



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Keith New, 717-720-2509
knew@pheaa.org

PHEAA Reminds Students of Approaching 2018-19 PA State Grant Application Deadline

May 1 is the deadline for need-based PA State Grant applications

Harrisburg, PA (April 20, 2018) – The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) is reminding students and families that the 2018-19 PA State Grant application filing deadline is May 1. This deadline applies to all renewal applicants and first-time applicants who plan to enroll in colleges, universities, or a college transfer program at 2-year public or private colleges (except community colleges and designated Pennsylvania Open Admission institutions).

To apply for a PA State Grant, applicants must first complete the 2018-19 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). Applicants can access this form online at PHEAA.org/FAFSA or fafsa.gov. Completing the FAFSA online saves time and reduces application and processing errors.

In addition to completing the FAFSA, first-time applicants must also submit a completed PA State Grant Form (SGF). First-time applicants who submit the FAFSA® online will be automatically redirected to the SGF by following the onscreen prompts on the confirmation page. First-time applicants who have already submitted their FAFSA but have not completed the SGF will receive an email directing them to PHEAA's secure Account Access site for completion. Both applications are free to submit.

Information provided by applicants when submitting an online FAFSA is automatically applied to portions of the SGF to increase accuracy and convenience.

"The PA State Grant Program is a financial lifeline for many college-bound students who are struggling to pay for school," said Representative Mike Peifer, PHEAA Board Chairman. "Since the program is need-based, it provides the greatest benefits to those who have the most financial need - and unlike a student loan, a grant is gift aid which does not need to be repaid."

(more)

First-time applicants who plan to enroll in a community college, business, trade, or technical school, a hospital school of nursing, a designated Pennsylvania Open Admission institution, or a non-transferable 2-year degree program at a community, 2-year or 4-year college have until August 1, 2018 to complete their PA State Grant application.

“When paying for college, students should always take advantage of all available gift aid, such as grants and scholarships, before taking out a student loan,” said Senator Wayne D. Fontana, PHEAA Board Vice Chairman. “With the PA State Grant deadline approaching on May 1, students should not miss this opportunity to make their education more affordable while avoiding the burden of unnecessary student loan debt.”

2018-19 is also the first year that students enrolled in otherwise eligible Distance Education (DE) courses will be able to participate in the PA State Grant Program. Previously, state law prohibited DE students, as defined by taking more than 50 percent of their coursework online, from participating in the program. Recognizing that DE had become an effective and widely used method to receive a postsecondary education, especially in rural areas, the General Assembly amended the law to be more responsive to the needs of today’s students.

Students and families are encouraged to visit PHEAA on Facebook, at facebook.com/pheaa.aid, where they can learn more about the higher education financial aid process, reminders of financial aid deadlines, and information pertaining to planning for higher education. Additionally, video tutorials explaining the student aid process and types of aid available can be found at YouTube.com/PHEAAstudentAid.

#

About PHEAA

Created in 1963 by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) has evolved into one of the nation’s leading student aid organizations. Today, PHEAA is a national provider of student financial aid services, serving millions of students and thousands of schools through its loan guaranty, loan servicing, financial aid processing, outreach and other student aid programs.

PHEAA’s earnings are used to support its public service mission and to pay its operating costs, including administration of the Pennsylvania State Grant and other state-funded student aid programs. PHEAA continues to devote its energy, resources and imagination to developing innovative ways to ease the financial burden of higher education for students, families, schools and taxpayers.

PHEAA conducts its student loan servicing activities nationally as FedLoan Servicing and American Education Services (AES). For more information, visit www.pheaa.org.