**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)** Grantis 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 **$19,300**. ​

**Q. What are the income requirements for consideration of the award?**

For students to be considered for the award, they must meet the annual income requirements. The annual income requirements can be viewed on the **Howard P. Rawlings Guaranteed Access (GA)** Grantwebpage.

**Q. What is the deadline date?**

In order for students to be eligible for the award, all documents must be submitted by **April 1, 2022** for priority consideration.

**Q. Can I still be awarded if I submitted the documents after the April 1, 2022 deadline?**

Yes. Documents submitted after April 1 but before May 15 may be considered, based upon the availability of funds.

**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, MHEC can accept a report card showing quarter 1 and quarter 2 grades earned during the student’s senior year in high school.

**Q. What 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 2020 tax year by the deadline in order to determine eligibility for the award.

**Q. If I cannot get an IRS Non-filing letter from the IRS, what other documentation can I submit to verify income?**

Our office has created a MHEC non-filing letter that is available on the student’s MDCAPS account for students or parents who have not filed taxes. The non-filing form will only appear on a student’s MDCAPS account if the student or parent indicated they did not file taxes.

**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 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 2020 IRS Wage and Earning Income transcript. The Wage and Earning Income transcript can be requested through the IRS by visiting [www.irs.gov](http://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. When will awards be made academic year?**

Awarding will occur by May 1. If the student submitted all documents after April 1, awarding will occur by July 1. All awards are based on the availability of funds.

**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](https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog_appeals.aspx).