



Dr. Philip Benjamin Matching Grant Program

What is the Dr. Philip Benjamin Matching Grant Program?

The Dr. Philip Benjamin Matching Grant Program provides the opportunity for the Florida College System (FCS) to have contributions¹ from private donors matched by state appropriations.² Each FCS institution and the statewide FCS Foundation³ are eligible to participate in the program.⁴

How is the program administered?

The program is administered in accordance with rules established by the State Board of Education.⁵ The state board is responsible for specifying the process for the submission and approval of requests for matching funds.⁶

Each FCS institution must establish a matching grant program fund as a depository for private contributions and matching state funds received under the program. The foundation for each FCS⁷ institution is responsible for the maintenance, investment, and administration of the institution's matching grant funds.⁸ Each FCS institution must submit an annual expenditure report to the state board that tracks the use of matching funds, as well as an annual financial audit to the Auditor General and state board for all receipts and expenditures.⁹

The statewide FCS Foundation must also annually submit a financial audit for all receipts and expenditures to the Auditor General and the state board for review.¹⁰

How are state matching grants determined?

Contributions received by February 1st are eligible for state matching funds if the gift has been approved by the board of trustees (BOT) for a FCS institution or the Board of Directors for the FCS Foundation as being in alignment with the applicable entity's mission and goals.¹¹ The state

¹ A contribution is defined as "an unconditional transfer of cash or other assets to an entity in a voluntary nonreciprocal transfer by another entity." Rule 6A-14.0914(2)(a), F.A.C.

² Section 1011.85(1) and (6), F.S.; rule 6A-14.0914(2), F.A.C.

³ The statewide direct-support organization for all FCS institutions, referred to as the FCS Foundation, is established in s. 1004.71, F.S., and is authorized to receive, hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures to, or for the benefit of, FCS institutions in this state. Section 1004.71(1), F.S.

⁴ Section 1011.85(2), F.S.

⁵ Section 1011.85(1), F.S.; rule 6A-14.0914, F.A.C.

⁶ Section 1011.85(10), F.S.; rule 6A-14.0914, F.A.C.

⁷ Direct-support organizations, referred to as foundations, for individual FCS institutions are authorized by s. 1004.70, F.S.

⁸ Section 1011.85(9), F.S.;

⁹ Sections 218.39, 1010.30, and 1011.85(4)(b), F.S.

¹⁰ Sections 1004.70 and 1004.71, F.S.

¹¹ Section 1011.85(2) and (4), F.S.; rule 6A-14.0914(1) and (2), F.A.C.

board submits a request for state matching funds for eligible contributions as part of its Legislative Budget Request.¹²

The matching ratio for contributions specifically designated to support scholarships, student loans, or need-based grants is \$1 of state funds to \$1 of contributions.¹³ The matching ratio for contributions for other eligible purposes is \$4 of state funds to \$6 of contributions with a minimum required contribution of \$4,500.¹⁴

FCS institutions are required to notify private donors when there is a substantial delay in the availability of state matching funds for this program.¹⁵

What are the allowable uses for the funds?

The BOT of a FCS institution and the state board are responsible for determining the uses of the program funds by each institution. Allowable uses include, but are not limited to expenditures for: scientific and technical equipment; scholarships, loans, or need-based grants; and other activities that will benefit current and future students, improve the quality of education at the institution, or enhance economic development in the community.¹⁶

How much funding has been provided for the program?

State matching funds were not appropriated for the program for the 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11 FYs. The last state appropriation was for the 2007-08 FY in the amount of \$48,658,783.¹⁷ The Legislature has appropriated a total of \$324,220,860 in matching funds¹⁸ for the program since its creation in 1983.¹⁹

Where may I obtain additional information?

Florida Department of Education

Division of Florida Colleges
(850) 245-0407

Florida House of Representatives

Education Committee
(850) 488-7451
<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>

¹² See Florida Department of Education, Education Budget Request, *2010-11 Education Budget Request*, <http://www.fldoe.org/cefo/budget.asp> (last visited June 15, 2010).

¹³ Section 1011.85(5), F.S.

¹⁴ Section 1011.85(6), F.S.; rule 6A-14.0914(2) and (5), F.A.C.

¹⁵ Section 1011.85(12), F.S.

¹⁶ Section 1011.85(11), F.S.

¹⁷ Specific Appropriation 12A, s. 1, ch. 2007-72, L.O.F.

¹⁸ Florida College System, *Matching Programs Historical Summary*, at 1 (June 18, 2009).

¹⁹ Section 18, ch. 83-325, L.O.F., *codified at* s. 240.36, F.S. (1983), *subsequently renumbered as* s. 1011.85, F.S.