

Howard P. Rawlings Guaranteed Access (GA) Grant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q. What is the Guaranteed Access Grant?

The **Howard P. Rawlings Guaranteed Access (GA)** Grant is a grant that provides postsecondary financial assistance to eligible in-state students currently enrolled as high school seniors who will complete a college preparatory program or a student who has obtained a General Educational Development Diploma (GED), and is under the age of 26. The amount of the GA Grant equals 100 percent of the student's financial need and a student may receive an award for up to **\$20,000**.

Q. What is the deadline date?

Applicants must submit all required documents by **March 15, 2023** for priority consideration.

Q. Can I still be awarded if I submitted the documents after the March 15, 2023 deadline?

Yes. Documents submitted after March 15, but before May 15 may be considered, based on the availability of funds. Documents will not be accepted after this date.

Q. What if my high school transcript does not include my 1st semester grades?

If the high school transcript does not include the 1st semester grades, you must submit your high school report card showing quarter 1 and quarter 2 grades **with** your transcript.

Q. If I cannot get access to the IRS Tax Return Transcript, what other documentation can I submit?

Students selected for verification may submit a **signed** 1040 tax return from the 2021 tax year.

Q. What if I did not file taxes but I earned income from work?

The student or parent must submit a copy of their W-2s and the MHEC non-filing Form or the IRS Verification Non-Filing Letter.

Q. What if I am unable to retrieve my W-2 from my employer, what other documentation can I submit?

If you're unable to retrieve the W-2 from your employer, you may request a 2021 IRS Wage and Earning Income transcript. The Wage and Earning Income transcript can be requested through the IRS by visiting www.irs.gov.

Q. Where can I find the required documents needed for the Guaranteed Access Grant?

You may view a complete listing of the required documentation online through MDCAPS under the "Check Application Status" page.

Q. Where can I submit all the required documents?

Students may submit required documentation to MHEC or an institution that elected to participate in completing verification for initial applicants, who have **applied** for admissions or renewal applicants, who received a GA Grant at their institution in the previous year.

Q. Can the Guaranteed Access Grant be used at an out of state college?

No. The Guaranteed Access Grant can only be used at a Maryland college or university.

Q. If I am ineligible for the award am I able to appeal?

Students may review allowable appeal options on our website by clicking [here](#).