



## **First Generation Matching Grant Program**

### **What is the First Generation Matching Grant Program?**

The First Generation Matching Grant (FGMG) Program provides the opportunity for each institution in the State University System (SUS) and Florida College System (FCS)<sup>1</sup> to receive state matching grant funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis for private contributions that support need-based financial aid for undergraduate first generation college students.<sup>2</sup>

### **What is a "first generation" college student?**

A student is considered "first generation" if neither of the student's parents earned a college degree at the baccalaureate level or higher. A student is also eligible if he or she regularly resided with and received support from only one parent who did not earn a baccalaureate degree.<sup>3</sup>

### **Which entity administers the FGMG Program?**

Each participating institution administers the program on its respective campus. Each institution must:

- ❖ Establish an application process.
- ❖ Determine student eligibility for initial and renewal awards.
- ❖ Identify the amount of the award for each recipient and notify recipients of their awards.<sup>4</sup>
- ❖ Report to the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) within the Florida Department of Education (DOE) the amount of funds disbursed to each recipient for each academic term.<sup>5</sup>
- ❖ Report annually to the Governor, Legislature, and Board of Governors the eligibility requirements for recipients; the aggregate demographics of recipients; the retention and graduation rates for recipients; and a delineation of the funds awarded to recipients.<sup>6</sup>

### **What are the student eligibility criteria for the FGMG Program?**

To be considered for a grant, a student:

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<sup>1</sup> Current statutory provisions relate only to SUS institutions; however, the Legislature has appropriated funds for FGMG Program Grants at institutions in both the SUS and FCS. Specific Appropriation 4, s. 1, ch. 2010-152, L.O.F. Additionally, the Department of Education has implemented the FCS program in the same manner as the SUS program. See Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance, *2010-11 First Generation Matching Grant Program Fact Sheet*, <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/factsheets/FGMG.htm> (last visited October 1, 2010) [hereinafter *FGMG Fact Sheet*].

<sup>2</sup> Section 1009.701(1) and (2), F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Section 1009.701(5)(b), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Section 1009.701(4), F.S.

<sup>5</sup> Section 1009.701(7), F.S.

<sup>6</sup> Section 1009.701(8), F.S.

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- ❖ Must have resided in Florida for at least one year prior to receipt of the grant and must be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen.<sup>7</sup>
- ❖ Must be a first generation college student.<sup>8</sup>
- ❖ Must be accepted at a SUS or FCS institution and enroll in a minimum of six credit hours per term as a degree-seeking undergraduate student.<sup>9</sup>
- ❖ May not have previously received a baccalaureate degree.<sup>10</sup>
- ❖ Must demonstrate financial need in the manner required for a Florida Public Student Assistance Grant; i.e., the student must apply for a Federal Pell Grant by completing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid*, which determines the amount of the student's estimated family contribution, and must demonstrate a minimum unmet financial need of \$200.<sup>11</sup>
- ❖ May not owe a repayment or be in default on any state or federal grant, loan, or scholarship program unless satisfactory arrangements for repayment have been made.<sup>12</sup>
- ❖ Must meet any additional eligibility requirements established by the institution.<sup>13</sup>

### ***What are the renewal criteria for the FGMG Program?***

Renewal procedures are established by the SUS and FCS institutions. Students should consult with their postsecondary institutions for renewal requirements and application procedures and deadlines.<sup>14</sup>

### ***How are grant recipients selected and award amounts determined?***

Institutions in the SUS and FCS are required to determine the eligibility of each student applicant for an initial or renewal grant award and to calculate the award amount.<sup>15</sup> The award amount is based on the student's need assessment after any scholarship or grant aid has been applied, including a Bright Futures Scholarship or a Pell Grant. An award may not exceed the institution's estimated annual cost of attendance for the student to attend the institution.<sup>16</sup> Grant awards are distributed to eligible students according to a need-based selection process developed by the institution until funding for the program is depleted.<sup>17</sup>

### ***Where may a student use a grant award?***

The grant may be used at any of the 11 institutions in the SUS or 28 institutions in the FCS.<sup>18</sup> A list of these institutions is available on the DOE's website.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Sections 1009.21 and 1009.701(5)(a), F.S.; *FGMG Fact Sheet*, *supra* note 1.

<sup>8</sup> Section 1009.701(5)(b), F.S.; *FGMG Fact Sheet*, *supra* note 1.

<sup>9</sup> Section 1009.701(5)(c) and (d), F.S.; *FGMG Fact Sheet*, *supra* note 1.

<sup>10</sup> *FGMG Fact Sheet*, *supra* note 1.

<sup>11</sup> Sections 1009.50(2) and 1009.701(5)(e), F.S.; *FGMG Fact Sheet*, *supra* note 1.; *see also* Florida Public Student Assistance Grant Fact Sheet.

<sup>12</sup> *FGMG Fact Sheet*, *supra* note 1.

<sup>13</sup> Section 1009.701(5)(f), F.S.

<sup>14</sup> Section 1009.701(4), F.S.; *FGMG Fact Sheet*, *supra* note 1.

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> Section 1009.701(6), F.S.

<sup>17</sup> Section 1009.701(4), F.S.;

<sup>18</sup> Section 1009.701(1), F.S.; *FGMG Fact Sheet*, *supra* note 1.

### ***How is the FGMG Program funded?***

Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the program are allocated by OSFA to match private contributions received by SUS and FCS institutions on a dollar-for-dollar basis. OSFA is required to reserve a proportionate allocation of the total appropriated funds for each institution on the basis of full-time equivalent enrollment. State funds that remain unmatched by an institution as of December 1 must be reallocated to institutions that have remaining unmatched private contributions for the program on the basis of full-time equivalent enrollment.<sup>20</sup>

The 2009-10 General Appropriations Act (GAA) provided \$6,848,120 for the FGMG program with \$5,148,120 of that amount allocated to SUS institutions and \$1,700,000 allocated to FCS institutions.<sup>21</sup> This appropriation combined with private donations resulted in a total of \$13,692,940 being available for grant awards in the 2009-10 academic year. A total of 15,677 students were eligible for the grants at SUS and FCS institutions in that year. Of this number, 9,628 students received awards with 4,869 students receiving awards at SUS institutions in the average amount of \$2,113.97 and 4,759 students receiving awards at FCS institutions in the average amount of \$714.44.<sup>22</sup>

The 2010-11 GAA provides \$6,574,195 for the FGMG Program. Of these funds, \$4,924,195 were allocated to institutions in the SUS and \$1,650,000 to institutions in the FCS.<sup>23</sup> When combined with the required private donations, the total amount available for grants for the 2010-11 FY exceeds \$13 million.

### ***Where may I obtain additional information?***

#### ***Department of Education***

Office of Student Financial Assistance  
1-888-827-2004  
(850) 410-5200  
<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org>

#### ***Florida House of Representatives***

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

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<sup>19</sup> Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance, *2010-11 First Generation Matching Grant Program Eligible Public Institutions*, [https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/admin/SAWELIGPSI\\_ByProg.asp?ByProg=FGMG](https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/admin/SAWELIGPSI_ByProg.asp?ByProg=FGMG) (last visited September 30, 2010).

<sup>20</sup> Section 1009.701(2), F.S.; specific appropriation 4, s. 1, ch. 2010-152, L.O.F.

<sup>21</sup> Specific Appropriation 4, s. 1, ch. 2009-81, L.O.F.

<sup>22</sup> Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance, *End of Year Report 2009-2010 – First Generation Matching Grant*, (September 1, 2010), available at [https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/pdf/EOY\\_Reports.asp?year=2009](https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/pdf/EOY_Reports.asp?year=2009).

<sup>23</sup> Specific Appropriation 4, s. 1, ch. 2010-152, L.O.F.

