



LOUISIANA'S
MJ FOSTER
PROMISE PROGRAM

Q&A

WHAT IS THE MJ FOSTER PROMISE AWARD?

The MJ Foster Promise Award is a financial assistance award available to Louisiana residents who are 21 and older to help pay for tuition and fees at a Louisiana two-year post-secondary educational institution or Louisiana Board of Regents approved proprietary school in order to pursue a course of study that leads to a high demand job in a field that meets Louisiana's workforce needs.

HOW MUCH IS THE AWARD?

The maximum award amount is \$3,200 per year for a full-time student to be applied to tuition and fees only. The Award amount for students attending less than full time will be proportional to the number of hours in which the student is enrolled. A recipient may receive a maximum of \$6,400 over a period of 3 years. Some recipients may receive the full \$6,400 in one year, provided that the student is enrolled in certain high-cost programs that are less than one year long.

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFIED PROGRAMS OF STUDY?

The five workforce sectors include construction, health care and social assistance, information technology, manufacturing, and transportation and warehousing. [Click here for a list of all courses of study that are aligned with these workforce sectors.](#)

WHAT SCHOOLS CAN I ATTEND ON A PROMISE AWARD?

Currently LSU Eunice, Southern University at Shreveport, and all schools within the Louisiana Community and Technical College System. Proprietary schools which are licensed by the Louisiana Board of Regents may also participate. [Click here for a full list of eligible proprietary schools.](#)

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible you must meet all of the following:

- Louisiana resident two years prior to applying.
- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be at least twenty-one years of age.
- Have a High School Diploma or a GED OR enroll in a GED program at the same time you pursue an Award-eligible course of study.
- Not have earned an associate degree or higher.
- Not be incarcerated.
- Not been convicted of any crime of violence ([click here for the complete list of crimes of violence as defined in Louisiana law](#)),
- Applicants must first submit a FAFSA for the academic year in which they will be enrolled in a qualified program, then complete the M.J. Foster Promise Application to be considered for the award.
- Have completed the on-line MJ Foster Promise Application
- Agree to work full time in Louisiana for at least one year following the completion of the academic program.
- Agree to perform at least twenty hours of community service OR participate in an apprenticeship, internship, or mentorship program during each year the award is received.
- Have been unemployed or underemployed during the 6 months prior to applying OR have family income that is not greater than 300% of the federal poverty level for a family of your size.

I WAS NOT A RESIDENT FOR THE FULL TWO YEARS; IS THERE ANY WAY I MIGHT STILL BE ELIGIBLE?

You may be eligible if you have not lived in Louisiana for two full years prior to applying if you are or were a member of the Armed Forces and have received an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions. Contact us at MJFoster.Promise@la.gov to find out if you qualify under these exceptions.

IS THIS A LOAN PROGRAM?

No. You are not required to repay any amounts received under this program. However, you are required to remain and work in Louisiana for at least one year after you finish your program of study.

WHEN WILL THE PROGRAM BEGIN?

We are now accepting applications for MJ Foster Promise and the program is set to begin with the 2022-2023 academic year. Student awards are available on a first-come, first-served basis so eligible students are encouraged to apply now.

HOW IS THE AWARD PAID TO ME?

The Award is paid directly to the school you attend for application towards the tuition and fees for your program of study.

WHAT IF I ALREADY HAVE A SCHOLARSHIP?

Since MJ Foster Promise is a “last dollar award,” any scholarships and grants you have will be paid first, and then the Award will be applied to any remaining balance of tuition and fees owed. If you do not owe any tuition and fees after your scholarships and grants are applied, you will not receive an Award under this program.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO KEEP THE AWARD?

You must:

- Maintain steady academic progress:
 - If enrolled full-time, make progress sufficient to graduate within 100% of the time allotted for completion of the award. For example, if completion time is one academic year, you must complete sufficient coursework to complete the program within that year.
 - If enrolled part-time, make progress sufficient to graduate during the time period for which you may receive an award. The maximum time period that you may receive an award is three years, so you must complete sufficient coursework to complete your program within this time period.
- Remain in good standing at your school.
- Maintain continuous enrollment:
 - Earn at least one short-term credential per year if enrolled in a program other than an associate degree program.
 - Enroll in the fall and spring semester if enrolled in an associate degree program.
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.00 calculated on a 4.00 scale in a program for which grades are issued.
- Not be incarcerated.
- Have no conviction for a crime of violence.
- Have received an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions.
- Have received the award for less than three years.
- Have earned not more than 60 hours of credit while receiving the Award.
- Certify the completion of at least twenty hours of community service or participation in an apprenticeship, internship, or mentorship during the previous academic year.
- Annually complete the FAFSA
- Annually complete the MJ Foster Promise on-line application.

