



1. What is MGHEI?

The Miami Gardens Higher Education Initiative (MGHEI) is a Scholarship Program designed to provide financial assistance to high school graduates who are in need of additional funding to realize their dream of attending and graduating from an accredited institution of higher learning. The MGHEI, will be eligible to residents of the City of Miami Gardens pursuing two year or four-year programs at an accredited vocational/trade school, college or university.

2. Can I qualify for MGHEI if I live in Unincorporated Miami-Dade County?

No. The program is only available to residents of the City of Miami Gardens.

3. Can I get assistance if I am going to a six-month certificate program?

No. The program is designed to assist students pursuing studies in a two year or four-year program at an accredited vocational/trade school, college or university.

4. Can I use the funds to pay for meals?

Yes. Funds can be applied to costs directly associated with obtaining a degree. These include rental payments, books, fees and tuition. Funds can be applied to meal expenses providing the student is enrolled in a meal program.

5. Can I use the funds to pay my parents a rent for my room at home?

No. Applicants must be living at least 50 miles from their primary residence to utilize funding for rental costs. Also, funding can only be applied to accommodation cost providing the applicant's name is on the accommodation/rental agreement.

6. Is this funding renewable?

No. Not at this time.

7. Would I be required to repay this money?

No. This is a non-repayable grant.

8. How soon will I get my funding if I am selected?

Funds will be paid to the institution by the time all payments are due in advance of the next term. Once all obligations to the learning institution are met, the student can then obtain funds to purchase books, rental assistance, etc.

9. What is my EFC?

Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is an index number that college financial aid staff use to determine how much financial aid you would receive if you were to attend their school. The information you report on your FAFSA, including specific tax information and family income, is used to calculate your EFC.

Frequently Asked Questions - MGHEI



10. I am not using Federal Student loans to finance my studies. Why do I need to apply for FAFSA?

A FAFSA application is free and can also provide other funding opportunities such as work programs and Need Based Scholarships.

11. How do I submit an application?

Applications can only be submitted online via Zoomgrants at <https://www.zoomgrants.com/zgf/MGHEI>

12. What is the deadline for submitting an application?

The deadline for submitting an application is 5pm on April 15, 2021. Late applications will not be considered.

13. What if I don't have all the information requested?

The Scholarship Committee can only review completed applications.

14. How will my application be reviewed/assessed?

Completed Applications will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee. Applications will be assessed on a point graded system. For example:

GPA: 3.2-3.4 2 points, 3.5-3.7 4 points, 3.8-4.0 6 points.

15. Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

Please contact Alfred Battle III at 305.622.8000, Extension 2831 or via email at abattle@miamigardens-fl.gov