

# JUMPSTART

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



## Program Guidelines and FAQs

5/31/24

### **What are general requirements of participating in the Consortium's Jump Start Scholarship program?**

General requirements for participating in the Jump Start opportunity include:

- Participate in a virtual Learning Community that meets several times per year to share leading practices and learn from peers in promoting, purchasing, awarding, and processing program scholarships.
- Agree to general common terms and language for promoting the branded scholarships, including pricing and FAQs for donors and families.
- Work collaboratively with the Consortium to develop joint resources to position Jump Start scholarship recipients for success, including virtual workshops and assistance with FAFSA completion.

Pledges for 2025 scholarships are due June 30, 2024. Plans purchased before December 31, 2024, should use the 2024 price calculator. Plans purchased after December 31, 2024, can expect to see increases up to 7% per scholarship, per historic trends. Final pricing will be available January 2025.

Remember, scholarships must be assigned within 120 days of purchase. For instance, if you are holding an application and selection process in the spring and plan to assign scholarships to selected high school seniors by July 1, payment needs to be made to Florida Prepaid College Foundation (FPCF) by April 1.

Student scholarship assignments should be made through the online FPP portal. You will need the student name, DOB, SSN, Address, Phone, Email and residence information

### **What is the relationship between the Florida Prepaid College Foundation (FPCF) and the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations (Consortium)?**

Florida's first local education foundations were created in 1984. The Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Foundation (FPCF) was formed a few years later in 1987. The FPCF Project STARS (Scholarship Tuition for At-Risk Students) is a private-to-public scholarship program funded annually by the Florida Legislature and matched dollar-for-dollar by private donations. The program focuses on helping low-income students attend college with participating organizations purchasing prepaid plans to award to eligible local students.

Student scholarships have been a core program priority for the majority of Consortium members from their beginning and several began accessing FPCF Project STARS matching funds for scholarships since their inception.

FPCF continues to seek ways to help economically disadvantaged students achieve their goal of a college education through different scholarship types and partnerships.

The Consortium and FPCF came to see the value of a branded scholarship program for Florida's local education foundations to specifically focus on high school seniors, including students who may not have been planning to continue their education beyond high school.

The Jump Start Scholarship Program originated with Champions for Learning – the Consortium's member in Collier County – with local education foundations in Sarasota and Pinellas joining in an early pilot program to award initial scholarships for the Class of 2022.

In 2022 the Consortium entered a three-year partnership with FPCF to encourage and support participation by more local education foundations through providing common branding and scholarship terms, a learning community and technical support across counties.

### **How does the Jump Start scholarship program differ from the traditional Project STARS matching funds?**

Jump Start scholarships are for Florida-only scholarship plans. The scholarship is less expensive than traditional plan pricing. For example, in 2024: Traditional Project STARS Pricing = 3,473.61. Jump Start Florida-Only Pricing = \$2,041.29.

These scholarships are intended to be awarded to students in their senior year and there is no mentoring requirement. Each scholarship plan is assigned to only one student and may not be transferred or canceled.

Otherwise, eligibility requirements and how the plan pays tuition for students are the same.

#### **At A Glance Comparison**

##### **Traditional Project STARS Scholarships**

- 1:1 match
- May be used at out of state or private colleges with donor approval
- Unused scholarships may be transferred by donor to other eligible recipients
- Administrative support needed by sponsor to track scholarship usage
- Income and FL Residency Requirements

##### **Jump Start Florida-Only Scholarships**

- Lower cost per scholarship
- Scholarships may be used at Florida-only institutions
- Once a scholarship is assigned, it cannot be canceled or transferred to another student
- No administrative support needed by sponsor after assignment
- Income and FL Residency Requirements

### **What does a Jump Start scholarship cost Consortium members?**

The cost of these scholarships changes each calendar year, but the FPCF board is committed to making college accessible to all Florida families. The cost of each 2024 scholarship was \$1,070.64, which included the per-scholarship processing fee to FPCF of \$50. 2025 scholarship pricing won't be available until January 2025, but historically plans have gone up 7% each year.

The Consortium requests that participating members round up the sponsorship cost to donors each year by \$200-\$300 per scholarship to cover administrative costs and create uniformity across

the state as we anticipate some donors may want to sponsor Jump Start scholarships in multiple school districts. For 2025 scholarships, we recommend rounding up to \$1,300 per scholarship.

### **What is the rationale behind the one-year, 30-hour tuition award?**

Local education foundations involved in the creation of the Jump Start program chose the one-year college tuition scholarship for three basic reasons:

- ✓ **Flexibility!** Students can complete in-demand technical education programs or apply scholarship to Florida state college or university tuition.
- ✓ **Increase Access!** Encourage students who may not have been college-bound to get started. If they choose to continue toward a two- or four-degree, they will likely be eligible for institutional and/or federal support to continue.
- ✓ **Easier Fundraising Target!** Sponsors of senior cash-award scholarships can triple the value of their investment at close to the same price point.

### **Can we provide customized names for Jump Start scholarships?**

Named scholarship opportunities can be appealing to donors. Local education foundations can customize Jump Start scholarship names to acknowledge business, civic organization or individual donors. For instance: “The Rotary Club of XYZ Jump Start Scholarship” or the “XYZ Healthcare Technician Jump Start Scholarship.” However, the name “Jump Start” must be used, and we request that in describing the specifics of the scholarship, FPCF is acknowledged as the provider of matching funds.

### **What are the student eligibility requirements to receive a Jump Start scholarship?**

Students must meet income eligibility guidelines for the USDA Free and Reduced Lunch Program\*. Documentation of income eligibility can come from a variety of sources such as eligibility for Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, HUD (Very Low Income), or IRS Form 1040 and must be received. See: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/income-eligibility-guidelines>. If partners have a questionable document, they may submit the document to FL Prepaid ([Kelia.wilkins@myfloridaprepaid.com](mailto:Kelia.wilkins@myfloridaprepaid.com)) and they will review it to meet eligibility requirements.

\*\* If a Free and Reduced Lunch letter is presented, the 1040 tax form must accompany the letter.

Students must also provide proof of Florida residency. Accepted documentation may be one of the following: Florida Driver’s License for the student or parent/guardian - issued at least one year prior to assignment; transcript or report card for the student including the 11th and 12th grade; or Florida voter’s registration card for the student or parent/guardian issued at least one year prior to assignment.

The local education foundation or their donor(s) may add additional requirements such as field of study or high school attended.

### **How is the Consortium supporting members with college and career readiness resources for scholarship recipients?**

We anticipate many Jump Start scholarship recipients will be unfamiliar with the college-going process. We want to help them “know how to go” with accessible information to best position them for success in their transition to post-secondary education and reduce the risk of them not completing their chosen degree or credential. We believe doing so makes for wiser scholarship investments by local education foundations and their donors.

Some Consortium members have the capacity to offer in-person workshops on topics like financial aid, college success tips and career exploration. Other local education foundations need support to do so.

We encourage you to utilize the [vetted college and career readiness resources](#) we have compiled for you from your peers, as well as state and national partners. If you have any questions or need support, let us know.

### **What does the Jump Start scholarship cover?**

The 1-Year Florida College Plan covers 30 lower division credit hours of tuition and local fees at a Florida public college.

### **What if a student wants to apply their Jump Start scholarship to tuition at a Florida university?**

They may do so, with the per-semester hour college tuition rate applied to their tuition. Florida university tuition rates vary. Based on current university tuition rates, the 30-hour Jump Start tuition scholarship will cover approximately half of tuition and fees for one year at a Florida university. (<https://www.flbog.edu/universities/parents-students/tuition-fees>)

Students are responsible for the paying the difference through financial aid or personal resources.

### **What happens if a student wants to apply their scholarship to obtain a technical certificate?**

Florida’s technical colleges are designed to meet immediate workforce needs by offering industry-driven career and technical education and training. The value of a Jump Start scholarship may be applied to tuition and fees at a Florida technical college, but only toward credit-hour based programs. Equipment and supplies required for certain technical programs will not be covered by the scholarship.

Technical certificate programs vary by length and cost and students can explore the wide variety of options available at Florida’s 48 public technical colleges at: <https://gettherefl.com/>

### **How long do students have to use their Jump Start scholarship?**

Students will have six years from their original projected enrollment year (PEY) date to use their scholarship plan. The PEY is set at the time scholarships are purchased from Florida Prepaid. Plans will expire after this time.

### **Are we able to purchase more than a one-year Jump Start scholarship for a student?**

Yes. Local education foundations can purchase other types of scholarship plans at the Florida-only rate at the time of the original purchase. The rate for a two-year (60 hour) scholarship for 2024 was \$2,091.29 and 2025 pricing will be available January 2025. We encourage rounding up the sponsor cost to \$2,500 to help defray administrative costs.

If an education foundation has FPCF Project STARS Traditional scholarships in their inventory, they have the option to assign those scholarships to Jump Start scholars after they have depleted their original scholarship.

### **Is there a standard application Consortium members need to use?**

There is no required standard application, but a big goal for the Consortium is to support and streamline scholarship application processes for members and for processing of scholarships by FPCF. Applications *must* include the required eligibility documentation from FPCF ([https://www.floridaprepaidcollegefoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Scholarship-Assignment\\_Checklist-2023-1.pdf](https://www.floridaprepaidcollegefoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Scholarship-Assignment_Checklist-2023-1.pdf)).

Here is a standard FPCF application form that may be used and contains all required questions that must be included in your application.

([https://cdn.ymaws.com/educationfoundationsfl.org/resource/resmgr/temp\\_docs/tracy/florida\\_prepaid\\_college\\_foun.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/educationfoundationsfl.org/resource/resmgr/temp_docs/tracy/florida_prepaid_college_foun.pdf)). Your application may include additional local education foundation requirements, but we encourage keeping the process as streamlined and simple as possible for students to apply.

The Consortium will facilitate the sharing of template applications and resources among members through the Jump Start Learning Community. There is an online application accepted by FPCF that allows students to upload required eligibility documentation through AwardSpring that is available to be customized for use by Consortium members for \$1,200 annually. (Contact Julie Semyck for more information. [jsemyck@awardspring.com](mailto:jsemyck@awardspring.com); 312-610-7414)

Other member foundations may be using different application platforms you may be interested in using. The Consortium Learning Community will help local education foundations stay informed about available resources and best practices for managing the scholarship application and award processes to avoid “recreating the wheel.”

### **How long does it take to process scholarships?**

The more lead time for FPCF to process scholarships the better, but if full documentation for scholarship recipients is received in June the students should have access to their award by the beginning of the fall semester.

Students need to identify as having a FPCF scholarship (not Jump Start or name of education foundation) when they enroll and pay tuition.

### **What if we purchase and assign a Jump Start scholarship but the student does not ultimately meet or fulfill the program requirements. Can the scholarship be transferred to another student?**

No.