



ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

Federal Pell Grant 7.4

Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Program

POLICY STATEMENT

An otherwise Pell-eligible student whose parent or guardian died as a result of U.S. military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001, may receive increased amounts of federal student aid if the student was less than 24 years old when the parent or guardian died, or was enrolled at an institution of higher education at the time of the parent or guardian's death. There are two different provisions for such students, depending on whether the student has an EFC that falls within the range for Pell eligibility or not.

Zero EFC treatment for children of soldiers

A school must use an EFC of 0 to package all federal student aid if the student meeting the above criteria has a Pell-eligible EFC. (Note that the zero EFC is only used for packaging purposes; you do not actually change the student's calculated EFC.) When submitting an origination to COD for a student of this type, you must include the CPS transaction containing the Department of Defense Match Flag set to "Y," or the award will not be accepted. A student with an EFC that is not Pell eligible is potentially eligible to receive an award under the new Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grant program (see Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grant below).

Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant

To receive the Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grant, the student must have an EFC that is not Pell eligible. (The student must meet the other criteria for Pell eligibility.) Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grants are made under the same terms and conditions as Pell, and disbursements for each payment period are calculated in the same manner as described in this chapter for Pell. July 30, 2010 E-Announcement; February 11, 2011 E-Announcement; February 21, 2012 E-Announcement, April 26, 2013 E-Announcement Due to the sequester, all Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grant award amounts first disbursed on or after March 2, 2013 must be reduced by 10%. For example, a student otherwise eligible for a Grant of \$5,645 (the maximum Scheduled Award for 2013-14) the grant would be reduced by \$564.50, resulting in a grant of \$5,080.50. A second or subsequent disbursement(s) of Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grant funds for which the first disbursement was made on or before March 1, 2013 is not subject to the 10% reduction. When submitting an origination to COD for a student receiving an Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant, you must include the CPS transaction containing the Department of Defense Match Flag set to "Y," or the award will not be accepted. The award may not exceed the student's cost of attendance. Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants are not considered Estimated Financial Assistance for packaging purposes.

Identification of eligible students & notification by ED:

The Department will notify the student when a student appears to meet the criteria for Zero EFC treatment for children of soldiers and the Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grant, based on a match with a Department of Defense (DoD) file of eligible dependents. The match will be performed when a student submits a FAFSA or FAFSA correction (and periodically thereafter). When an

eligible student is identified, ED will generate a Central Processing System (CPS) transaction for the student, and the resulting ISIR will include a “DoD Match Flag,” associated comment code 298, and the parent or guardian’s date of death (2013-2014 Federal Student Aid Handbook, Volume 3, Chapter 3, page 3-43).

REASON FOR POLICY

This section is required [H.R. 4137](#)

PROCEDURES

NSC will assign checklist item NFIASG to students with comment code 298. NSC will use the flag and date of the parent or guardian’s death, along with the student’s calculated EFC, to determine if the student is eligible for either Zero EFC treatment for children of soldiers or an award under the Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grant program. If a student is awarded under either provision of this policy, the FAA will add the Department of Defense Match override in PeopleSoft Database Matches to the student’s record for transmission to COD.

CONTACTS

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RELATED INFORMATION

July 30, 2010 E-Announcement; February 11, 2011 E-Announcement; February 21, 2012 E-Announcement, April 26, 2013 E-Announcement

HISTORY

Updated July 9, 2014