

## Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship

Beginning with the 2018-2019 aid year, a Pell Grant eligible student whose parent or guardian died in the line of duty while serving as a public safety officer is eligible, under the Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship, to receive a maximum Federal Pell Grant offer amount.

Federal Pell Grants are offered to both full- and part-time undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's or professional degree. In certain situations, an eligible student can receive up to 150% of their scheduled Federal Pell Grant for an aid year.

Please note that any changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) data may result in an adjustment to your Federal Pell Grant, including but not limited to:

- Review of your FAFSA due to [verification](#).
- Enrollment of less than full-time (12 credits for undergraduate). We recommend that you contact our office to discuss how part-time enrollment may impact your offer(s).
- Corrections made by staff due to conflicting university data.

The University of Maryland (UMD) is required to monitor its students' academic progress (SAP) to ensure that they maintain a minimum standard GPA and make steady progress towards degree completion. Students who do not meet the [SAP requirements](#) may lose their financial aid eligibility.

You will receive an electronic notification each time your financial aid offer has been adjusted.

To qualify, a student must:

- Be Pell Grant eligible.
- Have a Pell Grant eligible EFC greater than \$0.
- Be less than 24 years of age **OR** enrolled at an institution of higher education at the time of their parent or guardian's death.

A public safety officer is defined as:

- An individual serving a public agency in an official capacity, with or without compensation, as a law enforcement officer, firefighter or chaplain.
- An employee of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) who is performing official duties of the agency, if those official duties are:

- related to a major disaster or emergency that has been, or is later declared to exist with respect to the area under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; and
  - determined by FEMA to be hazardous duties
- An employee of a state, local or tribal emergency management or civil defense agency who is performing official duties in cooperation with FEMA, if those official duties are
  - related to a major disaster or emergency that has been, or is later declared to exist with respect to the area under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; and
  - determined by the agency to be hazardous duties
- A member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew who, as authorized or licensed by law and by the applicable agency or entity, is engaging in rescue activity or in the provision of emergency medical services.
- A fire police officer, defined as an individual who is serving in accordance with state or local law as an officially recognized or designated member of a legally organized public safety agency and provides scene security or directs traffic in response to any fire drill, fire call or other fire; rescue or police emergency; or at a planned, special event.

A parent or guardian includes non-custodial parents, step-parents and parents of independent students. In all cases, the parent/guardian status at the time of death is the qualifying eligibility criterion. This may be different from the current parent/guardian status.

If you meet the above criteria please [complete the application](#) and submit it along with all supporting documents to UMD's Office of Student Financial Aid.

Decisions will be sent to the student's UMD email address. Eligible students will see the financial aid offer on their [My FinAid](#) account updated to include the maximum Federal Pell Grant. If a student is determined to be eligible and continues to meet all eligibility criteria, the Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship will automatically carry forward into future academic years.