

**COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP  
 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS  
 2009-2010**

**General Information and Application**

**Q: What is the College Bound Scholarship?**

**A:** The Washington College Bound Scholarship is a commitment to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders whose families are unable to pay for college. To receive the College Bound Scholarship, which promises annual college tuition and a yearly \$500 book allowance, students must graduate high school, be accepted to college, meet the income requirements, and be crime free.

**Q: What is the family income requirement?**

**A:** You are eligible to apply for the College Bound Scholarship if your family meets one of these requirements:

- You are eligible for the free and reduced-price lunch program
- Your family receives basic food/TANF benefits
- You are a foster youth
- You meet the family income standards (see chart below)

When you graduate from high school, your family income from that year will be used to verify eligibility for the scholarship.

**2009-2010 Income Eligibility**

| Family Size                   | 2008 Income<br><i>(Family income must be less than or equal to this amount based on family size)</i> | Monthly Income |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------|
| 2                             | \$27,000   | \$2,250        |
| 3                             | \$33,900   | \$2,825        |
| 4                             | \$40,800   | \$3,400        |
| 5                             | \$47,700   | \$3,975        |
| 6                             | \$54,600   | \$4,550        |
| 7                             | \$61,600   | \$5,125        |
| 8                             | \$68,500   | \$5,700        |
| Each additional family member | Add \$6,900  | Add \$575      |

**Q: How do I apply for the College Bound Scholarship?**

**A:** You and your parent/guardian(s) must complete and sign the College Bound Scholarship application.

When you fill out the application, you promise to:

- Do well in middle school and high school, and graduate with a cumulative high school grade point average of 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- Continue to be a good citizen and not commit a felony
- Apply for financial aid in your senior year of high school by submitting a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The Web-based application is available on the HECB Web site at [www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound).

Paper applications also are available. The signature page or paper application should be signed and sent to:

**College Bound Scholarship  
P.O. Box 43430  
Olympia, WA 98504-3430**

**Q: What if my family's income is greater than the income standard, can I apply anyway?**

**A:** No. You must meet one of the eligibility requirements to apply for the College Bound Scholarship. For other ways to pay for your college education visit [www.hecb.wa.gov/paying](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/paying) or [www.get.wa.gov](http://www.get.wa.gov).

**Q: Is there a deadline?**

**A:** The deadline is June 30 of your 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.

## College Bound Eligibility

**Q: Are home-school students and private school students eligible?**

**A:** Yes. When completing the application select or write "home-school" for the name of the school. Private school students also are eligible to apply.

**Q: What if I do not have a social security number?**

**A:** If you do not yet have a Social Security Number (SSN), your school's State Student Identification Number (SSI) can be used on the application. Your school office will have this number or you can find it on your WASL scores. However, to receive the scholarship you will be required to provide your SSN upon high school graduation.

**Q: Do I have to be a U.S. citizen to receive the scholarship?**

**A:** Any 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader who meets the family income criteria may apply for the scholarship. When you complete the financial aid application (FAFSA) in your senior year, you will need to have a social security number. In order to receive the scholarship, you must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen based on standards for federal financial aid.

**Q: What does it mean to be a "good citizen"?**

**A:** In order to receive the scholarship, you must not be convicted of a felony.

**Q: Why is the Grade Point Average requirement a 2.0?**

**A:** The College Bound Scholarship is designed to provide hope and incentive to low-income students who may not consider college due to concerns about cost. At most four-year institutions, a 3.0 GPA is necessary for admission, but we do not want to discourage anyone from applying for the scholarship, and many participating students will earn a GPA that is much higher than the requirement.

The scholarship can be used at two- and four-year institutions, including private career schools, community and technical colleges, public colleges and universities, and private four-year colleges. Students in the program will receive information, advising, and support (from the HECB, local organizations, and schools) to plan and succeed with a pre-college curriculum.

**Q: How will I know if my College Bound application was accepted?**

**A:** You will receive a College Bound Scholar certificate when we receive your application. If you did not fill out the application completely, we will tell you what additional information is needed in order to process your application. If you do not hear from us within eight weeks of submitting your application, please contact us at 1-888-535-0747.

## Family Income and Financial Eligibility

### **Q: How do I know what my family income is?**

**A:** Your parent/legal guardian(s) will use the adjusted gross income from their 2008 U.S. tax return plus any untaxed income (such as child support, social security benefits, etc.). They may also use their current monthly income from all sources. If they are not required to file taxes, they will use their total income from all sources. All foster youth are eligible regardless of income.

### **Q: What if my parents are separated or divorced?**

**A:** If your parents are divorced or separated, you are generally part of the household of the parent that has custody of you. If you live with each parent equally and one parent meets the income eligibility, you are eligible.

### **Q: How do I determine my family size?**

**A:** The College Bound Scholarship program defines family size as everyone for whom your parent/guardian is responsible and provides over half of their support.

### **Q: What if I am not living with my parents?**

**A:** In cases where the child lives with one parent, other relatives or family friends, the child is considered a member of the household with whom s/he resides.

### **Q: I am a foster youth. Whose income should I use and who should sign the application?**

**A:** As a foster youth, you are automatically eligible to apply. The adult who is legally responsible for you (foster parent, social worker, or custodial parent) should sign the application. Regardless of where you live, if you are the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court, you are eligible for College Bound.

### **Q: What if my family income changes between now and when I graduate from high school?**

**A:** When you enroll in college, your family income will be confirmed using information on your financial aid application. In order to receive the College Bound Scholarship, your family income must fall within the guidelines used for the Washington State Need Grant program. If your family income level is too high at that time to qualify for the scholarship, you will receive information about other financial aid options and resources. Visit [www.hecb.wa.gov/Paying](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/Paying)

### **Q: What will the income requirement to receive the scholarship be when I graduate from high school?**

**A:** When you enroll in college your income eligibility will be verified using your financial aid application (FAFSA) information. In order to receive the scholarship, your family's income during your senior year of high school must fall within 65% of the state's median family income per the guidelines used for the Washington State Need Grant program. For 2009-10, the income cutoff for a family of four would be \$50,500.

### **Q: What if my family's income changes and I lose eligibility for the scholarship when I graduate?**

**A:** You will receive information regarding financial aid and scholarship opportunities, which will allow you to apply on time and receive good financial aid packages based on your circumstances. The loss of the College Bound Scholarship would not affect your eligibility for other aid sources.

### **Q: What if my family circumstances change?**

**A:** Your eligibility for the scholarship will be determined based on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Your financial circumstances during your senior year of high school will determine which parent(s) should be included on the FAFSA. If your family has questions, they should contact the financial aid office of the college you plan to attend.

## The Scholarship Award

**Q: How much is the scholarship award?**

**A:** The scholarship award amount will be based on tuition rates at Washington public colleges and universities, and can be used at any approved college or university in Washington – including private two- and four-year colleges. The College Bound Scholarship award amount will be based upon tuition and fees (plus \$500 for books) that is not covered by other state financial aid awards.

**Q: When I graduate from high school, how do I get the scholarship?**

**A:** Before you can receive your scholarship, you must apply and be accepted to college and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). After you graduate high school, your name will be on a list available to eligible colleges and universities in Washington. Colleges will verify your high school graduation, grade point average, and family income. You will receive your scholarship through your college or university if you still meet all of the eligibility criteria. You must continue to earn good grades in college to continue receiving awards.

**Q: How long will I have to use my scholarship?**

**A:** You may use your scholarship within five years of high school graduation or until you earn your bachelor's degree. You must maintain a 2.0 GPA and make satisfactory academic progress while in college.

**Q: What if I need more money to go to college than College Bound gives me?**

**A:** Most students will need and qualify for more assistance than just the College Bound Scholarship. By completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year along with other financial aid materials, most students will receive additional grants, scholarships, work-study employment, and possibly offers of student loans.

If you are eligible, these financial aid packages will allow you to receive assistance for room and board, personal expenses, and transportation. College Bound students will learn about financial aid processes and programs and will be able to apply early for financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

**Q: Where can I use the College Bound Scholarship?**

**A:** You will be able to use the College Bound Scholarship to earn certificates and degrees at Washington public community and technical colleges, public four-year institutions, many approved accredited independent colleges and universities, and private career schools. You will find a list of participating institutions on our Web site <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/Paying/waaidprgm/documents/SNGInstitutionlist.pdf>.

**Q: Whom do I contact for help?**

**A:** For additional information, contact the College Bound Scholarship help line at 1-888-535-0747 or e-mail [collegebound@hecb.wa.gov](mailto:collegebound@hecb.wa.gov).