

The logo features a stylized orange arrow pointing upwards and to the right, positioned above a dark blue silhouette of the state of Mississippi. An orange hand is shown reaching up from the bottom right, appearing to hold or support the state outline.

MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE *of*
STUDENT
FINANCIAL AID

State Aid Update

2025 MASFAA Annual Conference

April 23-25, 2025



Primary Undergraduate Grants

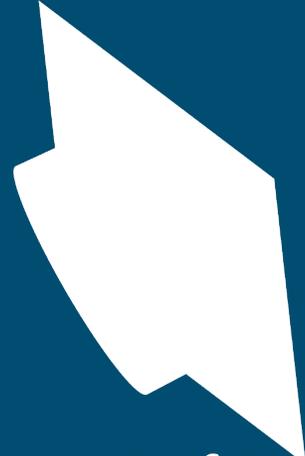
- Need: HELP – Higher Education Legislative Plan Grant
 - Requirements: MS Resident; FAFSA (Pell-eligible); Income; 20 ACT; 2.5 GPA; HELP Core Curriculum; Full-time*
 - Award: Full tuition for 4 years*
- Residency: MTAG – Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant
 - Requirements: MS Resident; NOT max Pell; 15 ACT; 2.5 GPA; Full-time*
 - Award: F/S \$500; J/S \$1,000; 4 years*
- Merit: MESG – Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant
 - Requirements: MS Resident; 29 ACT; 3.5 GPA; Fulltime*
 - Award: \$2,500 for 4 years*

www.msfinancialaid.org





Other Undergraduate Grants

- 
- 
- FAITH – Fostering Access and Inspiring True Hope Scholarship
 - Requirements: MS Resident; FAFSA; Under Age 25; Meet 1 of 3 Foster Youth Definitions; Maintain SAP and 2.0 GPA; Half-time*
 - Award: Up to COA for 5 years*
 - LAW – MS Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters Scholarship
 - Requirements: MS Residency: Child (under age 23) or Spouse of Deceased/Disabled Officer or Firefighter; Maintain 2.5 GPA; Full-time*
 - Award: Full tuition and housing; 4 years*
 - NISS – Nissan Scholarship

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Other Programs

➤ Graduate Loans:

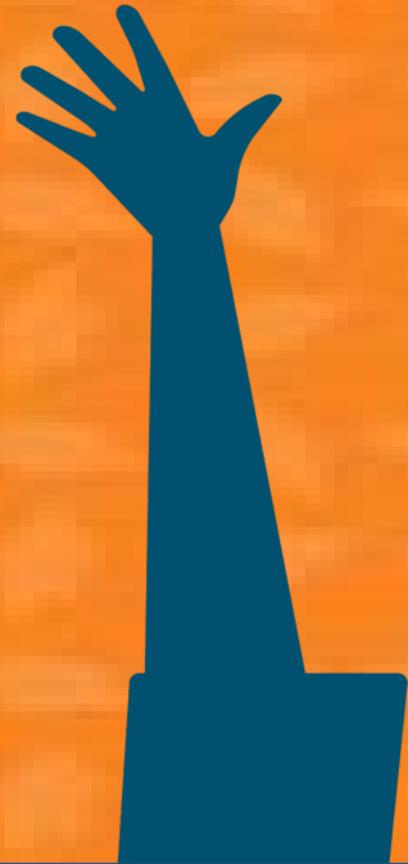
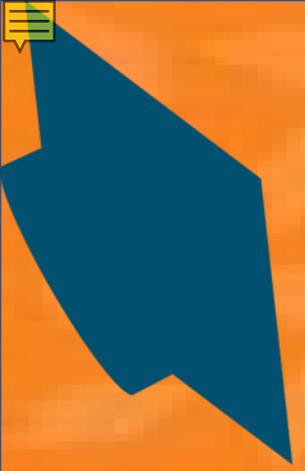
- CNDT – Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Forgivable Loan
- SLPL – Speech-Language Pathologist Forgivable Loan
- SREB – SREB Regional Contract Forgivable Loan – Optometry

➤ Loan Repayment:

- NULR – Nurse Retention Loan Repayment (licensed nurses)
- WRTR – Winter-Reed Teacher Loan Repayment (licensed teachers)

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Budget News

FY 2025 Appropriation

FY 2026 Appropriation

FY 2026 Budget

FY 2025 SFA Appropriation

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
SFA Appropriation: SB 3013	
General Funds (Includes DE/DC)	\$ 51,952,895
Special Funds	\$ 5,350,000
Reappropriated FY24 Funds	<u>\$ 2,000,000</u>
Subtotal	\$ 59,302,895
Coronavirus Relief Funds for NULR	<u>\$ 5,385,824</u>
TOTAL	\$ 64,688,719

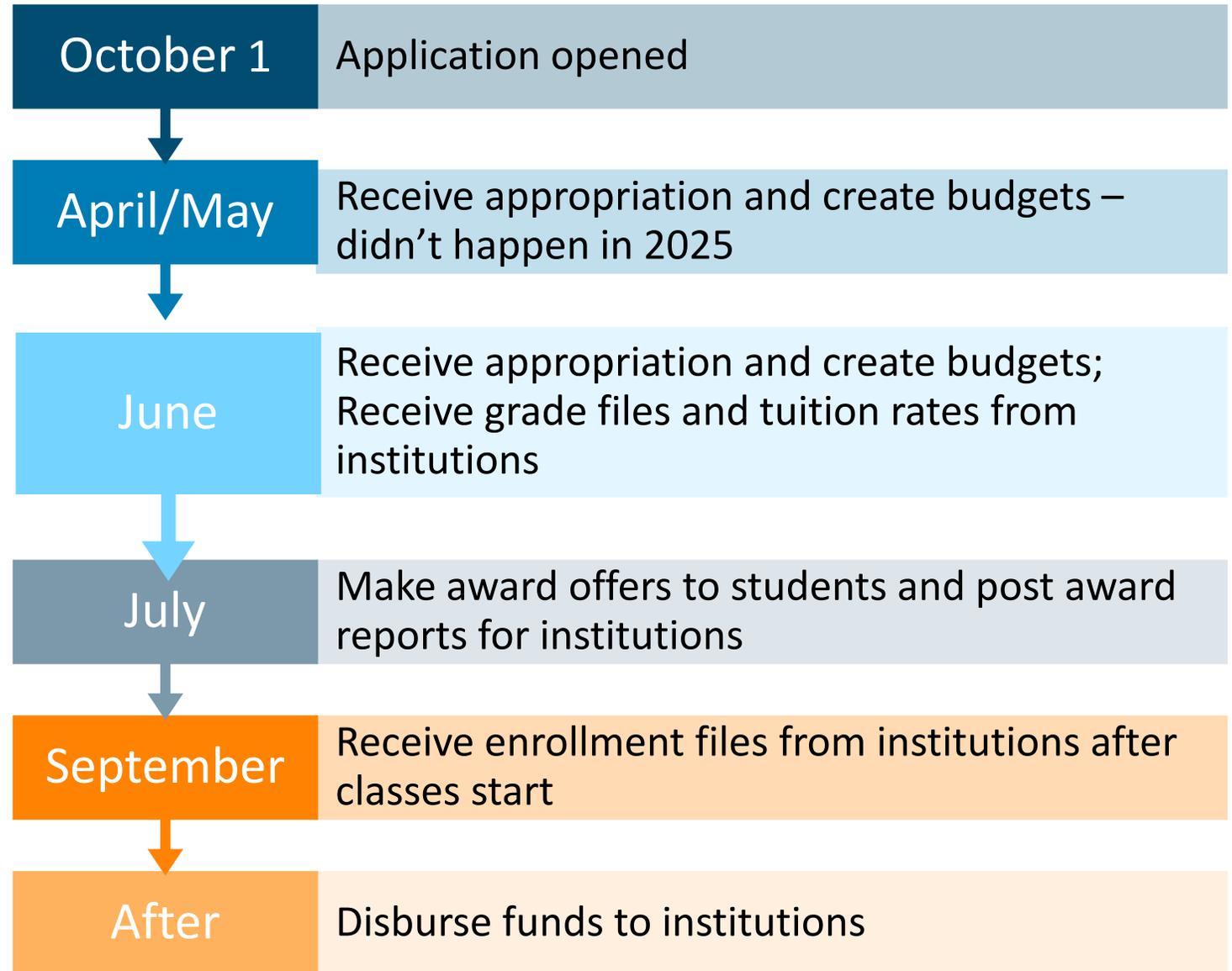
FY 2026 SFA Appropriation????

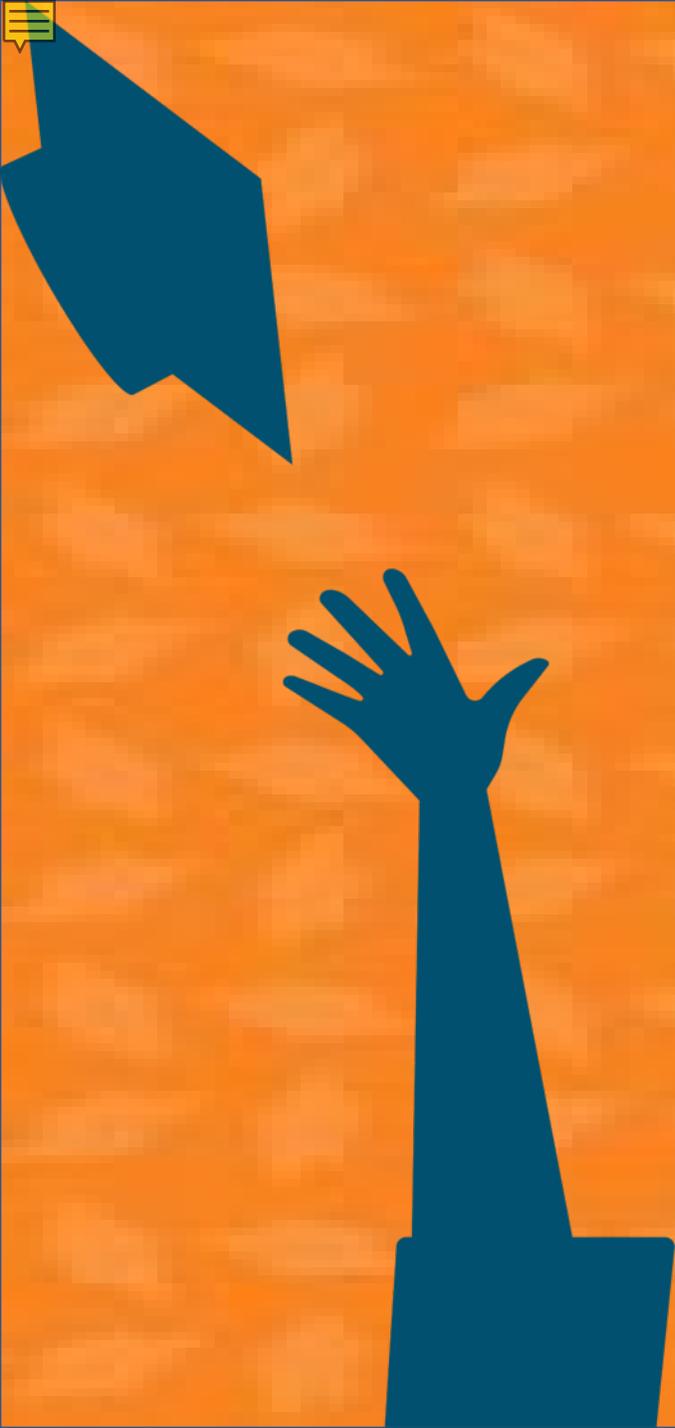
<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
SFA Appropriation: SB 3009 (DEAD)	
General Funds	\$ 47,234,949
FY24 & FY 25 General Funds Carryover	\$ 5,622,837
Special Funds	\$ 8,361,000
Reappropriated FY 25 Special Funds	<u>\$ 250,000</u>
Subtotal	\$ 61,468,786
Coronavirus Relief Funds for NULR	<u>\$ 4,400,000</u>
TOTAL	\$ 65,868,786

FY 2026 Budget

Allocation	Projected Awards	Projected Amount
Total Administration		\$ 1,419,680
MTAG	17,216	\$ 10,071,068
MESG	3,919	\$ 9,111,443
HELP	<u>4,585</u>	<u>\$ 33,822,972</u>
Total Grants	25,469	\$ 53,005,482
Total Forgivable Loans & WRTR	472	\$ 2,882,624
Total Other Programs	411	\$ 4,161,000
NULR	<u>400</u>	<u>\$ 4,400,000</u>
	Total Programs	<u>\$ 64,449,106</u>
TOTAL BUDGET	26,752	\$ 65,868,786

Budget & Award Process for 2025-2026 Awards





Policy and Other Updates

HELP Income Threshold Changes

Full-Time Enrollment Changes

FAITH Scholarship FAQs

Institutional ID Field on Reports



HELP
Income
Threshold
Changes

\$42,500 Income Threshold in Code

Threshold Capped at \$39,500 in
Appropriation Bills

Threshold Cap Being Removed in
FY 2026 Appropriation Bill

Change Will Increase Awards
\$2.5M for 350 Recipients

Full-Time Enrollment Changes

- Undergraduate Grants Requiring Full-Time Enrollment:
 - MTAG
 - MESG
 - HELP
 - LAW
 - NISS
- Full-Time Enrollment Definition for State Aid:
 - 15 Credit Hours per Term (since 2016-17)
 - 12 Credit Hours per Term (beginning 2025-26)
 - Eligible for renewal IF completed 12 Credit Hours in Spring
- Increase \$2.55M for 3,800 students



FAITH FAQs

Q: Does FAITH cover study abroad?

A: No longer. No unnecessary education costs can be included in FAITH COA.

Q: Are students adopted out-of-state eligible?

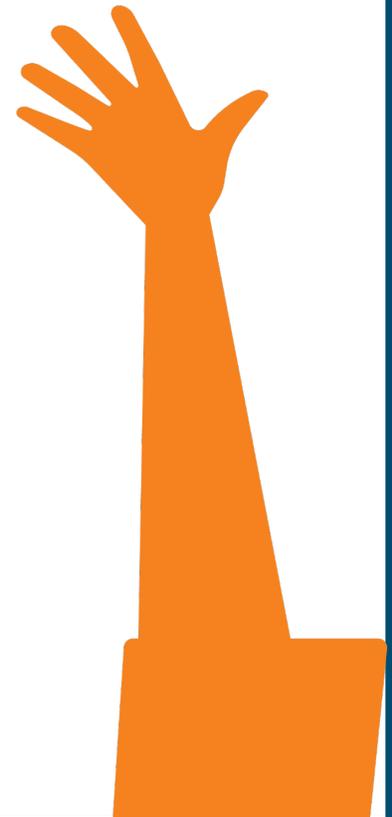
A: No. Only foster youth adopted from MS CPS or a MS qualified living facility are eligible.

Q: Is the HH Allowance available for all FAITH students?

A: No. The HH Allowance is ONLY available at institutions that provide such accommodations.

Institutional ID Field on Reports

- Institutional ID field will be added to all SFA reports: Grade, Enrollment, Award, Disbursement
- Institution provides ID in designated field on SFA reports
- ID will be stored in Oracle
- When provided, ID will appear on all future SFA reports and in MAAPP





Institutional Resources

- Information for Institutional Financial Aid Administrators: <https://www.msfinancialaid.org/institutional-info/>
- Policies and Procedures Manual: <https://www.msfinancialaid.org/reports-policies/policies-and-procedures-manual/>
 - Part 605 – General Administration Rules and Regulations
- MAAPP: <https://maapp.msfinancialaid.org/#/account/login>
- SFA Office Contacts:
 - Beverly Jackson – bjackson@mississippi.edu
 - Brandon Johnson - bjohnson@mississippi.edu

Webpage for Institutions

From the SFA Homepage

www.msfinancialaid.org/institutional-info/

This screenshot shows the SFA Homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Apply 2020-2021 Aid Year' and 'Dashboard Login | Request Account'. Below this is a banner that says 'Don't Forget to Apply for Federal Aid!'. The main content area is divided into three columns: 'Undergraduate Programs', 'Graduate Programs', and 'Other: Loan Repayment Program'. Each column has a 'Select One' dropdown menu. Below these are three orange buttons: 'How to Submit Documents', 'Submit an Appeal', and 'Take 15! Cont Full-time Enrollment'. On the right side, there is a vertical menu with links for 'Forgivable Loan Repayment Info', 'Institutional Info' (circled in red), 'Postsecondary Board Info', and 'Reports & Policies'. At the bottom, there are two orange buttons: 'FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS' and 'GLOSSARY & TERMS'.

This screenshot shows the 'Institutional Info' page. The header includes the 'MISSISSIPPI OFFICE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID' logo and social media icons. Below the header is a navigation bar with links for 'Submit and View Application', 'Grants and Scholarships', 'Forgivable Loans and Repayment', and 'High School Counselors'. The main content area is titled 'Institutional Info' and features the 'MAAPP MISSISSIPPI AID APPLICATION' logo. Below the logo, there are sections for 'Institutional Deadlines', 'Processes and File Formats', and 'Submitting Grades'. The 'Submitting Grades' section includes a search bar and a 'FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS' button. At the bottom, there is a 'GLOSSARY & TERMS' button. The footer contains a search bar and a 'FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS' button. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'www.msfinancialaid.org/institutional-info/'.

General Policies

- Full-time, continuous enrollment
- 12 *earned* hours = full-time for state aid
- State follows federal guidelines for dependency status
- Residency for state aid is NOT the same as residency for tuition
- State accepts grades/GPA reported by school ONLY

Residency Documents (2 Required)

Preferred

- FAFSA
- MS Driver's License

Accepted

- State Income Tax Returns
- Homestead Exemption
- Voter Registration
- Vehicle Registration

Issues for Appeal

- Continuous or full-time enrollment
 - Near-degree
 - Exceptions considered for one term only
 - No appeal will be accepted and no aid will be disbursed for any semester carrying less than 6 hours
 - Personal Event
 - Serious medical problem, illness, accident, injury, divorce, abuse, death of an immediate family member, or military service
 - Internship
 - Must be required and/or lead to earned credit
- SAP - Will follow institution
- Will NOT hear appeals related to deadline dates, residency, GPA, or ACT scores

When to Return Funds

- If the student withdraws or drops to below full-time status before state financial aid funds are disbursed to the student
- “Disbursed”:
 - When the institution makes the funds unconditionally available to the student
 - If the institution uses its own funds to advance payment of the funds
 - In no case are funds considered to be disbursed to the student before the Office receives verification of enrollment.

Balancing & Certification



Refund Roster



Balancing Certification Statements WITH Refunds



**Issues
&
Reminders**

Timeliness of Grade and
Enrollment Files

Institutional Deadlines Document
Updated

Utilize Reports & Information
in MAAPP



Legislative Hot Topics

MS Promise - Free College

MissCATEE – Free CTE

MS Reconnect – Adult Free College

Loan Repayment Programs

Open Forum

Questions

Issues & Concerns

General Contact Information

Phone: (601) 432-6997

Toll-free: (800) 327-2980

Web: www.msfinancialaid.org

MISSISSIPPI OFFICE
of STUDENT FINANCIAL AID 

