance estimates may include transportation for trips between the student's home and the college or university at the beginning and end of the period of attendance, as well as any breaks during which the institution closes its housing facilities.

For a student commuting daily from home, transportation includes a reasonable amount for commuting, usually using public transportation if it is available.

Purchase of a car for commuting purposes may not be considered an education-related expense, although the basic maintenance of a car during the student's enrollment may be included.

Also, schools may include a reasonable allowance for the documented rental or purchase of a personal computer into the cost of attendance.

In addition, costs related to a student's particular personal circumstances may also be included if they are incurred as a result of attending the college or university. For example, cost of attendance may include day-care costs for students with dependent children. Expenses associated with a period of study abroad that is part of the student's educational program, or during a cooperative education experience, may also increase a student's cost of attendance. If a student or a parent borrower receives a federal student loan, the loan fees associated with the loan are added to the student's cost of attendance.

Costs related to a student's disability might also be included under certain circumstances (see section entitled "[What Expenses Are Considered Disability Related?](#)"). A student who believes his or her costs are higher than the standard estimated by the college or university should ask to speak with the institution's financial aid administrator to determine how to reduce the extra expenses.

Whether a student is taking classes on a full-time or part-time basis may also impact his or her cost of attendance. A student's "enrollment status" is usually measured as full-time, three-quarter time, half-time, or less than half-time. The definition of these measurements may vary at different institutions, but federal rules establish certain minimum definitions for undergraduate students that must be used when determining

the amount of a student's federal financial aid. Although a college or university may increase the amount of work required to classify a student as full-time, an institution may not reduce the federal minimum definition for any reason. However, a college or university may allow a student with unusual circumstances (such as a disability) extra time to complete his or her program and may award financial aid during the extra terms or periods of enrollment.

The amount of tuition estimated for a student attending on a part-time basis is generally less than the amount estimated for full-time attendance. The allowances for books and travel might also be less for a part-time student. Allowances for room and board for a limited duration are permitted, however, certain other costs are eliminated entirely for students who attend less than halftime. In addition to affecting a student's cost of attendance, part-time enrollment directly affects the maximum amount allowable under certain aid programs.

## WHAT IS FINANCIAL NEED?

The financial need of a student is the difference between the student's educational expenses and the amount of money the family is expected to contribute. In general terms, the formula to determine financial need is shown in the box found on the next page. There is no guarantee, however, that any one institution will be able to meet the total financial need of any given student.

<p><b>Financial Need</b></p> <p><b>Cost of Attendance</b></p> <p>Tuition, fees, books and supplies, personal computers, room, board, transportation, personal expenses, dependent care, loan fees, expenses related to disability; study abroad costs; cooperative education costs.*</p>
<p><b>EFC Contribution</b></p> <p>Amount family and/or student are expected to contribute toward cost of education (contribution from income or assets, social security benefits, welfare, etc.).</p>
<p><b>Financial Need</b></p> <p>Amount of demonstrated need to be packaged. (See subheading "What Is a Financial Aid Package?").</p>

\*Some expenses may not be considered in the determination of financial need. (See subheading "[What Expenses Are Considered Disability Related?](#)").

## WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS?

The financial aid process is designed to equitably serve the approximately 14 million undergraduate and graduate students currently enrolled at more than 7,000 postsecondary educational institutions (U.S. Department of Education, 2013). The scope of the financial aid system requires that the

application process be standardized. Describing special circumstances or needs, therefore, may require additional effort on the part of the applicant.

Applicants who have special needs, such as disability-related expenses, should express those needs to the aid administrator at the postsecondary institution. Because of the complexity of the system, however, they must take care to express those needs within the context of the system as explained below.

According to many directors of financial aid, taking care to be early and accurate in applying for aid is the most important step in the financial aid process. You can apply beginning January 1, 2015; you have until June 30, 2016 to submit your FAFSA for the 2015-16 award year.

Campus financial aid administrators suggest that a family complete the tax information in time to file the FAFSA (and any additional non-federal forms) by the college's or university's deadline, or use an estimate rather than delay completing and processing the form. A processed application can be corrected if the actual IRS tax information differs from the estimate. If an individual's processed aid application is not received by the date specified by the college or university, the student may lose priority for many forms of aid, both federal and institutional. Students and their families should be aware that because aid application deadlines vary from institution to institution and may call for differing information, early preparation would ensure that all deadlines could be met with appropriate information.

If the college or university requests documentation of application information, such as signed tax returns or verification statements, the family must comply by the deadlines for those documents to keep the aid application process on track. It is also important to note that students must reapply for financial aid every year.

## WHAT IS A FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE?

A financial aid package is a combination of financial aid resources (grants, scholarships, loans, work-study) put together by the institution’s financial aid administrator and designed to meet, as closely as possible, a student’s financial need. The amount and types of assistance in a package depend on the cost of attendance at a particular institution, the student’s need, availability of funds at the institution, and funds available from outside sources. Thus, a student may be offered two different financial aid packages if he or she applies to two different institutions. Students should compare not only the dollars offered, but also the composition of the financial aid package from each institution. The following examples illustrate different packages of financial aid that a student might be offered at two different institutions. School A costs \$5,000 to attend, and School B costs \$10,000. (See box below).

*Note: The aid amounts are for illustration purposes only and do not necessarily reflect actual amounts a student could expect from a similar school.*

	SCHOOL A	SCHOOL B
<b>COST OF ATTENDANCE</b>	\$5,000	\$ 10,000
<b>FAMILY CONTRIBUTION</b>	\$1,000	\$ 1,000
<b>Need for Financial Aid</b> (cost minus family contribution)	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$ 9,000</b>
<b>SOURCES OF FINANCIAL AID</b>		
Federal Pell Grant	\$1,100	\$1,100
Federal FSEOG	\$1,500	\$1,000
Federal Perkins	\$ 0	\$500
Federal Work-Study	\$ 0	\$1,500
Aid from Institution	\$ 400	\$2,000
Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan	\$1,000	\$2,500
<b>Total Financial Aid</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$8,600</b>
<b>Total Unmet Financial Need</b> (To be met from outside sources, such as: additional family contribution, Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, PLUS Loans, private employment, local/disability-specific scholarships, etc.)	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$400</b>

In the examples above, School B offers \$8,600 this year, whereas School A offers less than half of that. However, if the student chooses School B, he or she must find \$4,000 more than the expected family contribution. On the other hand, School B may have the academic program of choice and the necessary support services. Thus, the student may believe that in the long run, School B is the right choice.

In addition to comparing the total dollars offered in aid by each institution, however, students need to consider level of indebtedness, terms of loan repayment, and the institution’s policy on how the aid packages will be constructed in subsequent years. Students, their families, financial aid personnel, and, where relevant, rehabilitation

counselors of students with disabilities should evaluate the amount of debt a student can reasonably repay after graduating. Career choices often determine (or are determined by) a student's level of indebtedness and terms of repayment of financial aid loans. To learn more about repayment, please go to Federal Student Aid website found at this [link](#).

From year to year, financial aid administrators may vary the combination of grant, scholarship, loan, and work-study money in a student's aid package, emphasizing loans for freshmen and work-study or scholarships in later years—or the other way around. Institutions have packaging policies on awarding financial aid package that may vary as a student matriculates in his or her academic program. Ask the financial aid administrator what the institution's policy is beyond the first year of study.

## **WHAT EXPENSES ARE CONSIDERED DISABILITY RELATED?**

The student with a disability is often faced with additional expenses not incurred by other students. These may include:

- Special equipment (related to the disability) and its maintenance.
- Cost of services for personal use or study, such as readers, interpreters, note takers, or personal care attendants.
- Transportation, if traditional means are not accessible.
- Medical expenses not covered by insurance that relate directly to the individual's disability.

Students should be sure to inform the aid administrator of disability-related expenses that may previously have been covered by the family budget. These may include food and veterinary bills for guide dogs, batteries for hearing aids, and/or the cost of recruiting and training readers or personal care attendants.

Leaving home often necessitates the purchase of new or additional equipment that will allow the student to be independent at college. For example, the student's secondary school may have furnished an adapted computer or other disability-related equipment, but that equipment belongs to and remains at the high school after the student graduates. Students with disabilities should seek assistance from the Office of Disability Support Services and/or the Financial Aid Office to determine disability-related expenses.

Once these expenses have been identified, students should provide the financial aid administrator with documentation of any disability-related expense that is necessary to ensure attainment of the student's educational goal. Where applicable, this documentation should also state the amounts that will be covered by insurance and other assisting agencies. Depending on the institution, documentation may be simply a written statement of explanation by the student or an official statement by a doctor or Vocational Rehabilitation counselor. To be certain of the appropriate documentation, the student should check with the institution's financial aid office. By virtue of provisions within the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA), Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of

2014 (WIOA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended all public and private postsecondary institutions are required to provide reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities who request them.

Due to the landmark HEOA 2008 legislation, students with Intellectual Disabilities with the support of the federal government will have an opportunity to receive Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and Federal Work-Study Program if accepted into a postsecondary institution. They must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program for students with intellectual disabilities (approved by the U.S. Department of Education) and must maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by the school for this program.

The students:

- do not have to be enrolled for the purpose of obtaining a degree or certificate, and
- are not required to have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent.

For more information on these opportunities for students with Intellectual Disabilities in accessing postsecondary education, please go to the Federal Student Aid website found at this [link](#). For more information on HEOA 2008 and postsecondary education supports for students with Intellectual Disabilities, please go to our [Selected Resources](#) section at the end of our paper to find the book entitled,

*"Think College! Postsecondary Education Options for Students with Intellectual Disabilities"* written by Meg Grigal and Debra Hart.

Some special equipment and support services may be available at the postsecondary institution, through public or private community organizations, through the state Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, or through organizations for people with disabilities. The student should check with the Student Services Personnel, 504 Coordinator, or Office of Disability Support Services at the postsecondary institution.

One of the most valuable resources to a new student is the network of students with disabilities already on campus. Students with disabilities who have had similar experiences and needs are likely to have practical advice and low-cost solutions to problems that incoming students with disabilities frequently encounter. All students planning or thinking of attending a postsecondary education setting should visit the Disability Support Services office on campus. Oftentimes, Disability Support Services coordinators will work the student and the student's family in setting up opportunities for potential students to meet current students with disabilities on campus.

Regardless of whether the student is able to obtain any special equipment or services through the institution or elsewhere, it is still important to let the financial aid administrator know of any anticipated expenses. Such information is considered in the determination of the student's cost of attendance. It is also important to understand that disability-related

expenses that are covered by other assisting agencies cannot also be covered by financial aid from the school.

## HOW DOES VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FIT INTO THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS?

Assistance to students with disabilities is often provided by state Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies. In some states there are two agencies: a general agency and one for people who are blind or visually impaired. In other states, there is one agency serving all people with disabilities. State Vocational Rehabilitation agency titles vary from state to state, and thus may be hard to locate in the telephone directory. You may contact a state education agency, public library, or State Business Leadership Network for the telephone number and address of your local VR agency. Or, for a state-by-state directory of Vocational Rehabilitation agencies, go to this [link](#).

The local Vocational Rehabilitation agency has VR counselors who can help a person with a disability determine eligibility for services. The VR program is an eligibility program, rather than an entitlement program. To be eligible for services, an individual must have an impairment that results in a substantial impediment to employment and he/she must require VR services for employment. The primary goal of a VR counselor is to assist the individual to achieve employment; therefore

the counselor will carefully consider a student's educational plans and their impact on potential for employment. Students should consider bringing a copy of the Summary of Performance (SOP) that was given upon high school graduation to the initial meeting with the VR counselor. While initial counseling and evaluation are open to all applicants, the counselor may determine that an applicant is not eligible for services, or that an individual cannot be offered services immediately due to the order of selection (i.e., the requirement that VR agencies provide services on a priority basis to individuals with the most significant disabilities). Every state is different in how VR agencies implement the order of selection. To see an example of a state's order of selection, go to this [page](#) to see how Virginia categorizes their order of selection.

Among the services that may be provided by VR agencies to a student who is a client are:

- Help with tuition expenses.
- Room and board.
- Transportation/ commuting expenses.
- Books and supplies.
- Out of class reader services for people who are blind or who have learning disabilities; interpreter services for people who are deaf and hard of hearing; and/or individually prescribed aids and devices.
- Telecommunications, sensory, and other technological aids and devices.
- Other goods and services that help an individual with a disability become employed.

Services provided to an individual must be authorized in advance in an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) mandated in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) developed by the eligible individual and approved by a VR counselor. People with disabilities served by VR under an IPE are required to use available resources from other federal or state agencies (e.g., “comparable benefits”) before a commitment of VR funds is made. Some states have a financial need policy that requires the individual to contribute toward the cost of certain services, depending on ability to pay.

There are differences between states’ VR programs and policies because each state administers its own program within the provisions of a state plan developed under the requirements of the Act and federal VR regulations and approved by the U.S. Department of Education. For example, some states may have a policy favoring attendance at in-state public institutions of postsecondary education. For additional information, go to the HEATH Resource Center website ([www.heath.gwu.edu](http://www.heath.gwu.edu)) and read the module titled [Rehabilitation Services](#).

## **IS THERE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE VR AGENCIES AND THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICES?**

Most states have developed working agreements between state associations of financial aid administrators and Vocational Rehabilitation administrators. These agreements allow for a coordinated effort in providing funds for students with disabilities in participating states. The agreement, or

memorandum of understanding, establishes the process a VR agency and postsecondary educational institution will follow in determining the aid to be granted to a VR client/student. It is important to note that the federal Rehabilitation Act (part of WIOA), as amended, requires that students served by a VR agency apply for student financial aid. Through standardized information exchange forms, the VR and financial aid offices are kept abreast of what the other is doing. The process is not a simple one; it takes time and requires a constant effort by both offices and the student. Often a student’s aid package is recalculated several times as new information is provided by either office.

The best advice for a student with a disability in the quest for financial assistance is to contact as early as possible both the VR agency where the student is a client and the financial aid office of the institution the student plans to attend to be sure to meet both their deadlines. The institution will determine the student’s eligibility for financial assistance and develop an award package. Meanwhile, VR will also determine the student’s additional disability-related needs and, if possible, award funds. The institution can examine the student’s expenses and recalculate what is not covered by the VR agency, and, if funds allow, the student’s aid may be increased. Even with excellent cooperation between the financial aid administrator and the Vocational Rehabilitation counselor, there still may be a need for additional family funds or loans.

## **Student Veterans with Disabilities**

Student veterans with disabilities may be eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation services through the Veterans Administration (VA). Benefits include education, medical services, counseling, and/or training for employment. For veterans whose disabilities are deemed so severe that they cannot work, vocational rehabilitation offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible.

In order to be eligible for [Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment](#) services (VR&E), one must be evaluated. A vocational rehabilitation counselor will complete an evaluation if you have received a discharge that is other than dishonorable, have a service connected disability rating of 10%, complete a VR&E application and fall within a 12-year basic period of eligibility. This basic period of eligibility can be extended by the vocational rehab counselor if the veteran has a serious disability.

Once eligibility is established a VR&E counselor will assess interest, goals, abilities and the service connected disability. The veteran and counselor will work together to establish a rehabilitation plan. This plan is an individualized written outline of services, resources and used for a successful rehabilitation. The agreement is signed and reviewed on an annual basis to track progress or much needed revisions.

If the rehabilitation plan of the service connected veteran is educational, financial aid benefits will fall under one of the following: Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Reserve

Educational Assistance Program or the Post Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Program. A complete listing of details for the following benefits can be found at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>. The most important step if you are a student veteran with a disability is to [complete an application](#) and meet with a vocational rehabilitation counselor immediately to assess your needs and next steps.

To learn more information about financial aid for veterans, please see a blog that was written by a veteran currently completing his graduate degree, [3 Things You May Not Know About Financial Aid for Veterans](#).

For more information on student veterans transitioning to the postsecondary environment, please see our [module for student veterans](#) on the HEATH Resource Center website, [www.heath.gwu.edu](http://www.heath.gwu.edu). In addition, the Federal Student Aid website highlights aid for military families. To learn more about these opportunities, please go to: <http://studentaid.ed.gov/types/grants-scholarships/military>.

## **IS FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE FOR GRADUATE STUDY?**

The increasing importance of graduate or professional degrees has caused concern over the availability of funds for graduate study. After a student completes an undergraduate degree program, he or she is no longer eligible for certain federal and state funds. Other programs may serve graduate students, but only after all undergraduates have been

served. Because there is the expectation of employability after completion of a technical, community college, or undergraduate degree program, state VR agencies may be reluctant to fund graduate studies. Nevertheless, there are other sources of funding available designed specifically for advanced degrees.

Many students use the traditional routes of institutional scholarships in their field of study, part-time or alternate-semester employment, loans, savings, assistantships, and family contributions as the primary routes to a graduate degree. The college's graduate program or academic department can provide information about funding. For more information on graduate student financial aid resources, please see the HEATH Resource Center website ([www.heath.gwu.edu](http://www.heath.gwu.edu)). In addition, the [Federal Student Aid](#) website has a couple of resources:

1. [Federal Student Aid for Adult Students](#)
2. [Financial Aid for Graduate and Professional Degree Students](#)

## ARE THERE OTHER POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

### Supplemental Security Income

[Supplemental Security Income](#) (SSI) is a federal program that provides financial assistance to people who are aged, blind, or disabled and who have little or no income and resources. The amount of SSI payment is dependent on the income and resources of the client. (If the student is under 18, some of the parents'

income and resources will be included.) The student should be aware that earnings from work-study or other employment may affect SSI benefits. The Social Security Administration has a program called, [Plan for Achieving Self Support](#) (PASS). If the Social Security Administration approves a PASS, the student would be able to set aside income and resources that are being used toward a specific vocational goal (tuition, savings for equipment or other needs) and continue to receive SSI payments. Plans can be developed by Community Work Incentive coordinators, public or private social agencies or groups, anyone assisting the student, or by the student. For more information on SSI and the Plan for Achieving Self Support, contact your local Social Security Administration office or go to:

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityresearch/wi/pass.htm>

### Social Security Benefits

The [Social Security Disability Insurance](#) (SSDI) program allows workers and eligible dependents to receive monthly cash benefits because of a period of disability. A student who has been employed may file based on his or her own work record. If the parents of a student with a disability have filed for Social Security or if a parent is deceased, the student may also qualify for dependents' benefits based on the parent's work record. For further information on the student provisions and eligibility requirements of the various Social Security programs, contact your local Social Security Administration office.

## Talent Search, Educational Opportunity Centers, and Special Services for Disadvantaged Students

[Talent Search and Educational Opportunity Centers](#) are federally funded programs located at various sites across the country. Some are part of a postsecondary institution, and some have been established as part of a private or public organization. These programs were set up to provide counseling and other services to disadvantaged students and students with disabilities. One of the responsibilities of the program is to help place students and sometimes help them negotiate financial

assistance with their postsecondary institutions. Many colleges also have federally funded programs for disadvantaged students, including those with disabilities. These programs provide certain services and academic assistance, and may provide financial assistance as well.

The programs vary by campus, check with the college or university of your choice to see if there is a Special Services Program and what services are offered. For more information on Federal TRIO Programs, contact the Division of Student Service, Higher Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington, DC 20006-8510 or call (202) 502-7600. Email: [OPE\\_TRIO@ed.gov](mailto:OPE_TRIO@ed.gov). Information can be accessed online at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html>

## State Programs

Most states now offer some form of student assistance. To find out the details of state grants and loans, students should contact their high school counselor or college financial aid administrator. For a listing of the agency that offers assistance for higher education in their state of residence, students can go to [http://wdcrobcop01.ed.gov/Programs/EROD/org\\_list.cfm?category\\_ID=SHE](http://wdcrobcop01.ed.gov/Programs/EROD/org_list.cfm?category_ID=SHE). The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) provides a map of the United States that will allow students to search financial aid programs by state, [http://www.nasfaa.org/students/State\\_Financial\\_Aid\\_Programs.aspx](http://www.nasfaa.org/students/State_Financial_Aid_Programs.aspx).

## Private Scholarships

A variety of unique situations, which may have nothing to do with disability, may make a student eligible for private scholarships. They may include, for example, parents' place or type of work, military experience, and ethnic background, or student's career goals, religious affiliation, or extracurricular activities.

Scholarships may be researched by purchasing or borrowing books about financial aid from a school or public library. Several of these are mentioned in the "Selected Resources" section at the end of this paper. In addition to these unique scholarships, there are private scholarships funded by Disability Support Organizations (DSO) that offer scholarships for people with disabilities. Several of these types of scholarships are mentioned in the "[Scholarship and Financial Aid Resources](#)" section at the end of this paper. In addition,

students should utilize online scholarship sources such as, [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com), [www.collegescholarships.com](http://www.collegescholarships.com), and [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com).

In general, the best resource for all students, including those with disabilities, is the financial aid administrator at the college being considered. The financial aid administrator has been trained to understand and explain the complex system of financial aid. In addition, the financial aid administrator will be familiar with local, state, and private sources of funding and able to tie these together with institutional resources to create the most advantageous financial aid package for the student.

Keep in mind, however, that any problems encountered in applying to a college or university, or in completing the financial aid application in a thorough and timely manner, could adversely affect the quality of any financial aid package for which a student may be eligible. Students may apply to, and “shop” among, several colleges for the most advantageous combination of academic excellence and financial aid available. Due to the lead-time involved in the college/financial aid process, “smart shoppers” will begin the process of looking for a college or university and preparing to apply for financial aid up to two years in advance of high school graduation.

Examples of private scholarship sources are listed below.

- The International Kiwanis Club recommends checking with local Kiwanis organizations to see if they offer

scholarships. To find the telephone number of your local chapter, call (800) 549-2647 (dial 411) or (317) 875-8755 (dial 411). To check online, please go to this [link](#).

- For scholarships offered through the Elks National Foundation in Chicago, IL, call (773) 755-4728. To check online, please go to <http://www.elks.org/enf/scholars/>.
- Local chapters of the Rotary Club offer scholarships for overseas study. Call (866) 976-8279 for more information. To check online, please go to <http://www.rotary.org>.
- Call the Lions Club International at (630) 571-5466 to find the telephone number for the District Governor in your area, who can inform you about scholarship opportunities.

## Scholarship Search Services

Entrepreneurs in many cities have established scholarship search services that have information about thousands of scholarships nationwide and that provide—for a fee—lists of those most appropriate for individual clients. These services usually can be found in the yellow pages or from a long-distance information operator in various large cities (San Francisco, New York, Houston, and others) under names such as Scholarship Information Service or Scholarship Search. Be forewarned, however, that the value of the information provided by such services can vary considerably. Therefore, as with any other service for which there is a fee, callers should

request a written list of exactly what they will get for their investment and what has been the experience of the business in identifying scholarships for students with disabilities.

Remember, as discussed previously, there is relatively little grant money made available on the basis of disability. Thus, search services are not likely to list scholarships specifically intended for students with specific disabilities. Rather, they may identify funds available to students by geographic area; area of student interest; college or university; professional, civic, or religious affiliation; or some other criteria.

The student who is willing to invest some time and effort is likely to be just as successful locating funding sources as any fee-charging search service might be. Information about federal student aid programs is readily available at no charge (see "[Selected Resources](#)"), while high school guidance counselors and college financial aid offices are good resources for information about state-based and institutional aid. Also, the reference section of a college or community college library is likely to have guidebooks and directories listing grants and scholarships. It is increasingly common for high school guidance departments, libraries, and colleges to offer computerized scholarship searches at little or no cost. Finally, there are numerous resources about financial aid and scholarships on the Internet, including several search services that charge no fee at all (see the following section, "Internet Searches").

## Internet Searches

Students with Internet access will find a wealth of information about how to complete the FAFSA, as well as additional grants and scholarships for which they may apply. The following Internet addresses are listed to facilitate an electronic search. Note that many web sites offer additional links to other related sites.

1. Federal Student Aid through the U.S. Department of Education, offers information and links relating to federal student assistance programs: <http://studentaid.ed.gov>.
2. The FinAid website is a comprehensive resource that will connect students with mailing lists, news groups, loan information, and scholarships for special interest groups such as females, minorities, veterans, etc.: [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org).
3. College Board website includes an instant profile search of available grants and scholarships: <https://www.collegeboard.org>.
4. Fastweb (Financial Aid Search Through the Web) is a searchable database of more than 180,000 private sector scholarships, fellowships, grants, and loans. The website is used by colleges across the United States, Fastweb is available to you at no charge through the Internet, courtesy of the Financial Aid Information Page and Student Services, Inc.: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com).

5. Sallie Mae offers an online scholarship service containing a database of more than 3 million scholarships, fellowships, grants, loans, internships, competitions, and work-study programs sponsored by more than 3,600 organizations: <https://www.salliemae.com>.
6. CollegeNET MACH25 is a free Internet version of the Wintergreen/Orchard House Scholarship Finder database. This database contains listings of more than 500,000 private sector awards from 1,570 sponsors. The database is updated annually: [www.collegenet.com/mach25/](http://www.collegenet.com/mach25/).
7. The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) home page includes free downloadable publications and tip sheets for students and their parents [Cash For College](#), [Providing Effective Financial Aid Assistance to Students from Foster Care and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth: A Key to Higher Education Access and Success](#), and [Student Aid Tips for Unique Student Aid Populations](#). The site also contains links to other financial aid-related web sites: [www.nasfaa.org](http://www.nasfaa.org).
8. Thomson Peterson's is a comprehensive site devoted to the process of searching, choosing, applying, and paying for college and contains a database of more than 850,000 scholarships and grants for postsecondary study: [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com).

## Foundation Center

The Foundation Center, with headquarters in Washington, DC, and New York and cooperating collections in nearly 100 cities across the country, can provide the names of private foundations that donate money for particular activities or causes. The Foundation Center has an online-based directory of listings called *Foundation Grants to Individuals Online* arranged in broad categories and available by subscription for \$19.95 per month. Go to this [link](#) to access the guide or call (800) 424-9836 to find the address of the nearest cooperating collection.

## Alternative Loans

Alternative loan options should be considered if further need is necessary. Alternative loans are private loans that can be obtained through local banks, national banks, credit unions, etc. These loans are costlier and usually carry high interest rates ranging from 9-19% as well as additional fees. Alternative loans generally require a credit check and in some cases a co-signer for the loan. Please understand that alternative loans should be used as a last option only if your Federal Loan options are maxed out.

## SELECTED RESOURCES

***1001 Ways to Pay for College: Strategies to Maximize Financial Aid, Scholarships, and Grants, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition*** (2015), by Gen and Kelly Tanabe, is a book that focuses on assisting students on how to save and pay for college. The authors provide advice and tips, based on 11 years of research, in how students can pay

for tuition with cost effective ideas such as scholarships, 529 investment plans, and financial aid. The book provides a list of scholarship opportunities. In addition, the authors provide useful advice on how college students can continue to save money while in college. The book can be purchased at bookstores, or online at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Cost varies depending on source.

***College Success for Students with Physical Disabilities***, (2012) by Chris Wise Tiedemann, is a book that highlights strategies and tips on college success given by students with physical disabilities and disability student service directors. The author shares their own experience in looking for colleges that were friendly for students with physical disabilities. The author profiles colleges friendly to students with physical disabilities. In addition, the publication provides a list of questions that students can use to evaluate whether a college they are interested is friendly to students with disabilities. Available online at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Cost varies depending on source.

***Financial Aid for Persons with Disabilities and Their Families*** (2012-2014), by Gail Ann Schlachter and R. David Weber, promises to inform readers about the 900 programs that have been established just for individuals with disabilities or members of their families. The book is a useful and comprehensive resource for librarians and counselors, but promises more than it really delivers. The book is well organized for use since it has chapters about financial aid for people with specific

disabilities, and there are sections of each chapter for both undergraduate and graduate education. However, entries are double and triple counted, resulting in inflation of the total number of scholarships and other aids included. The book is available for \$40 plus \$7 for shipping and handling from Reference Service Press, 2310 Homestead Rd., Suite C1 #219, Los Altos, CA 94024, or by calling (650) 861-3170. The book can also be purchased online at [www.rspfunding.com](http://www.rspfunding.com).

***Funding Your Education: The Guide to Federal Student Aid***, created by the U.S. Department of Education, is a booklet that describes the federal student aid programs. The booklet is widely available in school and public libraries or can be ordered free by writing Federal Student Aid Programs, Box 84, Washington, DC 20044-0084, by calling (800) 433-3243, or by downloading the PDF version from their web site: <http://studentaid.ed.gov/resources>

***Getting Financial Aid 2016 (CollegeBoard Guide to Getting Financial Aid)*** created by CollegeBoard, is a publication that promises to provide easy, step-by-step instructions for applying for college aid (scholarships, grants, loans, and jobs). The book is split up into four units: Financial Aid, Tables and Worksheets, Financial Aid College by College, and Scholarship Lists which will enable you to find scholarships and other aid at more than 3,000 colleges, universities, and technical schools. Available at bookstores, or on-line at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or <https://www.collegeboard.org>. Cost varies depending on source.

***The Ultimate Scholarship Book 2016: Billions of Dollars in Scholarships, Grants, and Prizes*** by Gen and Kelly Tanabe, includes several educational experts and previous students who share their professional and personal experiences of the college process firsthand. The chapters discuss topics such as where to find the best scholarships, the scholarship resume, and ace the scholarship interview. The last chapter is devoted to a comprehensive scholarship directory organized into eight categories: general; humanities/arts; social sciences; sciences; state of residence; member; ethnicity; disability. Available on-line at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Cost varies depending on source.

***The U.S. Department of Education's*** toll-free number (800) 4-FED-AID / (800) 730-8913 (TTY) may be used by seekers of federal student financial aid information. Toll-free calls from all 50 states and Puerto Rico can be made from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday. Callers will receive a recorded message and will be asked to remain on the line if they need additional information or if they have a specific question.

***Think College! Postsecondary Education Options for Students with Intellectual Disabilities*** (2010), by Meg Grigal and Debra Hart. Forward: Madeline C. Will. This publication highlights the rising need of effective transition practices for students with intellectual disabilities transitioning to the college environment. Available at bookstores or online at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or at <http://products.brookespublishing.com/Think-College-P311.aspx>.

***Winning Scholarships for College: An Insider's Guide, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*** (2013), by Marianne Ragins, who won over \$400,000 in scholarship money to pay for her education. A chapter of her book provides a month-by-month step-by-step process of planning and applying for scholarships. In addition, the book highlights scholarships for minorities, students with disabilities, athletes, and non-traditional students. The book can be purchased at bookstores, as well as on-line at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Cost varies depending on source.

## SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES

*Scholarships designated for students with disabilities are extremely limited. Students are urged to read the publications listed in the "Selected Resources" section of this paper and to pursue the scholarships available for criteria other than disability. Listed below are organizations that offer the few disability-specific scholarships that have come to the attention of HEATH staff. At the time of publication, all websites were active on the Internet.*

### ADHD

**Fred J. Epstein Youth Achievement Award**  
Smart Kids with LD  
38 Kings Highway North  
Westport, CT 06880  
Email: [info@smartkidsworld.org](mailto:info@smartkidsworld.org)  
<http://www.smartkidswithld.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/2015-YAA-form.pdf>  
*(limited to individuals who have learning disabilities and ADHD)*

## Autism

### **Autism Society**

4340 East-West Hwy, Suite 350  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
(800) 328-8476  
Email: [info@autism-society.org](mailto:info@autism-society.org)  
[http://www.autism-society.org/?page\\_id=496](http://www.autism-society.org/?page_id=496)  
*(limited to individuals who have autism)*

## Brain Injury

### **Brain Injury Association of Washington (BIAWA) Academic Scholarships**

BIAWA  
P.O. Box 3044  
Seattle, WA 98114  
(877) 982-4292  
Email: [admin@braininjurywa.org](mailto:admin@braininjurywa.org)  
<http://www.braininjurywa.org/scholarship.php>  
*(limited to individuals who live in Washington State  
and a brain injury survivor)*

## Brain Tumor

### **Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation**

302 Ridgefield Court  
Asheville, NC 28806  
(800) 253-6530  
Email: [familysupport@curethekids.org](mailto:familysupport@curethekids.org)  
<http://www.curethekids.org/about-us/news-room/pbtf-news/2013/scholarship2014.html>  
*(limited to individuals who are brain tumor survivors)*

## Cancer

### **Andre Sobel River of Life Foundation**

P.O. Box 361460  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
(310) 276-7111  
Email: [info@andreriveroflife.org](mailto:info@andreriveroflife.org)  
<http://andreriveroflife.org/participate/award/>

### **American Cancer Society**

Attn: Youth Scholarship Program  
8317 Elderberry Rd  
Madison, WI 53717  
(877) 423-9123 ext. 7581  
<http://www.cancer.org/myacs/ohio/programsandse rvices/ohio-college-scholarship>  
*(limited to individuals who were diagnosed with cancer  
under the age of 21 and are legal residents of Iowa,  
South Dakota, or Wisconsin)*

### **Cancer Survivor's Fund**

P.O. Box 792  
Missouri City, TX 77459  
(281) 437-7142  
Fax: (281) 437-9568  
Email: [csf@cancersurvivorsfund.org](mailto:csf@cancersurvivorsfund.org)  
<http://www.cancersurvivorsfund.org/Applications/HowToApply.htm>  
*(limited to individuals who have had cancer or  
undergoing treatment for cancer)*

### **Patient Advocate Foundation**

421 Butler Farm Road  
Hampton, VA 23666  
(800) 532-5274  
[www.patientadvocate.org/events.php?p=69](http://www.patientadvocate.org/events.php?p=69)  
*(offered to patients of cancer or other life threatening  
illness)*

### **Ryan Mullaly Second Chance Fund**

26 Meadow Lane  
Pennington, NJ 08534  
Email: [The2dChanceFund@aol.com](mailto:The2dChanceFund@aol.com)  
*(offered to individuals diagnosed with lymphoma (any  
type) or recurrence of lymphoma between age 13 and  
graduation from high school)*

## **The SAM Fund for Young Adult Survivors of Cancer**

89 South Street, Suite LLo2  
Boston, MA 02111

(617) 938-3484

Email: [info@thesamfund.org](mailto:info@thesamfund.org)

<http://www.thesamfund.org/grants/>

*(offered to cancer survivors between the ages of 21 and 39 to provide financial assistance that will help survivors reach their goals)*

## **Stephen T. Marchello Scholarship Foundation**

1170 E. Long Place  
Centennial, CO 80122

(303) 886-5018

Email: [stmfoundation@hotmail.com](mailto:stmfoundation@hotmail.com)

<http://www.stmfoundation.org>

*(limited to individuals who are cancer survivors and are legal residents of Colorado and Montana)*

## **Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults**

921 E Fort Ave  
Suite 325

Baltimore, MD 21230

(888) 393-FUND

(410) 964-0202

<http://ulmanfund.org/gethelp/support-programs-resources/scholarships/>

*(offers several awards to cancer survivors and to children with financial need who lost a parent to cancer)*

## **Wipe Out Kids' Cancer – Young Heroes Scholarship**

1349 Empire Central, #240

Dallas, TX 75247

(214) 987-4662

Fax: 214-987-4668

E-mail: [rmoore@wokc.org](mailto:rmoore@wokc.org)

[https://mcbtennis.org/YoungHeroesScholarships\\_16.aspx](https://mcbtennis.org/YoungHeroesScholarships_16.aspx)

*(limited to individuals who are cancer survivors)*

## **Cystic Fibrosis**

### **ABBVIE CF Scholarship**

Email: [info@AbbVieCFScholarship.com](mailto:info@AbbVieCFScholarship.com)

<https://www.abbviecfscholarship.com>

*(limited to undergraduate and graduate students with cystic fibrosis)*

### **Cystic Fibrosis Scholarship Foundation**

2814 Grant Street

Evanston, IL 60201

(847) 328-0127

Email: [MKBCFSF@aol.com](mailto:MKBCFSF@aol.com)

<http://cfscholarship.org>

*(limited to students with cystic fibrosis)*

### **Elizabeth Nash Foundation (ENF)**

PO Box 1260

Los Gatos, CA 95031-1260

Email: [scholarships@elizabethnashfoundation.org](mailto:scholarships@elizabethnashfoundation.org)

<http://www.elizabethnashfoundation.org/scholarships.html>

*(limited to undergraduate and graduate students with cystic fibrosis)*

## **Deaf or Hard of Hearing**

### **Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf**

3417 Volta Place, NW

Washington, DC 20007-2778

(202) 337-5220 (Voice/TTY)

Email: [info@agbell.org](mailto:info@agbell.org)

<http://listeningandspokenlanguage.org/Document.aspx?id=266>

*(limited to individuals who are prelingually deaf or hard of hearing and who use speech or speech reading to communicate)*

### **American Speech and Language Hearing Foundation**

2200 Research Boulevard  
Rockville, MD 20850-3289

(301) 296-8700

Fax: 301-296-8567

E-mail: [foundation@asha.org](mailto:foundation@asha.org)

<http://www.ashfoundation.org/recipients/scholarships/>

*(limited to students with a disability who are interested in enrolling in communication sciences and disorders programs)*

### **Bridges**

#### **Minnie Pearl Scholarship Program**

415 Fourth Avenue South, Suite A  
Nashville, Tennessee 37201

(615) 290-5147

(615) 248-8828 (Voice/TTY)

(866) 385-6524

Email: [ap@hearingbridges.org](mailto:ap@hearingbridges.org)

<http://hearingbridges.org/scholarships/>

*(limited to high school seniors with significant bilateral hearing loss)*

### **Children of Deaf Adults (CODA)**

c/o Dr. Jennie E. Pyers

Wellesley College

106 Central St., SCL480

Wellesley, MA 02481

(413) 650-2632

Email: [coda.scholarship@gmail.com](mailto:coda.scholarship@gmail.com)

<http://www.coda-international.org/scholarship>

*(limited to children of deaf adults)*

### **The Geoffrey Foundation**

P.O. Box 1112

Ocean Avenue

Kennebunkport, ME 04046

(207) 967-5798

They do not have a website. For more information, please call the foundation.

*(limited to students who are deaf or hard of hearing and utilizing an auditory/verbal approach to communication)*

### **Graduate Fellowship Fund**

#### **Gallaudet University Alumni Association**

Alumni Office

800 Florida Avenue, NE

Washington, DC 20002

(202) 651-5060 (Voice/TTY)

[http://www.gallaudet.edu/development\\_and\\_alumni\\_relations/alumni\\_relations/alumni\\_association%28guaa%29/the\\_centennial\\_fund/gf\\_fund.html](http://www.gallaudet.edu/development_and_alumni_relations/alumni_relations/alumni_association%28guaa%29/the_centennial_fund/gf_fund.html)

*(limited to Ph.D. students who are hearing impaired)*

### **Incight Scholarships**

Incight

310 SW Fourth Ave, Suite 630

Portland, OR 97204

(971) 244-0305

Email: [questions@incight.org](mailto:questions@incight.org)

<http://www.incighteducation.org/scholarship/>

*(intended for high school students with physical, hearing, vision, and learning disabilities)*

### **Sertoma**

1912 E. Meyer Blvd.,

Kansas City, MO 64132

(816) 333-8300

Email: [infosertoma@sertomahq.org](mailto:infosertoma@sertomahq.org)

<http://www.sertoma.org/Scholarships>

*(limited to students with hearing impairment entering or attending college, or graduate students who are preparing for careers to assist people who have communication disorders)*

### **Travelers Protective Association of America**

The Scholarship Trust

2041 Exchange Drive

St. Charles, MO 63303-5987

<http://www.tpahq.org/scholarshiptrust.html>

*(limited to students who are deaf or hard of hearing)*

## Down Syndrome

### **National Down Syndrome Society O'Neill and Tabani Enrichment Fund**

666 Broadway, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor

New York, NY 10012

(800) 221-4602

Email: [info@ndss.org](mailto:info@ndss.org)

<http://www.ndss.org/Resources/Education/College-Postsecondary-Options1/ONeill-Tabani-Enrichment-Fund/>

*(limited to students with Down syndrome)*

## Epilepsy

### **Epilepsy Foundation Scholarships**

8301 Professional Place East, Suite 200

Landover, MD 20785

(800) 332-1000

<http://www.epilepsy.com/learn/age-groups/youth/work-and-college/scholarships>

### **Epilepsy Foundation of Kentuckiana**

Kosair Charities Centre

982 Eastern Parkway

Louisville, KY 40217

(502) 637-4440 or (866) 275-1078

<http://www.efky.org/scholarship-applications.html>

*(limited to students with epilepsy who live in Kentucky)*

### **UCB Family Epilepsy Scholarship Program**

(866) 825 – 1920

Email:

[ucbepilepyscholarship@summitmedcomm.com](mailto:ucbepilepyscholarship@summitmedcomm.com)

<http://www.ucbepilepyscholarship.com/ProgramInformation.aspx>

*(limited to students with epilepsy)*

## Hemophilia or Von Willebrand Disease or other Bleeding Disorders

### **BioRx / Hemophilia of North Carolina Educational Scholarship Program**

7167 E. Kemper Road

Cincinnati, OH 45249

(866) 442-4679

<http://www.biorxhemophilia.com/hemophilia-scholarships.aspx>

*(limited to students with bleeding disorders)*

### **Eric Dostie Memorial College Scholarship**

41093 County Center Drive

Suite B

Temecula, CA 92591

(800) 323-6832

<http://www.nufactor.com/EricDostieMemorial.aspx?Section=Resources>

*(limited to students with bleeding disorders)*

### **MedPro Rx**

140 Northway Court

Raleigh, North Carolina 27615-4916

(866) 528-4963

Email: [educationispower@medprorx.com](mailto:educationispower@medprorx.com)

<http://www.medprorx.com/scholarship.html>

*(limited to students with bleeding disorders)*

### **Mike Hylton and Ron Niederman Memorial Scholarship**

Attn: Maria Vetter

2202 Brownstone Court

Champaign, IL 61822

(805) 482-6324

Email: [maria.vetter@matrixhealthgroup.com](mailto:maria.vetter@matrixhealthgroup.com)

<http://factorsupportnetwork.com/english/what-we-offer/scholarship-program/>

*(limited to men with bleeding disorders)*

### **Millie Gonzales Memorial Scholarship**

Attn: Maria Vetter  
2202 Brownstone Court  
Champaign, IL 61822  
(805) 482-6324  
Email: [maria.vetter@matrixhealthgroup.com](mailto:maria.vetter@matrixhealthgroup.com)  
<http://factorsupportnetwork.com/english/what-we-offer/scholarship-program/>  
*(limited to women with bleeding disorders)*

### **National Hemophilia Foundation**

**Kevin Child Scholarship**  
7 Penn Plaza, Suite 1204  
New York, NY 10001  
(800) 424-2634  
Email: [handi@hemophilia.org](mailto:handi@hemophilia.org)  
<http://www.hemophilia.org/NHFWeb/MainPgs/MainNHF.aspx?menuid=53&contentid=35>  
*(limited to students with hemophilia or von Willebrand Disease)*

### **Salvatore E. Quinci Foundation**

178 Florence St.  
Melrose, MA 02175  
<http://www.seqfoundation.org/index.php>  
*(limited to students with hemophilia or Hepatitis C, and/or HIV)*

### **Soozie Courter Hemophilia Scholarship Program**

Tel: 1-888-999-2349  
<http://www.hemophiliavillage.com/hemophilia-scholarship-program>  
*(limited to students with hemophilia)*

## **Hydrocephalus**

### **Hydrocephalus Association**

4340 East West Highway  
Suite 905  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
(888) 598-3789  
(301) 202-3811  
<http://www.hydroassoc.org/scholarships/>

*(limited to young adults with hydrocephalus)*

## **Intellectual Disability**

### **Joe Cleres Scholarships for Students with Disabilities**

c/o New Outlook Pioneers Joe Cleres Scholarship Program  
Attn: Donald L. Sage  
1801 California Street, Suite 225  
Denver, CO 80202  
Email: [donlsage@gmail.com](mailto:donlsage@gmail.com)  
<http://www.newoutlookpioneers.org>  
*(limited to student with intellectual disabilities)*

## **Immune Deficiency**

### **Immune Deficiency Foundation**

110 West Road, Suite 300  
Towson, MD 21204  
(800) 296-4433  
Email : [info@primaryimmune.org](mailto:info@primaryimmune.org)  
<http://primaryimmune.org/services/idf-academic-scholarship-programs/>  
*(limited to students with primary genetic immune deficiency)*

## **Learning Disabilities**

### **Anne Ford Scholarship**

National Center for Learning Disabilities, Inc.  
381 Park Avenue South  
Suite 1401  
New York, NY 10016-8806  
800-382-8540  
Email: [AFScholarship@ncl.org](mailto:AFScholarship@ncl.org)  
<http://www.ncl.org/about-us/learning-disability-scholarships-awards/anne-ford-allegra-ford-scholarships-faq>  
*(limited to high school seniors with an identified learning disability who are pursuing an undergraduate degree)*

### **Fred J. Epstein Youth Achievement Award**

Smart Kids with LD  
38 Kings Highway North  
Westport, CT 06880.  
Email: [info@smarkidswithld.org](mailto:info@smarkidswithld.org)  
<http://www.smartkidswithld.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/2015-YAA-form.pdf>  
*(limited to students with LD and ADHD)*

### **Learning Ally**

#### **Marion Huber Learning Through Listening**

20 Rozel Road  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
Email: [KLitvack@learningally.org](mailto:KLitvack@learningally.org)  
<https://naa.learningally.org/apply/>  
*(limited to students who are blind or visually impaired or who have learning disabilities)*

### **P. Buckley Moss Foundation**

#### **Anne & Matt Harbison Award**

152 P. Buckley Moss Drive  
Waynesboro, VA 22980  
(540) 932-1728  
[www.mossociety.org/page.php?id=30](http://www.mossociety.org/page.php?id=30)  
*(limited to high school seniors with learning disabilities who are continuing their education beyond high school and who have been recruited by a society member)*

## **Multiple Sclerosis**

### **National MS Society Scholarship Program Information**

733 Third Ave  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
(507) 931-0471  
Email: [mssociety@scholarshipamerica.org](mailto:mssociety@scholarshipamerica.org)  
<http://www.nationalmssociety.org/living-with-multiple-sclerosis/society-programs-and-services/scholarship/scholarship-program-information/index.aspx>  
*(Limited to HS/GED students with MS or have parents with MS attending a post secondary, undergraduate course of study at an accredited two-or four-year*

*college, university, or vocational-technical school located in the U.S., PR, VI, Guam or any other U.S. territory.)*

## **Physical Disabilities**

### **1-800Wheelchair.com**

320 Roebling Street, Suite 515  
Brooklyn, NY 11211  
(800) 320-7140  
<http://www.1800wheelchair.com/scholarship/>  
*(limited to individuals who in an electric or manual wheelchair)*

### **AmeriGlide Achiever Scholarship**

3901A Commerce Park Dr.  
Raleigh, NC 27610  
(800) 790-1635  
(800) 791-6524 (FAX)  
<http://www.ameriglide.com/scholarship/>  
*(limited to students in a manual or electric wheelchair)*

### **Chairscholars Foundation, Inc.**

Hugo and Alicia Keim  
16101 Carencia Lane  
Odessa, FL 33556  
(813) 926-0544  
(888) 926-0544

Email: [programs@chairscholars.org](mailto:programs@chairscholars.org)  
<http://www.chairscholars.org/index.php/apply-for-a-scholarship/national-program>  
*(limited to high school seniors and college freshmen who have a serious physical disability)*

### **Foundation for Science and Disability, Inc.**

Dr. Richard Mankin, USDA-ARS  
1700 SW 23<sup>rd</sup> Drive  
Gainesville, FL 32608  
352-374-5774  
Email: [rmankin@nervm.nerdc.ufl.edu](mailto:rmankin@nervm.nerdc.ufl.edu)  
<http://stemd.org/>

*(limited to science students with a disability entering or currently in a master's or doctorate program in engineering, math, computer science, or medicine)*

### **Incight Scholarships**

310 SW Fourth Ave, Suite 630  
Portland, OR 97204  
(971) 244-0305

Email: [scholarship@incight.org](mailto:scholarship@incight.org)  
<http://www.incighteducation.org/scholarship/>  
*(intended for high school students with physical, hearing, vision, and learning disabilities)*

### **Joe Cleres Scholarships for Students with Disabilities**

c/o New Outlook Pioneers Joe Cleres Scholarship Program  
Attn: Donald L. Sage  
1801 California Street, Suite 225  
Denver, CO 80202  
Email: [donlsage@gmail.com](mailto:donlsage@gmail.com)  
<http://www.newoutlookpioneers.org>  
*(limited to students who have a physical disability)*

### **Just Health Shops**

11840 West Market Place, Suite H  
Fulton, MD 20759  
(800) 998-7750  
Email: [scholarship@justwalkers.com](mailto:scholarship@justwalkers.com)  
<http://justwalkers.com/mobility-scholarship-program>  
*(limited to students with limited mobility who use a wheelchair, power scooter, crutches, rollator, or other mobility device)*

### **National Amputee Golf Association Educational Scholarship Grant**

Scholarship Grant Program  
701 Orkney Ct.  
Smyrna, TN 37167-6395  
<http://www.washington.edu/doit/national-amputee-golf-association-educational-scholarship-grant#header>  
*(limited amputee members or his/her dependents)*

### **National Amputation Foundation Scholarship**

Attn: Claude S. Weiler Scholarship Coordinator  
40 Church Street, Malverne NY 11565  
<http://nationalamputation.org/scholar1.html>  
*(limited to students who have a major limb amputation)*

### **National Tourism Foundation (NTF)**

**Tony Orlando Yellow Ribbon Scholarship**  
546 East Main Street  
Lexington, KY 40508  
(800) 828-886  
Fax: (606) 226-4414  
Email: [questions@NTA.travel](mailto:questions@NTA.travel)  
<http://www.collegexpress.com/scholarships/tony-orlando-yellow-ribbon-scholarship/11412/>  
*(limited to physical or sensory disability)*

### **Silver Cross Ability Achievement Scholarship**

1005 Skyview Drive, Suite 200  
Burlington, Ontario L7P 5B1  
(800) 572-9310  
Email: [dbaker@silvercross.com](mailto:dbaker@silvercross.com)  
<http://www.silvercross.com/scholarship.html>  
*(limited to students with limited mobility who use a manual or power wheelchair, or mobility scooter)*

## **Sensory Disability**

### **National Tourism Foundation (NTF)**

**Tony Orlando Yellow Ribbon Scholarship**  
546 East Main Street  
Lexington, KY 40508  
(800) 828-886  
Fax: 606 226-4414  
Email: [questions@NTA.travel](mailto:questions@NTA.travel)  
<http://www.collegexpress.com/scholarships/tony-orlando-yellow-ribbon-scholarship/11412/>  
*(limited to physical or sensory disability)*

## Schizophrenia and related schizophrenia-spectrum disorders

### **Baer Reintegration Scholarship**

208 E. 51<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 131,

New York, NY 10022

(800) 809-8202

Email: [baerscholarships@reintegration.com](mailto:baerscholarships@reintegration.com)

<http://www.reintegration.com/resources/scholarships/apply.asp>

*(limited to persons with schizophrenia and related schizophrenia-spectrum disorders)*

## Spina Bifida

### **180 Medical**

Email: [scholarships@180medical.com](mailto:scholarships@180medical.com)

<http://www.180medical.com/scholarships>

*(limited to applicants under a physician's care for a spinal cord injury, spina bifida, transverse myelitis, or neurogenic bladder)*

### **Spina Bifida Association of America**

1600 Wilson Blvd,

Suite 800

Arlington, VA 22209

(202) 944-3285

Email: [sbaa@sbaa.org](mailto:sbaa@sbaa.org)

<http://www.spinabifidaassociation.org/site/c.evKRI7OXIoJ8H/b.8095317/k.9125/Scholarships.htm>

*(limited to students with spina bifida)*

## Visual Impairments

### **American Council of the Blind Scholarship Program**

2200 Wilson Blvd, NW

Suite 650

Arlington, VA 22201

(800) 424-8666

(202) 467-5081

Email: [deetheien@acbes.org](mailto:deetheien@acbes.org)

<http://www.acb.org/scholarship>

*(limited to individuals who are legally blind or visually impaired)*

### **American Foundation for the Blind**

1000 Fifth Ave, Suite 350

Huntington, WV 25701

(800) 232-5463

Email: [tannis@afb.net](mailto:tannis@afb.net)

<https://www.afb.org/info/afb-2015-scholarship-application/5>

*(limited to individuals who are legally blind or visually impaired)*

### **Arthur E. and Helen Copeland Scholarships**

### **Mark Lucas United States Association of Blind Athletes**

1 Olympic Plaza,

Colorado Springs, CO 80909

(719) 866-3019

Email: [msimpson@usaba.org](mailto:msimpson@usaba.org)

<http://usaba.org/index.php/membership/copeland-scholarship/>

*(limited to individuals who are legally blind or visually impaired)*

### **Association of Blind Citizens Scholarship Program**

PO Box 246

Holbrook, MA 02343

Email: [scholarship@blindcitizens.org](mailto:scholarship@blindcitizens.org)

[http://www.blindcitizens.org/abc\\_scholarship.htm](http://www.blindcitizens.org/abc_scholarship.htm)

*(limited to individuals who are legally blind)*

### **Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired Ferrell Scholarship**

1703 N. Beauregard Street, Suite 440

Alexandria, VA 22311

(703) 671-4500

<http://www.afb.org/info/other-scholarships-and-grants-for-students-blind-or-visually-impaired/5>  
*(limited to students who are legally blind)*

**Barbara Jackman Zuckert Scholarship for Blind Students of George Washington University**

Disability Support Services  
George Washington University  
801 22nd St., NW  
Suite 102  
Washington, D.C. 20052  
(202) 994-8250

<https://disabilitysupport.gwu.edu/scholarships>  
*(limited to part-time individuals who are legally blind or visually impaired at The George Washington University)*

**Blinded Veterans Association**

125 N. West Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(202) 371-8880

Email: [temanuel@bva.org](mailto:temanuel@bva.org)  
<http://www.bva.org/services.html>  
*(limited to children and spouses of blinded veterans)*

**Christian Record Services, Inc.**

4444 South 52nd Street  
Lincoln, NE 68516-1302  
(402) 488-0981

Email : [info@christianrecord.org](mailto:info@christianrecord.org)  
<http://services.christianrecord.org/scholarships/index.php?fmt=GR&sid=9ntigh73j9crpjt35oeuug5tn5>  
*(limited to students who are blind or visually impaired)*

**Council of Citizens with Low Vision International (CCLVI)**

**The Fred Scheigert Scholarship Program**

(800) 773-2258  
Email: [scholarship@cclvi.org](mailto:scholarship@cclvi.org)

<http://www.cclvi.org/Scholarship/scholarship.html>  
*(limited to students with low vision or who are entering the field of low vision)*

**Friends In Art Scholarship**

**c/o Wayne Percy**

112 Allston Street  
Apt 3  
Allston, MA 02134

(205) 942-1987

E-mail: [lynnsbrc@gmail.com](mailto:lynnsbrc@gmail.com)

<http://www.friendsinart.com/drupal/scholarship-application>

*(limited to blind or visually impaired students majoring in music, art, drama, or creative writing)*

**GuildScholar Award**

15 West 65<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10023

(800) 284-4422

E-mail: [info@guildhealth.org](mailto:info@guildhealth.org)

<http://www.guildhealth.org/Programs-And-Services-Overview/Awards-And-Scholarships/GuildScholar-College-Scholarships>

*(limited to individuals who are legally blind)*

**Incight Scholarships**

310 SW Fourth Ave, Suite 630  
Portland, OR 97204

(971) 244-0305

Email: [questions@incight.org](mailto:questions@incight.org)

<http://www.incighteducation.org/scholarship/>

*(intended for high school students with physical, hearing, vision, and learning disabilities)*

**Learning Ally**

**Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Awards (SAA)**

20 Rozel Road  
Princeton, NJ 08540

Email: [pbalani@learningally.org](mailto:pbalani@learningally.org)

<https://naa.learningally.org/about-the-awards/>

*(limited to students who are blind or visually impaired or who have learning disabilities)*

### **Lighthouse, Inc.**

111 East 59th Street  
New York, NY 10022  
(800) 284-4422

<http://www.lighthouse.org/aboutus/lighthouse-events/scholarships-and-career-awards/>

*(limited to students who are legally blind who attend schools and have legal addresses in one of these states: Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, or the New England states)*

### **National Federation of the Blind Scholarship Program**

200 East Wells Street at Jernigan Place  
Baltimore, MD 21230  
(410) 659-9314, ext. 2415

Email: [scholarships@nfb.org](mailto:scholarships@nfb.org)

<https://nfb.org/scholarships>

*(limited to students who are blind or visually impaired)*

### **National Federation of the Blind of Washington**

P.O. Box 2516  
Seattle, WA 98111  
(425) 823-6380

<http://www.wssb.wa.gov/content/oncampus/YES%20Scholarship%20CD/HTML/nfbw.htm>

*(limited to individuals who are legally blind)*

## **General Scholarships**

### **American Association of People with Disabilities**

2013 H Street NW, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 457-0046 (V/TTY)  
(800) 840-8844 (Toll Free V/TTY)  
(202) 536-4461 (Fax)

<http://www.aapd.com/take-action/the-aapd-hearne-leadership-awards-program.html>

*(encourages emerging leaders with disabilities of any age)*

### **Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship**

Gilman Scholarship Program Institute of International Education  
1800 West Loop South, Suite 250  
Houston, TX 77027

<http://www.iie.org/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program>

*(limited to undergraduates interested in studying or interning abroad)*

### **disABLEDperson.com National Scholarship**

disABLEDperson, Inc.  
PO Box 230636  
Encinitas, CA 92023-0636  
(760) 420-1269

Email: [info@disabledperson.com](mailto:info@disabledperson.com)

<https://www.disabledperson.com/scholarships/15>

*(encourages college students with disabilities to apply)*

### **Foundation for Science and Disability, Inc.**

Dr. Richard Mankin  
USDA-ARS  
1700 SW 23<sup>rd</sup> Drive  
Gainesville, FL 32608  
(352) 374-5774

Email: [rmankin@nervm.nerdc.ufl.edu](mailto:rmankin@nervm.nerdc.ufl.edu)

<http://www.postgraduatefunding.com/award-1626>

*(limited to science students with a disability entering or currently in a master's or doctorate program in engineering, math, computer science, or medicine)*

### **Through the Looking Glass**

3075 Adeline St., Ste. 120  
Berkeley, CA 94703  
(800) 644-2666 (VOICE)  
TTY: 510.848.1005  
Fax: (510) 848-4445

<http://www.lookingglass.org/scholarships/161-microsoft-announces-scholarships-for-students-with-disabilities> *(limited to parents with significant disabilities or medical conditions)*

## Scholarships Organized According to Field of Study

### Accounting

#### **American Institute of CPAs**

220 Leigh Farm Road  
Durham, NC 27707  
Email: [startheregoplaces@aicpa.org](mailto:startheregoplaces@aicpa.org)  
<http://www.aicpa.org/BECOMEACPA/SCHOLARSHIP/Pages/default.aspx>

### Allergy/Immunology Research

#### **American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology**

AAAAI executive office  
555 E Wells Street, Suite 1100  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
Email: [jschultz@aaaai.org](mailto:jschultz@aaaai.org)  
<https://aaaai.confex.com/aaaai/2014gas/cfp.cgi>  
*(limited to members of AAAAI)*

### Communication Sciences

#### **American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)**

2013 H St. NW, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
<http://www.aapd.com/what-we-do/education/higher-education/Scholarships/scholarships.html>

#### **American Speech and Language Hearing Foundation**

2200 Research Boulevard  
Rockville, MD 20850-3289  
(301) 296-8700  
Fax: (301) 296-8567  
E-mail: [foundation@asha.org](mailto:foundation@asha.org)  
<http://www.ashfoundation.org/recipients/scholarships>

### Computer Science and Related Technical Studies

#### **Microsoft Scholarship**

The Seattle Foundation  
c/o Microsoft Disability Scholarship  
1200- 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 1300  
Seattle, WA 98101  
Email: [scholarships@seattlefoundation.org](mailto:scholarships@seattlefoundation.org)  
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/diversity/programs/microsoftdisabilityscholarship.aspx>

### Creative Arts

#### **Friends In Art Scholarship**

**c/o Wayne Percy**  
112 Allston Street  
Apt 3  
Allston, MA 02134  
(205) 942-1987  
E-mail: [lynnsbrc@gmail.com](mailto:lynnsbrc@gmail.com)  
<http://www.friendsinart.com/drupal/scholarship-application>  
*(limited to blind or visually impaired students majoring in music, art, drama, or creative writing)*

#### **P. Buckley Moss Foundation Anne & Matt Harbison Award**

152 P. Buckley Moss Drive  
Waynesboro, VA 22980  
(540) 932-1728  
<http://mossfoundation.org/educational-scholarships-grants-awards>  
*(limited to members of the P. Buckley Moss Foundation)*

## Hearing Audiology

### **American Speech and Language Hearing Foundation**

2200 Research Boulevard  
Rockville, MD 20850-3289  
(301) 296-8700  
(301) 296-8567  
E-mail: [foundation@asha.org](mailto:foundation@asha.org)  
<http://www.ashfoundation.org/recipients/scholarships/>

### **National AMBUCS™, Inc.**

P.O. Box 5127 High Point, NC 27262  
(800) 838-1845  
(336) 852-6830  
Email: [ambucs@ambucs.org](mailto:ambucs@ambucs.org)  
<http://www.ambucs.org/scholars/>

## Intelligence

### **Central Intelligence Agency**

Central Intelligence Agency  
Office of Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20505  
(703) 482-0623  
Open during normal business hours.  
Fax: (571) 204-3800  
<https://www.cia.gov/careers/student-opportunities/undergraduate-scholarship-program.html>

## Law

### **Donald W. Banner Diversity Scholarship for Law Students**

c/o Christopher Hummel Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.  
1100 13th Street, NW Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20005  
[http://www.bannerwitcoff.com/index.php?option=com\\_bwabout&task=view&id=4](http://www.bannerwitcoff.com/index.php?option=com_bwabout&task=view&id=4) *(limited to students enrolled at an ABA-accredited law school)*

## Library Science

### **The Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA)**

#### **The ALA Century Scholarship**

ALA Scholarship Clearinghouse  
50 E. Huron St.,  
Chicago, IL, 60611  
(800) 545-2433 ext. 4279.  
Email: [scholarships@ala.org](mailto:scholarships@ala.org)  
<http://www.ala.org/ascla/asclaawards/asclacentury>  
*(limited to students with disabilities enrolled at an ALA-accredited library school)*

## Music

### **Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs (MFMC)**

[http://mfmc2.pairserver.com/wordpress/?page\\_id=72](http://mfmc2.pairserver.com/wordpress/?page_id=72)  
*(Limited to student who are blind. To contract MFMC, go to their website and fill out the Contact Us form)*

## Occupational Therapy

### **National AMBUCS™, Inc.**

P.O. Box 5127  
High Point, NC 27262  
(800) 838-1845  
Fax: (336) 852-6830  
Email: [ambucs@ambucs.org](mailto:ambucs@ambucs.org)  
<http://www.ambucs.org/scholars/>

## Personal Training

### **National AMBUCS™, Inc.**

P.O. Box 5127  
High Point, NC 27262  
(800) 838-1845  
Fax: (336) 852-6830  
Email: [ambucs@ambucs.org](mailto:ambucs@ambucs.org)  
<http://www.ambucs.org/scholars/>

## Physical Therapy

### **National AMBUCS™, Inc.**

P.O. Box 5127  
High Point, NC 27262  
(800) 838-1845  
Fax: (336) 852-6830  
Email: [ambucs@ambucs.org](mailto:ambucs@ambucs.org)  
<http://www.ambucs.org/scholars/>

## Public Health

### **American Association on Health and Disability**

AAHD Scholarship Program  
110 N. Washington Street, Suite 328-J  
Rockville, MD 20850  
<http://www.aahd.us/initiatives/scholarship-program/>  
*(limited to college students with disabilities majoring in public health, disability studies, disability research, health promotion or field related to disability and health)*

## Science or Engineering

### **National Federation of the Blind Scholarship Program**

200 East Wells Street at Jernigan Place  
Baltimore, MD 21230  
(410) 659-9314, ext. 2415  
Email: [scholarships@nfb.org](mailto:scholarships@nfb.org)  
<https://nfb.org/scholarships>  
*(limited to students who are blind or visually impaired)*

## Speech and Language

### **American Speech and Language Hearing Foundation**

2200 Research Boulevard  
Rockville, MD 20850-3289  
(301) 296-8700

Fax: (301) 296-8567  
E-mail: [foundation@asha.org](mailto:foundation@asha.org)  
<http://www.ashfoundation.org/recipient/scholarships/>

### **National AMBUCS™, Inc.**

P.O. Box 5127  
High Point, NC 27262  
(800) 838-1845  
Fax: (336) 852-6830  
Email: [ambucs@ambucs.org](mailto:ambucs@ambucs.org)  
<http://www.ambucs.org/scholars/>

## Translation and Interpretation

### **The American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation**

Walter Bacak, CAE, Secretary  
AFTI  
c/o ATA Headquarters  
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 683-6100, ext. 3006  
Fax: (703) 683-6122  
Email: [walter@atanet.org](mailto:walter@atanet.org)  
[www.afti.org](http://www.afti.org)

In addition to organizations listed here, consult other disability-specific advocacy organizations to inquire about possible scholarships.

*July 2015. Authors Reina Guartico and KaMyKa Glenn. Careful review and comments by Dr. Juliana Taymans, Professor of Special Education and Disability Studies at The George Washington University (GWU), Dr. Joan Kester, Assistant Professor of Special Education and Disability Studies at GWU, Chelsea Manchester, Research Assistant at GWU, Eunice Powell, Senior Training Specialist at National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, and Dr. Jessica Queener, Manager of the National Youth Transition Initiative, were gratefully appreciated.*

*Previous authors from earlier editions: January 2014: Jessica Queener and Reina Guartico. 2012: Jessica Queener & Sarah Torres; 2009-2010: Kenny Pope & Jessica Queener, 2007: Daniel Gardner & Michael Ward, 2006: Daniel Gardner & Michael Ward, 2005: Daniel Gardner, 2003: Sarah Fox, 2002: Daniel Gardner, 2001: Daniel Gardner & Tanya Scott, 1998: Daniel Gardner & Anne Reamer, 1997: Daniel Gardner & Rhona Hartman, 1995: Daniel Gardner & Rhona Hartman, 1989: Rhona Hartman previously prepared by Jay Brill & staff at American Council on Education.*

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## APPENDIX A

### PRE-COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST

#### During the Junior Year of High School:

- Explore college profiles and programs. If possible, visit the colleges that most interest you.
- Investigate financial aid opportunities with your high school counselor.
- Write to the college(s) of your choice for applications and financial aid information.
- Begin the application process with Vocational Rehabilitation and/or Social Security.
- If you are involved in Special Education services at your high school, be sure that your Individual Transition Plan (ITP) includes your academic and vocational goals.
- Collect information and document expenses for completing the financial aid forms.

#### By the Senior Year of High School:

- File your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible on or after January 1, 2016. You may file the FAFSA electronically using FAFSA on the internet, which contains built-in edits to help prevent costly mistakes, at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). You may also file a paper FAFSA, obtained from your high school counselor, public library, or any local college's financial aid office.
- Apply for state financial aid before the application deadline and promptly reply to any requests for additional information.
- Review your Student Aid Report (SAR), which is sent to you via e-mail or postal mail after you file the FAFSA, for accuracy. If necessary, correct inaccurate items on-line at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or on the paper SAR, if you receive one.
- Complete and return to the college(s) all application materials and any financial aid documents requested by the college by the date indicated by the institution (usually February/March).
- Keep in touch with the college financial aid offices during the course of the application process to verify that they have received your application data and that they are processing your aid package.
- If you are a VR client, be sure that your counselor is in touch with the financial aid offices at the colleges(s) on your list. Be on time and accurate in filling out the application forms. If possible, have a third party read them and check for accuracy. Keep at least one photocopy of each completed form for your own record in case problems arise.

Adapted from *FinAid! The SmartStudent Guide to Financial Aid*. A Monster Company: FinAid Page, LLC. <http://www.finaid.org/students/checklist.phtml>

## **APPENDIX B FEDERAL STUDENT AID PROGRAM SUMMARY**

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**See Next Pages**

## Federal Student Aid Program Summary

The following chart details the main federal student aid programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Eligibility criteria listed are program specific and in addition to Title IV general student eligibility criteria. Not all schools participate in all of the programs listed.

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Program-Specific Eligibility	Repayment Required
<b>Federal Pell Grant</b>	Need-based grants based on highest financial need as expressed by lowest EFCs (portable) Schools receive Federal Pell Grant funds from ED as needed to pay eligible students	FAFSA required annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual minimum and maximum vary, as set by Congress</li> <li>• \$588 minimum for 2015–16</li> <li>• \$5,775 maximum for 2015–16</li> <li>• Limited to a maximum of 6 Scheduled Awards or its equivalent (e.g., 12 full-time semesters)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undergraduate students without first baccalaureate or professional degree</li> <li>• Certain students enrolled in a post-baccalaureate teacher certification program</li> <li>• Students who qualify for a Federal Pell Grant receive a zero EFC for Federal Pell Grant and for packaging of all other Title IV aid if their parent or guardian died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after 9/11/01, and if the student was less than 24 years old or enrolled in college when the parent or guardian died</li> <li>• Students with intellectual disabilities enrolled in comprehensive postsecondary transition programs</li> <li>• Incarcerated students in federal or state penal institutions are ineligible</li> <li>• Individuals subject to involuntary civil confinement or civil commitment after completion of a period of incarceration for forcible or no forcible sexual crime are ineligible</li> </ul>	No <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Title IV grants do not have to be paid back as a general rule. However, if the student drops out of school, he or she may have to pay back some or all of the grant(s). See Volume 5 of the *FSA Handbook* for additional information.

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Program-Specific Eligibility	Repayment Required
<b>Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant (IASG)</b>	Non-need-based grant program	FAFSA required annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same amount as maximum Federal Pell Grant applicable to award year</li> <li>• When sequestration in effect, reduced by 7.3% when first disbursed on or after October 1, 2014 and before October 1, 2015<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Payments adjusted like Federal Pell Grants for less-than-full-time enrollment</li> <li>• May not exceed student's cost of attendance (COA)</li> <li>• Limited to a maximum of 6 Scheduled Awards or its equivalent (e.g., 12 full-time semesters)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At time of parent's or guardian's death, student must be less than 24 years of age, or, if 24 years of age or older, enrolled at an institution of higher education</li> <li>• Student must not be Federal Pell Grant eligible</li> <li>• Not considered estimated financial assistance (EFA)</li> </ul>	No <sup>1</sup>
<b>Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant</b>	Non-need-based grant program Portable depending on institutional participation	FAFSA required annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$4,000 annual maximum</li> <li>• When sequestration in effect, reduced by 7.3% when first disbursed on or after October 1, 2014 and before October 1, 2015<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• \$16,000 undergraduate aggregate limit (includes post baccalaureate)</li> <li>• \$8,000 graduate aggregate limit</li> <li>• Sequestration has no impact on aggregate limit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain 3.25 GPA on a 4.0 scale, or have scored above 75<sup>th</sup> percentile on single battery of nationally-normed undergraduate, post baccalaureate, or graduate admissions test</li> <li>• GPA/score requirements do not apply to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Current teachers working on graduate degrees or retirees from other occupations with expertise in high-need fields working on graduate degrees</li> <li>➢ Current or retired teachers completing a high-quality alternate route teacher certification program</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Agree to teach full time in a high-need field for at least 4 years within 8 years of graduation at a school serving a high percentage of low-income students (Title I schools)</li> </ul>	Repayment required if student does not fulfill teaching requirement; grant funds become a Direct Unsubsidized Loan

<sup>1</sup>Title IV grants do not have to be paid back as a general rule. However, if the student drops out of school, he or she may have to pay back some or all of the grant(s). See Volume 5 of the *FSA Handbook* for additional information.

<sup>2</sup>Sequestration adjustments are based upon the fiscal year 2015 which ends on September 30, 2015; information beyond this date was not available at the time of publication.

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Program-Specific Eligibility	Repayment Required
<b>Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)</b>	Need-based campus-based grant program Funds awarded by institution	FAFSA required annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$100 annual minimum (may be prorated for less than full-year enrollment)</li> <li>• \$4,000 annual maximum (students on approved study abroad programs may receive up to \$4,400)</li> <li>• No aggregate limit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undergraduate students without baccalaureate or professional degree</li> <li>• Students with intellectual disabilities enrolled in comprehensive postsecondary transition programs</li> <li>• Priority given to Federal Pell Grant recipients with “exceptional financial need” (defined by law as lowest EFCs)</li> </ul>	No <sup>1</sup>
<b>Federal Work-Study (FWS)</b>	Need-based campus-based employment program Funds awarded by institution	FAFSA required annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No minimum or maximum</li> <li>• Award amount is dictated by school policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undergraduate and graduate students</li> <li>• Students with intellectual disabilities enrolled in comprehensive postsecondary transition programs</li> <li>• Students enrolled at least half time in coursework required by a state for teacher certification</li> </ul>	No
<b>Federal Perkins Loan</b>	Need-based campus-based loan program Funds awarded by institution 5% interest	FAFSA required annually Master Promissory Note (MPN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$5,500/year undergraduates</li> <li>• \$8,000/year graduate students</li> <li>• \$11,000 aggregate limit for students who have not yet completed 2 years of undergraduate program</li> <li>• \$27,500 undergraduate aggregate limit</li> <li>• \$60,000 combined undergraduate and graduate aggregate limit</li> <li>• Study Abroad: Annual and aggregate limits may be increased by up to 20%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undergraduate and graduate students</li> <li>• First priority given to students with exceptional need (defined by school)</li> <li>• Must first have determination of eligibility/ineligibility for Federal Pell Grant</li> <li>• Students enrolled at least half time in coursework required by a state for teacher certification</li> <li>• May not make loans to new borrowers after 9/30/2015 except under limited “grandfathering” provisions, see GEN-15-03</li> </ul>	Yes, begins 9 months after cessation of at least half-time enrollment  Deferment and cancellation provisions available

<sup>1</sup>Title IV grants do not have to be paid back as a general rule. However, if the student drops out of school, he or she may have to pay back some or all of the grant(s). See Volume 5 of the *FSA Handbook* for additional information.

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Program-Specific Eligibility	Repayment Required
<b>Federal Direct Student Loan (Direct Loan)—Base Subsidized and Unsubsidized Direct Loans</b>	Originated by school with funds from federal government Need-based subsidized loan, supplemented by non-need-based unsubsidized loan up to combined limit 4.66% fixed interest rate for undergraduate subsidized or unsubsidized loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2014 and prior to July 1, 2015 <sup>3</sup> 1.073% origination fee when first disbursed on or after October 1, 2014 and before October 1, 2015 <sup>2</sup>	FAFSA required annually; MPN obtained from school	<p><b>Annual Loan Limits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$3,500 1<sup>st</sup>-year undergraduates</li> <li>• \$4,500 2<sup>nd</sup>-year undergraduates</li> <li>• \$5,500 each remaining undergraduate year</li> <li>• Undergraduate annual limits prorated for programs and remaining periods of enrollment less than an academic year</li> <li>• \$2,625 for preparatory coursework necessary to enroll in undergraduate program</li> <li>• \$5,500 for preparatory coursework necessary to enroll in graduate or professional degree program if already have baccalaureate</li> <li>• \$5,500/year for teacher certification if already have baccalaureate</li> </ul> <p>Actual amount of subsidized loan cannot exceed COA – EFC – other aid Actual amount of unsubsidized loan cannot exceed COA – other aid</p> <p><b>Aggregate Loan Limits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$23,000 undergraduate aggregate subsidized limit</li> <li>• \$65,500 combined undergraduate and graduate aggregate subsidized limit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undergraduate students enrolled at least half time</li> <li>• Must first have determination of eligibility/ineligibility for Federal Pell Grant (undergraduates)</li> <li>• Must determine eligibility for subsidized loan before determining eligibility for unsubsidized loan</li> <li>• Interest subsidy for undergraduates during at least half-time enrollment, grace period for certain loans, and deferment periods for subsidized loan</li> <li>• New borrowers reaching 150 percent of the published length of the borrower's educational program become ineligible for interest subsidy benefits on all Direct Subsidized loans first disbursed to that borrower on or after July 1, 2013</li> <li>• Unsubsidized loan funds may be used to replace EFC</li> <li>• Under certain conditions to students enrolled in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Coursework required by a state for teacher certification</li> <li>➢ Preparatory coursework (Direct Loan eligibility limited to one 12-month period)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Yes, begins 6 months after cessation of at least half-time enrollment</p> <p>Deferment possible</p> <p>Interest accrues on unsubsidized loan from date of disbursement</p>

<sup>2</sup>Sequestration adjustments are based upon the fiscal year 2015 which ends on September 30, 2015; information beyond this date was not available at the time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Interest rates will adjust each year based upon the 10-Year Treasury Note Index and an add-on. Rates not yet available for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2015.

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Program-Specific Eligibility	Repayment Required
<b>Direct Loan— Additional Unsubsidized Direct Loan</b>	<p>Non-need-based loan</p> <p>Limits are in addition to the “base” limits for the subsidized and unsubsidized loans described above</p> <p>Actual amount of loan cannot exceed COA minus other aid including loans received under base limit</p> <p>4.66% fixed interest rate for undergraduate unsubsidized loans when first disbursed on or after July 1, 2014 and prior to July 1, 2015<sup>3</sup></p> <p>6.21% fixed interest rate for all graduate unsubsidized loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2014 and prior to July 1, 2015<sup>3</sup></p>	<p>FAFSA required annually</p> <p>MPN obtained from school</p>	<p><b>Annual Loan Limits</b></p> <p><i>Dependent undergraduates whose parents <b>can borrow a PLUS:</b></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$2,000/year</li> <li>• Undergraduate annual limits prorated for programs or remaining periods of enrollment less than an academic year</li> </ul> <p><i>Dependent students whose parents <b>cannot borrow a PLUS:</b></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$6,000/year 1st and 2nd undergraduate year</li> <li>• \$7,000 each remaining undergraduate year</li> <li>• Undergraduate annual limits prorated for programs or remaining periods of enrollment less than an academic year</li> <li>• \$7,000/year for teacher certification</li> <li>• \$6,000 for preparatory coursework necessary to enroll in undergraduate program</li> <li>• \$7,000 for preparatory coursework necessary to enroll in graduate or professional degree program if already have baccalaureate</li> </ul> <p><i>Independent students:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$6,000/year 1st and 2nd undergraduate year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at least half time</li> <li>• Must have determination of eligibility/ineligibility for Federal Pell Grant (undergraduate)</li> <li>• Must determine eligibility for subsidized loan before determining eligibility for additional unsubsidized loan</li> <li>• May be used to replace EFC</li> <li>• Under certain conditions to students enrolled in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Coursework required by a state for teacher certification programs</li> <li>➢ Preparatory coursework (Direct Loan eligibility limited to one 12-month period)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Yes, same as subsidized and unsubsidized Direct Loan</p>

<sup>3</sup>Interest rates will adjust each year based upon the 10-Year Treasury Note Index and an add-on. Rates not yet available for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2015.

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Program-Specific Eligibility	Repayment Required
<b>Direct Loan— Additional Unsubsidized Direct Loan (continued)</b>	1.073% origination fee when first disbursed on or after October 1, 2014 and before October 1, 2015 <sup>2</sup>		<p><i>Independent students (continued):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$7,000 each remaining undergraduate year</li> <li>• Undergraduate annual limits prorated for programs or remaining periods of enrollment less than an academic year</li> <li>• \$20,500/year graduate or professional students<sup>4</sup></li> <li>• \$7,000/year for teacher certification</li> <li>• \$6,000 for preparatory coursework necessary to enroll in undergraduate program</li> <li>• \$7,000 for preparatory coursework necessary to enroll in graduate or professional degree program if already have baccalaureate</li> </ul> <p><b>Aggregate Loan Limits</b></p> <p><i>Dependent undergraduates whose parents <b>can borrow</b></i>  <b>PLUS:</b> \$31,000 minus outstanding subsidized amounts</p> <p><i>Dependent undergraduates whose parents <b>cannot borrow</b></i>  <b>PLUS and independent undergraduates:</b> \$57,500 minus outstanding subsidized amounts</p> <p><i>Graduate and professional students:</i> \$138,500 minus outstanding subsidized amounts<sup>4</sup></p>		

<sup>2</sup>Sequestration adjustments are based upon the fiscal year 2015 that ends on September 30, 2015-information beyond this date was not available at the time of publication.

<sup>4</sup>Students in certain health professions programs have higher loan limits.

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Program-Specific Eligibility	Repayment Required
<b>Direct PLUS</b>	Originated by school with funds from federal government 7.21% fixed interest rate for loans to parent borrower of dependent undergraduate students and graduate/professional students when first disbursed on or after July 1, 2014 and prior to July 1, 2015 <sup>3</sup> 4.292% origination fee when first disbursed on or after October 1, 2014 and before October 1, 2015 <sup>2</sup>	FAFSA required annually PLUS MPN obtained from school	No annual or aggregate limits, except parent or graduate/professional student may not borrow more than difference between COA and EFA student is expected to receive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduate/professional students enrolled at least half time</li> <li>• Natural and adoptive parents (and stepparents if included on FAFSA) of eligible dependent undergraduates enrolled at least half time</li> <li>• No adverse credit history</li> <li>• Parent borrower must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Not be in default on a federal loan or owe a repayment on federal student aid</li> <li>➢ Be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen</li> <li>➢ Not be incarcerated</li> </ul> </li> <li>• May be used to replace EFC</li> <li>• Under certain conditions for enrollment in preparatory coursework or coursework required by a state for teacher certification</li> </ul>	Yes, first payment due within 60 days after loan fully disbursed  Deferment possible

<sup>2</sup>Sequestration adjustments are based upon the fiscal year 2015 that ends on September 30, 2015-information beyond this date was not available at the time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Interest rates will adjust each year based upon the 10-Year Treasury Note Index and an add-on. Rates not yet available for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2015.