

FDVA

Children and Spouses of Deceased Or Disabled Veterans (CSDDV) Scholarship Program

Section 295.01, Florida Statutes

Section 295.015, Florida Statutes

State Board of Education Rule 6A-20.019



OVERVIEW

- CSDDV Explained – Program Overview
- Eligibility – Veteran, Child, Spouse
- Florida Residency Requirements
- Applying
- Eligibility Disputes
- Disbursements

CSDDV Explained

- The CSDDV Scholarship is a state scholarship offered to dependents of deceased or disabled veterans. This scholarship is unique as it is only available to dependents of veterans.
- The CSDDV does not take into consideration a family's income and Expected Family Contribution (EFC) like many other scholarships do.
- All applicants receive equal consideration as long as they meet eligibility and application requirements.
- FDVA's role in the process is to ensure the veteran meets the criteria for his/her family member to receive the scholarship. It is the FDVA's responsibility to notify the Florida Department of Education of a veteran's eligibility status.

Veteran Eligibility

- To be eligible for the CSDDV Scholarship, the veteran must be:
 - 100% permanent and total disabled as determined by the Veterans' Administration
 - Died from a service-connected disability
 - Killed in action
 - Individually Unemployable
 - Prisoner of War or missing in action
 - Benefits cease when the veteran is returned alive or otherwise classified

AND

- Be a Florida resident 12 months immediately preceding the date of disability award

Eligibility for Children

- Children of veterans must be between the ages of 16 and 22
- Children must be initially eligible prior to their 23rd birthday
- Be a dependent child of a ***qualified*** veteran certified by the FDVA
 - Adopted
 - Biological
 - Step
- Pursuing an undergraduate degree
- Listed with the VA as a dependent child

Eligibility for Spouse

- Legally married to a ***qualified*** veteran (including civil unions) for a minimum of one year
 - Benefits stop if the marriage is dissolved or annulled
- Listed with the VA as a dependent of the veteran
- Widowed spouses must use the benefit within 5 years of the veteran's date of death
 - Remarried spouses are not eligible for this scholarship

How Do I Determine My Disability Award Date?

- Veterans can go to ebenefits.va.gov to review their disability rating
- If the veteran does not have an account with ebenefits, they will need to select the “Register” button and create an account
- Once logged in, the veteran can go to the “Documents” section and search for their Rating Decision Letter
 - The rating decision letter will advise the veteran if they are 100% permanent and total disabled and if they are eligible for Chapter 35 benefits
- The veteran **MUST** be 100% permanent and total disabled **AND** a Florida resident 12 months preceding the award date to be eligible

Eligibility and Future Exams

- When reviewing a veteran's information, the FDVA looks for:
 - The veteran's Character of Discharge
 - Families of dishonorably discharged veterans are not eligible
 - Scheduled Future Exam
 - Future exams can result in either an increase or decrease of benefit amounts
 - FDVA determines if an exam is being conducted on a static or non-static disability
 - Static Disability – The condition will not get better, therefore the rating for the condition will not change
 - Non-static Disability – The condition can get better, thus affecting the veteran's disability rating
 - 100% permanent and total disability award date
 - To find information on your award date, go to ebenefits.va.gov and search the documents section for your Rating Decision Letter

Florida Residency Requirements

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- For a veteran's dependents to be eligible for the CSDDV scholarship, the veteran must have been a Florida resident 12 months immediately preceding the disability award date
 - Example: The veteran is awarded 100% permanent and total disability with an eligibility date of 15 Jan 2020
 - In this scenario, the veteran is required to be a Florida resident 15 Jan 2019 – 15 Jan 2020
 - Veterans cannot receive disability starting 15 Jan 2020 and wait a year to claim Florida residency for the purpose of the CSDDV scholarship
 - Residency must be obtained prior to the disability award

When Do I Apply?

- The on-time application window is 1 October – 1 April the following year
 - Example: An individual may apply 1 Oct 2020 – 1 Apr 2021 as an on-time applicant for academic year 2021/22
 - Applications received after 1 Apr 2021 will be wait-listed and will only receive funding if there is money left over from on-time applications
- Funding decisions will be made by the Florida Department of Education in the month of July, before the Fall term begins

Do I Have to Apply Every Year?

- If you are eligible for the scholarship **and** receive funds, you do not need to apply for subsequent years, unless
 - You lose funding because GPA is not met
 - You take time off from school
- If you are eligible for the scholarship and **do not** receive funds, you will need to reapply
- Reminder: If you lose funding for any reason, you will need to reapply

What Happens if I Transfer to Another School?

- If you would like to transfer from one school to another, you are required to notify the Florida Department of Education
- You must be enrolled in the new school prior to leaving the old one, otherwise, you could lose funding
- The Florida Department of Education sends scholarship money directly to the school

Where Do I Apply? What Information Do I Need?

- Applications must be completely and correctly filled out at floridastudentfinancialaid.org to be eligible for consideration
- Applicants are required to provide the veteran's
 - Name
 - SSN or Claim Number
 - Phone Number
 - Email Address
 - Military Conflict
- The applicant must provide their requested information on the application

Reviewing the CSDDV Scholarship Application

- The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs will conduct a review of all applications and notify the Florida Department of Education of the applicant's results
 - It is the applicant's responsibility to follow their application from start to finish
 - The FDVA will not notify you of any application issues, but a note will be added to your application
 - Applicants will receive email updates from the FL Department of Education when additional information is requested
 - Eligibility does NOT guarantee funds

After You Apply for the CSDDV Scholarship

- The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs will complete the initial review of the application
- Upon completion of review, the applicant will be updated in the system to
 - Eligible
 - Ineligible
- Funds disbursement decisions are not made until July prior to the Fall semester start
- Questions about disbursements can be directed to the FL Department of Education at 888-827-2004
 - Do not direct disbursement questions to the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

CSDDV Eligibility Disputes

- What you should do if your application for the CSDDV is determined ineligible
 - Contact the Florida Department of Education for clarification
 - They will either assist with the ineligible status or
 - They will have you contact the scholarship administrator for more information
- The most common reasons for denial
 - The veteran is not 100% permanent and totally disabled as determined by the Veterans' Administration
 - Florida residency is not met
 - Not all veterans update their address history with the VA
 - Veteran's records are how we determine residency
 - Veteran will have to provide proof of Florida residency
- The applicant does not provide a veteran's requested information

Disbursements

- All funds disbursements and amounts are determined by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE)
- The FDVA only determines eligibility for the CSDDV
- Funds are disbursed directly to the educational institution the dependent is attending
- If a dependent changes schools, they must notify the FDOE of the new school
 - Inaccurate information can result in a delay in funding
- Scholarship decisions are made in July and funds are disbursed late July – early August
 - All disbursement questions must be directed to the FDOE

If you have additional questions about the CSDDV Scholarship, you may contact the Florida Department of Education at 888-827-2004 or the administrator of the program at clarkp@fdva.state.fl.us