

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS 2010-2011

### 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 you meet 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
- Your family meets the 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.

**2010-2011 Income Eligibility**

Family Size	2009 Income (Family income must be less than or equal to this amount based on family size)	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 by submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in a timely manner during your senior year of high school.

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

Paper applications also are available. The signature page for the online application or paper application must 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 are also eligible to apply.

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

**A:** To receive the scholarship, you will be required to provide your SSN to the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB). If you do not yet have a SSN, use your school's State Student Identification Number (SSI) on the application. Ask your school for this number or find it on your Measure of Student Progress (MSP) scores. **By law HECB is required to keep this number secure. No other agency has access to this number.**

**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 in a pre-college curriculum.

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

**A:** You will receive a College Bound Scholarship certificate when we receive your completed application. If you do not hear from us within eight weeks of submitting your application, call 1-888-535-0747 or e-mail [collegebound@hecb.wa.gov](mailto:collegebound@hecb.wa.gov).

**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 2009 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 more than 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 65% of the state median family income. 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. For 2010-2011, 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.

## Receiving the Scholarship

**Q: How do I receive the scholarship?**

**A:** Besides fulfilling the pledge, in your *senior year of high school* you must:

- Apply and be accepted to an eligible institution in Washington that participates in the State Need Grant program [www.hecb.wa.gov/Paying/waaidprgm/documents/SNGEligibleInstitutions2010-11.pdf](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/Paying/waaidprgm/documents/SNGEligibleInstitutions2010-11.pdf)
- File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) before the priority deadline set by the college you wish to attend.

**Q: How will colleges know I am a College Bound Scholar?**

**A:** After you graduate high school, your name will be on a list available to eligible colleges and universities. Colleges will verify your high school graduation, grade point average, and family income. If you meet the eligibility criteria, you will receive your scholarship through your college or university. You must continue to earn good grades in college to continue receiving awards.

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

**A:** You can use the College Bound Scholarship at Washington public community and technical colleges, public four-year institutions, many approved, independent colleges and universities, and private career schools. You will find a list of participating institutions on our website [www.hecb.wa.gov/Paying/waaidprgm/documents/SNGEligibleInstitutions2010-11.pdf](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/Paying/waaidprgm/documents/SNGEligibleInstitutions2010-11.pdf)

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

**A:** The scholarship award amount will be based on tuition rates at Washington public colleges and universities. It will cover tuition and fees (plus \$500 for books) that are not covered by other state financial aid awards such as the State Need Grant.

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

**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 eligible 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: Do I have to go to college right after I graduate or can I take a year off?**

**A:** You may take time off, but you must enroll in college no later than the fall term of the year after you graduate from high school. For example, if you graduate by August 2012 you must enroll in college by fall 2013.

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

**A:** You will receive the College Bound Scholarship for no more than four academic years within a five-year period. Depending on the academic program you choose, you may earn a certificate, technical degree, or a bachelor's degree. You must maintain satisfactory academic progress while in college.

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

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