

Can I get additional Pell Grant funds if my parent died in the line of duty?

The [FAFSA Simplification Act](#) changed eligibility for what were formerly called “Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants (IASG)” and “Children of Fallen Heroes (CFH) Scholarships.”

Beginning with the 2024-25 award year, students who meet the eligibility requirements for Pell Grants under the Special Rule in the *Higher Education Act* (HEA) Section 401(c) will receive a maximum Pell Grant award, regardless of their calculated [Student Aid Index \(SAI\)](#).

To receive a Pell Grant based on [eligibility under the Special Rule](#), a student must be

- **the child of a parent or guardian who died in the line of duty** while either serving on active duty as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces on or after Sept. 11, 2001, or actively serving as and performing the duties of a public safety officer; and
- **younger than 33 years old** as of the January 1 prior to the award year for which the applicant is applying (e.g., For the 2024–25 award year, a student must be younger than 33 years old as of Jan. 1, 2024, to be eligible.).

Students who received a grant under Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant or Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship criteria during the 2023-24 academic year but don't meet eligibility under the Special Rule may still receive a maximum Pell Grant under legacy eligibility.

Other aid for these students will be based on their calculated SAI.

How do I apply?

You should start by submitting a [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA®\) form](#). You will have to [fill out the FAFSA form](#) every year that you're in school in order to stay eligible for federal student aid.

[Learn more about staying eligible for federal student aid while you're in school.](#)