

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 378 890

HE 028 041

TITLE Financial Aid for Re-Entry Women Students: A Guide to Financial Resources.

INSTITUTION Pennsylvania Commission for Women, Harrisburg.

PUB DATE [94]

NOTE 18p.

AVAILABLE FROM Pennsylvania Commission for Women, Room 209 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120 (Also available on audio cassette).

PUB TYPE Guides - Non-Classroom Use (055)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS College Students; *Females; Grants; Higher Education; Nontraditional Students; *Paying for College; *Reentry Students; Scholarship Funds; *Student Financial Aid; Student Loan Programs

IDENTIFIERS *Pennsylvania

ABSTRACT

This booklet is designed to help Pennsylvania's re-entry female students find the best ways to finance a college education. It presents a "To Do" list with the following steps: (1) prioritize what is wanted or needed from an enhanced educational opportunity; (2) familiarize oneself with different types of federal, state, and local aid sources, including grants, loans, and federal work-study programs; (3) comprehensively research financial aid sources; and (4) campaign to have the institution of higher education accommodate one's needs. Financial aid sources are then listed, including central Pennsylvania scholarships/grants or awards, national scholarships/grants or awards, professional scholarships, directories of other sources, scholarship search firms, and telephone numbers of information services. (JDD)

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Pennsylvania
COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

**FINANCIAL AID
FOR
RE-ENTRY
WOMEN
STUDENTS**

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**FINANCIAL AID
FOR
RE-ENTRY
WOMEN
STUDENTS**

A Guide to Financial Resources

FOREWORD

Additional education can be the basis for personal, professional, and economic growth. This booklet is designed to help women find the best ways to finance this goal.

In 1991, fifty-four percent of all undergraduate college students between the ages of 25 and 34 were women. Women comprised the highest percentage of enrollments in all age groups. Despite a high percentage of dedicated re-entry female students, little information is targeted toward them.

Financial aid, in particular, proves a major obstacle to women who would like to attend college. Many women with jobs and families become discouraged by the time consuming paperwork involved in processing financial aid forms. Few women know where to look for loans, grants, and scholarships beyond the traditional routes suggested by many financial aid officers.

Recent changes in scholarship names and award amounts can seem confusing and make it difficult for women to locate available sources. Unsuitable financial aid programs may further limit women's choices. Many schools and organizations do not specifically focus on the needs of older students. Thus, many older women needing additional education or transition to a second career, find their educational pursuits confounded. Finally, a disproportionate number of traditional aid sources promote "female occupations" such as teaching, childcare, and nursing, rather than careers in the engineering and medical fields.

Women receiving public assistance may face even more barriers. Job training programs targeted to these women sometimes force female students into low paying, low mobility occupations rather than encouraging them to seek education and careers in the higher paying professions requiring advanced course work especially in the sciences and mathematics.

However, financial aid for women desiring to re-enter school does exist--it is just a matter of knowing who to ask and where to look.

A "TO DO" LIST

1. **Prioritize** - Decide what you want or need from an enhanced educational opportunity. If geography dictates your college choice, you need to make some decisions about what's most important to you. What are your interests? Are you committed to a particular course of study or looking to explore your options? What is more important, location atmosphere, costs or programs? Assess what it is you want out of college -- a purely educational experience or one which combines education with job experience? While flexibility is important, think seriously about your needs. A written list will be helpful when sorting through a bulk of information.

2. **Familiarize** - Get to know different types of federal, state, and local aid sources. A determination of your eligibility can be made by filing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Individual schools may require that other applications be completed. Also, keep in mind that Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work-Study, and Carl Perkins Loans are awarded to students who attend college half-time (six or fewer credits per semester) as well as to full-time students.

** Grants are money you are not obligated to pay back. Individual schools award up to \$2300 in Federal Pell Grants. Students receive payment by submitting their application to the school by the Pell Grant deadline. Approved grants are either paid directly or the school account is credited. Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) go to students who demonstrate exceptional financial need. The maximum SEOG award is \$4000 depending on the school and is administered by the college's financial aid officer.

As a resident of Pennsylvania, you may also be eligible for a PA State Grant. These grants cannot exceed 80% of tuition and



fees or \$2400 per academic year for study at an approved in-state school (\$600 for out-of-state schools). To apply, you must file both the FAFSA and a PHEAA Aid Information Request (PAIR). These forms may be obtained at local libraries, through a member of the PA General Assembly, from post-secondary institution financial aid officers, or through PHEAA directly.

**** Loans** are money borrowed with interest. Perkins Loans are made by the school itself which sets its own application deadline. Students, currently applying, sign a promissory note agreeing to repay the loan at 5% interest. Similarly, the Federal Stafford Loans involve promissory notes, but have variable interest rates which are adjusted annually and are capped at 9%. However, the lender in this case is not the school, but rather, it is a bank or credit union. Applications for these loans are made directly to the lender (at least 90 days in advance of the need of the funds). In addition to these loans, you may also be eligible for Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS). These loans also have variable interest rates, but they are capped at 11%. The SLS also imposes a ceiling of \$4000 per year for juniors and seniors, with a maximum for undergraduates of \$23,000 and \$73,000 for graduate and professional degrees. SLS Loan Applications are available from banks and credit unions; students must sign a promissory note of compliance with the loan.

**** Federal Work-Study**, another source of subsidized financial aid, provides on or off campus jobs to students. However, students cannot earn more than their demonstrated need or the amount of money calculated by subtracting their contribution from the actual cost of the education. In other words, the job provided contributes to the reduction of educational expenses, not personal income.

3. Research - Be comprehensive in your exploration. Community organizations are good sources of financial aid. Ask professional groups, political parties, sororities, churches, employers, civic groups, unions, or women's organizations if they offer

scholarships for which you might be eligible. Libraries and even phone books are good sources of this information. At the end of this brochure, there is a partial list detailing several local, state, and national scholarship awards.

Contact the financial aid office of the college(s) of interest and ask for an appointment with one of the counselors. Also, request any publications the college's office may put out and ask for clarification on anything that confuses you. If you work, check with your personnel or benefits office to see if your employer has a tuition reimbursement policy and if you are eligible.

4. **Campaign** - Let others know of your pursuit. Should issues like day-care, housing, social activities, and transfer credits concern you, inquire about programs and provisions offered by the college or university. Larger universities often have associations or leagues that address the issues and needs of re-entry women. They may provide social activities and meeting space. As you look more closely at a particular school, you may be able to save yourself some time and money by asking about campus policies and programs that award credit for life work or volunteer training. Ask about the CLEP tests for life experience credits. Your objective should be to discover how accommodating the institution can be in making a college education accessible to you.

FINANCIAL AID SOURCES

The resources listed are a partial listing and represents a broad spectrum of financial assistance providers.

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Central PA Scholarships/Grants or Awards

Program

Function

Citizen's Scholarship Foundation
Lancaster County
P.O. Box 1601
Lancaster, PA 17603

Residents who show financial need, ability, character, and motivation
April 30 deadline

Community Progress Council, Inc.
226 E. College Ave.
York, PA 17403
Donald McCreary Scholarship
(717) 846-4600

York County residents who demonstrate financial need.

Hershey Lions Club Loan Fund
c/o Roscoe Warner
118 W. Caracas Ave.
Hershey, PA 17033

Residents of Hershey.
May 1 deadline

Philanthropic & Educational
Organization
Continuing Education Grant
c/o Lucy Simpson
540 Devon Rd.
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Residents of Cumberland, Perry, or Dauphin Counties.
May 1 deadline

Snayberger Foundation
PA National Bank & Trust
c/o Carolyn Bertoni
Pottsville, PA 17901

Schuykill County resident
February deadline

Soroptimist International of York
c/o TAP
112 Teila Dr.
York, PA 17402

Heads of households
completing undergraduate
programs or entering
vocational or technical
training programs.
December 15 deadline

York County Association for
Retarded Citizens
2870 E. Haywood Dr.
York, PA 17402

York County residents
working toward education
with the mentally retarded.

York County Conservation Dist.
118 Pleasant Acres Rd.
York, PA 17402

York County resident
majoring in agriculture,
environmental resource
management, or conservation

York Little Theatre Scholarship
Committee
Bert Smith Fine Arts Scholarship
27 S. Belmont St.
York, PA 17402

Arts Fields.

National Scholarships/Grants or Awards

American Association of University
Women Education Foundation
Project Renew
2401 Virginia Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20037

Women who have not taken
courses in 5 or more years.
Must be members of AAUW.

Career Development Grants
AAUW Educational Foundation
1111 16th St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20036-4873
(202) 785-7700

Preference given to non-
traditional careers. Women
returning to school after
an absence.

Clairol Loving Care Scholarships
Business & Professional Women's
Foundation Scholarships
2012 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Women over 30 years of
age.

Charlotte W. Newcombe
Scholarship
Charlotte W. Newcombe
Foundation
35 Park Place
Princeton, NJ 08542
(609) 924-7022

Selected colleges offer
scholarships for mature
women.

Daughters of Penelope Re-Entry
Daughters of Penelope
1909 Q St., NW, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20009

Grant for Women of Greek
descent.

Jeannette Rankin Award
Jeannette Rankin Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 6653
Atlanta, GA 30604

Applicants must be 35
years or older.
January deadline

Karla Scherer Foundation
Scholarship
Karla Scherer Foundation
400 Renaissance Center, Suite 500
Detroit, MI 48243

Women in business
administration.

Kelly Services Second Career
Scholarship
Business and Professional Women's
Foundation
2012 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20203

Full or part-time study
for women over 25 who are
displaced homemakers and
studying business.

Lutheran Church Women
2900 Queen Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19129
Kemp Scholarship

Must be a member of the
Lutheran Church.

National League of American Pen
Letters Women, Inc.
Scholarships for Mature Women
1300 17th St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20036
Contact: Shirley Helburg
Route 4, Box 4245
Spring Grove, PA 17362

Art scholarships,
scholarships for writers,
and music scholarships
for women over 35.

NOW Foundation Essay Contest
1000 16th St., NW
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036

Winners of an essay
contest relating to
women's equality receive
\$1,000 toward continuing
their education.

National Presbyterian College
Scholarship
100 Witherspoon St. Mezzanine
Louisville, KY 40202

Must be a confirmed
member of the
Presbyterian Church.
Only for Presbyterian
related colleges.

Orville Redenbachers Second Start
Scholarship
P.O. Box 39158
Chicago, IL 60639

Non-traditional students

P.E.O. Program for Continuing
Education
P.E.O. Sisterhood
3700 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50312-2899

Women interested in
resuming or continuing
their education
January deadline

Project Cambio Scholarships
National Image, Inc.
P.O. Box 3004-227
Corvallis, OR 97339

Latino women.

Rita Levine Memorial Scholarship
MENSA Education & Research
Foundation
c/o Patricia Merk
231 Herwick Dr., #210
San Antonio, TX 78213

Women returning to school
after an absence of at
least seven years.
January deadline

PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Program

Function

American Business Women's
Association

9100 Ward Parkway

P.O. Box 8720

Kansas City, MO 64114

Write to obtain the location of a branch nearest to you.

American Dental Assistants
Association

203 N. LaSalle St. Suite 1320

Chicago, IL 60601

Certified dental
assistants enrolled in a
program leading to a
baccalaureate degree.

American Nuclear Society

555 North Kensington Ave.

LaGrange Park, IL 60525

Women studying nuclear
science, nuclear
engineering, or a related
nuclear field.

March 1 deadline

American Nurses Association
Baccalaureate Completion
Scholarship
Director, Fellowship Program
1030 15th St., NEW
Washington, D.C. 20005

Registered nurses
pursuing a baccalaureate
degree in nursing. Must
be a member of the state
nursing association.
\$2,000/year

Business Women United
Barbara Engel, Education Chairman
R.D. #6, Box 196-a, Baker Road
York, PA 17404

Write to obtain eligibility
requirements.

Career Advancement Scholarship
Business & Professional Women's
Foundation Scholarships
2012 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Women over 25 pursuing
computer science,
education, paralegal, and
science fields.
April 15 deadline

National Student Nurses
Association Scholarship
Frances Tompkins Foundation
of NSNA
555 W. 57th Street
New York, NY 10019

Must be enrolled in a state-
approved nursing or
pre-nursing program.
February 1 deadline

New York Life Scholarships for
Women in Health Professions
Business & Professional Women's
Foundation Scholarships
2012 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Women over 25 years of age.
September 15 deadline

Nursing Student Loan Program
Student & Institutional Assistance
Branch Division of Student
Assistance
Parklawn Bldg., Rm 8-44
Rockville, MD 20857

Full-time or half-time
students in nursing
programs

R.N. Nursing Scholarships
Mary C. Krathan
3595 Pebble Ridge Dr.
York, PA 17402

Write to obtain eligibility
requirements.

Society of Women Engineers
Olive Lynn Salembier Scholarships
United Engineering Center, Rm 305
120 Wall St.
New York, NY 10005

Women who have been out
of engineering field for at
least 2 years. Must be
enrolled in a New York
engineering school
accredited by the
Engineers Council for
Professional Development.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Meeting College Costs
Paying for Your Education; A Guide for Adult Learners
The College Cost Book
College Board Publications
Box 886
New York, NY 10101

Higher Education Opportunities for Minorities & Women
Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20402
Document # 065-000-00253-8, 1988

Directory of Special Opportunities for Women
Garrett Park Press
Garrett Park, MD 20896
cost \$18

Directory of Financial Aids for Women, 1993-1995
Dr. Gail Schlachter
1100 Industrial Road, Suite 9
San Carlos, CA 94070
(415) 594-0743
cost \$45 plus \$4 shipping

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH FIRMS

For approximately \$40, these firms will enter your completed application into their computer and find the scholarships, grants, and loans for which you are eligible. Write for an application.

Computer Assisted Scholarships for Higher Education (CASHE)
1546 Dartford Road
Maumee, OH 43537

National Scholastic Research Group
Joseph A. Gulielmo, Executive Director
1923 Wickham Road, Suite 121
Melborne, FL 32935

National Scholarship Service
P.O. Box 959
Tarzana, CA 91356

Radcliffe Associates
G.P.O. Box 1815
Brooklyn, NY 11202

TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO CALL

Welfare Help Line
1-800-692-7462

National Welfare Rights Organization
1420 N St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 483-1531

Office of Income Maintenance
Hotline Correspondence
(717) 787-3119

Federal Student Aid
Information Center
1-800-333-INFO
Call 9:30-5:30 Monday thru Friday

Federal Application Processing Center
(319) 337-3738
Call 9:00-7:00 Monday thru Friday

Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency
General (717) 257-2500
Grants (717) 257-2800 or 1-800-692-7435
Loans (717) 257-2860 or 1-800-692-7392

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Dickinson College, Penn State York Campus, Seton Hill College, PHEAA, SETCO: Division of Employment and Training Operations, and all the college and university personnel who answered questions about their financial aid and continuing studies offices. Special thanks goes to Jacqueline A. Smith, Deputy Executive Director who supervised this project. Colleen Fee, an intern from Dickinson College with the PACFW in 1989, who researched and wrote the original version and to Courtney Drapeau and Kimberly R. Price, interns with the PACFW in 1993, who revised the information.

* This booklet is also available on audio cassette by writing to The Pennsylvania Commission for Women, Room 209 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120 or by calling 717-787-8128.

**Pennsylvania Commission for Women
Room 209 Finance Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717)787-8128**

*"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied
or abridged in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
because of the sex of the individual." Article I,
Section 28, Pennsylvania Constitution*
