

## Human Services Careers Scholarship Program

[Maryland Higher Education Commission](#)

Office of Student Financial Assistance  
6 North Liberty Street, Ground Suite  
Baltimore, MD 21701  
(410) 767-3300; (800) 974-0203  
TTY for the Deaf - (800) 735-2258



### Eligibility Requirements:

- A scholarship recipient/applicant must be a Maryland resident or graduate from a Maryland high school.
- A scholarship recipient/applicant shall be accepted for admission or currently enrolled at a public higher education institution in the State in a program that will enable the recipient to obtain a credential or degree that is necessary to work in or further a career in “Targeted Positions” in the Department of Human Services.
- A “Targeted Position” is defined as in one of the following job classifications in an “Eligible County.” Currently eligible counties include Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Prince George’s County;
  - Child Support Series
  - Family Investment Specialist Series
  - Family Support Worker Series
  - Family Services Caseworker Series
  - Social Worker Series
- A scholarship recipient/applicant must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent.
- A scholarship recipient/applicant will enter into a written agreement with the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), in the form and manner prescribed by both agencies to fulfill the service obligation. From the date of initial award, the student has 8 years to fulfill the service obligation. The service obligation requires a scholarship recipient to work in a targeted position for 15 months for each academic year the scholarship is awarded, regardless of the amount of credit hours or semesters completed during the academic year.

**Individuals may not falsify or conceal a material fact in connection with their application. If so, the applicant may be subject to criminal prosecution.**

**Failure to meet any of these eligibility requirements, will result in the cancellation of the scholarship.**

**The Office of Student Financial Assistance must be notified in writing of any address and/or telephone number changes.**

**NOTE: If the recipient fails to remain eligible for the award, the recipient must still fulfill the obligation of the promissory note.**

**Scholarship Amount:**

Pursuant to Maryland Code, Education § 18-3902 the annual award amount will cover 100% of tuition and mandatory fees.

*The scholarship will be canceled if the recipient fails to meet and maintain each eligibility requirement. A recipient who is academically ineligible will forfeit the award, and must reapply as an initial applicant in a subsequent award year and meet and maintain each eligibility requirement. A student transferring from one institution to another may continue to receive the award as long as the student meets all of the scholarship eligibility requirements.*

**Distribution of Multiple Awards of Financial Assistance:**

A student may receive one or more awards of student financial assistance administered by the Commission if:

- Eligibility requirements are met for each type of student financial assistance received; and
- The total of all student financial assistance received does not exceed the student's total direct cost of education as certified by the institution the student is attending.

A student who receives multiple awards of student financial assistance that have a service obligation requirement:

- Must fulfill the terms of each service obligation; and
- May not fulfill the service obligations concurrently.

A student who receives multiple awards of student financial assistance that exceeds the student's total direct cost of education will be reduced down to the direct cost.

**Note: Scholarship awards are subject to the availability of funds.**

**Payment to Your Institution:**

At the beginning of each semester, the recipient's institution will be asked to certify that the student meets the requirements of the award. When the institution completes the certification and requests payment, the award will be processed. Payment to the institution will be made approximately four weeks after the institution completes certification and requests payment. The student must contact their institution's financial aid office for questions about the payment status of their award.

**Service Obligation:**

MHEC and DHS will work jointly to identify when scholarship recipients have begun service and track recipients' service on an annual basis. On an annual basis, DHS will report recipients currently employed to MHEC.

Recipients must sign and return a promissory note agreeing to begin fulfillment of the service obligation within 8 years upon receipt of the Scholarship.

The service obligation begins after the initial awarding of the scholarship, and can be fulfilled anytime within 8 years of initial receipt of the scholarship. If the recipient does not complete their degree, the recipient will be obligated to repay the scholarship with interest.

### **Repayment of Scholarship Funds Due to Unfulfilled Service Obligation:**

Pursuant to Maryland Code, Education §18-112, a Scholarship Recipient shall repay to the Commission the funds received if the student does not:

- Satisfy the degree requirements of the eligible course of study or program or fulfill other requirements as provided in this subtitle, or
- Perform the Service Obligation within 8 years after initial receipt of the scholarship.

Pursuant to Maryland Code, Education § 18-3901, scholarship funds must be repaid if the service obligation is unfulfilled within the 8 year period following the initial award:

- The amount to be repaid for a failure to perform the service obligation shall be:
  - Equal to the total amount of funds received; or
  - As determined by the commission.
- The scholarship is nonrefundable.
- The amount of the scholarship shall be reduced if the total amount of scholarship funds and additional resources exceed tuition and mandatory fees.

**Note:** Scholarship is subject to rules and regulations of the Maryland Higher Education Commission. The benefits of the scholarship apply solely to the Pilot Program for Human Services Careers Scholarship established by Human Services Article §2-303 and Education Article Subtitle 39 (§18-3901-18-3904)