

LOSFA



The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) is a state agency and the administrative arm of the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission and the Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority. Our vision is “to be Louisiana’s First Choice for College Access” and our Mission is “To Promote and Provide College Access”. The LOSFA philosophy is “Education is the door to a productive and satisfying life for the citizens of Louisiana and is an essential ingredient for a healthy economy and a capable and motivated workforce. Financial assistance opens that door”.

www.osfa.la.gov

LOSFA Administered State Programs

Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) is Louisiana’s premier merit-based scholarship. TOPS rewards eligible high school graduates with an amount equal to tuition and certain fees at Louisiana public post-secondary institutions or a portion of their tuition at institutions that are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU). Certain recipients may also be eligible for an additional stipend.

TOPS Tech is a merit-based tuition award for students seeking vocational or occupational certification in a technical post-secondary program.

Early Start Program provides tuition assistance to eligible 11th and 12th grade students from public high schools that enroll in eligible college courses for dual credit at an eligible public or private college or university.

TOPS Tech Early Start provides up to \$600 per academic year for any eligible 11th or 12th grade student attending a Louisiana PUBLIC high school who wishes to concurrently enroll for up to six credit hours per semester at a public college in a vocational course of study leading to an industry-based certification in a Top Demand Occupation.

Go Grant provides a need-based component to the state’s financial aid plan to support nontraditional and low to moderate-income students who need additional aid to afford the cost of attending college. The award amount ranges from \$225 to \$900 annually.

Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship is a competitive scholarship that awards \$2,000 annually to undergraduates and \$3,000 annually to graduate students pursuing a degree in forestry, wildlife or marine science at a Louisiana Public College or University. The cumulative maximum award is \$12,000 for three years of undergraduate study and two years of graduate study.

START Saving Program is Louisiana’s 529 college savings plan. For Louisiana residents there is no better way to save for future college expenses.

For additional information on the programs listed above, including eligibility requirements go to www.osfa.la.gov.

Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

P.O. Box 91202

Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9202

1-800-259-5626, extension 1012

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LOSFA Administered Federal Programs

Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) is a need-based grant that can range from \$200 to \$2,000 annually for full-time students attending Louisiana post secondary institutions.

Chafee Educational Training Voucher (ETV) Program awards up to \$5,000 annually to qualified students who have been in the foster care system.

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LOSFA Outreach Programs

Trailblazer Program is a unique approach to training high school students about the availability of financial aid as a means of access to post-secondary education. The program includes a comprehensive three-day training workshop presented on a college campus by LOSFA personnel and other financial aid professionals for the purpose of educating selected high school juniors about the college admissions process and how to obtain financial assistance for college. Under the direct supervision of the high school guidance counselor, each Trailblazer is expected to use every opportunity to share knowledge of financial aid procedures with peers throughout their senior year of high school. Each Trailblazer is given a manual outlining all aspects of the federal and state financial aid programs available.

Professional School Counselor Workshops - Each Fall LOSFA conducts half-day workshops for high school counselors at several locations around the state. These workshops are designed to update counselors about the student financial aid process so they can best assist their students in preparing for their crucial first year of college. At each workshop, LOSFA representatives instruct counselors on the latest changes to both federal and state aid programs, completion of the FAFSA and other LOSFA services. During the 2008-09 school year, LOSFA introduced workshops for middle school counselors. These workshops are designed to provide middle school counselors with some tools and resources to promote early college and career awareness.

High School Presentations and Workshops - LOSFA annually provides presenters for individual high school financial aid workshops for parents and students. In Academic Year 2009-2010, LOSFA conducted financial aid and college access workshops at 207 individual high schools and 27 multi-high school events that were attended by 64,121 students and parents. To schedule a presentation, call 1-800-259-5626, extension 1012 or email your requests to custserv@osfa.la.gov.

College Goal Sunday is a FREE event designed to help Louisiana college bound students and their families with the financial aid application process. Financial Aid professionals are on hand to help complete the necessary paperwork (Free Application for Federal Student Aid—FAFSA) to get the funding needed to go to college with a particular focus on helping low-income, first-generation college students and their families. Louisiana’s College Goal Sunday event takes place in February of each year. Check www.osfa.la.gov for the date of the next event.

College Knowledge - The Louisiana Board of Regents, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) and Gear Up are working together to better educate middle school parents and students about the opportunities available and the requirements that must be met for a student to be eligible for college. The three groups together have received a two-year federal College Access Challenge Grant to spearhead communication with potential college students and their families. Parents interested in getting College Knowledge events scheduled at their school should contact their school principal or counselor. School officials should contact LOSFA at 1-800-259-5626 ext. 1012 or custserv@osfa.la.gov.

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LOSFA's FLY (Financial Literacy for You) Team is an inter-divisional team consisting of members from LOSFA's Public Information and Communications Division, Financial Literacy and Development, Default Prevention and Default Recoveries sections to provide Financial Literacy training. Three separate presentations are available depending on the audience: one for college students, one for high school students and one for middle school students. The programs include information on budgeting, credit, banking functions, debt management and repayment and identity theft prevention.

Financial Literacy and Development (FLD) Financial Literacy and Development provides outreach, training and professional development programs and materials to students, parents, educators and the general public. Those programs include: Financial Literacy for You (FLY) consisting of presentations on credit, banking, money management, credit cards, identity theft, budgeting, debt, and student loans. FLY presentations are available for college, high school and middle school students as well as educators and the general public. Other programs include TOPS Retention, Default Prevention, Loan Workshops and the START Saving Program, Louisiana's 529 college savings plan.

Telephone and Email Assistance - LOSFA employs a staff of public information specialists who are available to assist students and parents via telephone from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. To utilize this service, call 1-800-259-5626, extension 1012. For email assistance, contact custserv@osfa.la.gov. During 2009-2010, LOSFA assisted 46,286 callers and answered 1,926 email inquiries.

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LOSFA LOOP is the official publication of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance. LOSFA LOOP is published in order to inform schools, lenders, students, parents and the general public within the state of Louisiana about LOSFA's efforts to promote and to provide college access. The LOSFA LOOP is distributed monthly via email. In order to receive your free monthly LOSFA LOOP simply go to the following web address:
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