

Massachusetts Assistance for Student Success Program

V. AGNES M. LINDSAY SCHOLARSHIP

AGNES M. LINDSAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES

PURPOSE:

In accordance with applicable provisions of section 7A of Chapter 65 of the Acts of 1984, the purpose of the Agnes M. Lindsay Scholarship program shall be to provide scholarships for students with demonstrated financial need from rural areas who attend public institutions of higher education within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

DEFINITIONS:

ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION:

An eligible institution shall mean any public college or university in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as defined under Section 5, Chapter 15A, of General Laws, with the exception of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

ELIGIBLE PROGRAM

Any degree or certificate program offered by an institution and supported by appropriated funds.

ELIGIBLE STUDENT:

Shall mean a student enrolled in an eligible program and meeting the following requirements:

- a. Be a permanent legal resident of Massachusetts for at least one year prior to the opening of the academic year and be a U.S. citizen or a non-citizen eligible under Federal Title IV regulations.
- b. Not be in default of any federal or state loan for attendance at any institution nor owe a refund for any previous financial aid received.
- c. Provide evidence of documented financial need as measured by a federally approved system of needs analysis.
- d. Be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student in an eligible program as defined by the institution.
- e. Be maintaining satisfactory academic progress according to institutional standards, with at least an annual review.
- f. Be a permanent resident of a Massachusetts "rural" area.

RURAL AREAS:

Shall mean an area which is outside an urban area and has fewer than 15,000 inhabitants.

DETERMINATION OF NEED:

All scholarships awarded under this Trust must be made on the basis of demonstrated financial need.

- a. Students qualifying for a scholarship must complete the

institution's required application process for student financial assistance.

- b. Students selected by the U.S. Department of Education for verification must complete all required documentation prior to receipt of a Lindsay Scholarship.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD VALUE:

- a. Individual student awards for an award period may vary.
- b. Lindsay Scholarships, in combination with other resources in the student's financial aid package, may not exceed the student's demonstrated financial need.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

- a. Each institution may nominate up to five eligible candidates for the Lindsay Scholarship Program on an annual basis.
- b. Nominations must be submitted by the Financial Aid Director as a package to the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance by the specified return date annually established.
- c. The nomination package must include a completed student application, an accompanying statement from each student, along with the appropriate certification from the Financial Aid Director.

AWARD PROCESS:

- a. The Office of Student Financial Assistance Committee will convene to review all nominees and determine the final recipients.
- b. Award decisions will be based upon a review of the institutional certification, the student application, and accompanying statement.
- c. The Office of Student Financial Assistance will notify all nominees upon completion of the award process.
- d. All institutions nominating students will be notified.

PAYMENT PROCESS:

- a. A payment roster will be mailed to each institution detailing the student recipient, social security number, and the award amount.
- b. A check in the amount of the total payment will be mailed to each institution under a separate cover.

NOTIFICATION TO THE AGNES M. LINDSAY TRUST:

On an annual basis, the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance will provide a fully detailed accounting of the program to the Lindsay Trust trustees, including but not limited to: name, address, and social security number of each recipient, the award amount, and the institution attended.

AUDIT REQUIREMENTS:

- a. It shall be the responsibility of each institution to maintain adequate documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the Agnes Lindsay Scholarship Program.
- b. The Commissioner shall require each institution to complete an annual report to the Department of Higher Education which details recipient data for the Agnes M. Lindsay Scholarship Program.
- c. All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this program shall at all times be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records and documents are located. The institution shall retain such financial books, records and documents for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.