



**FUTURES**  
FOR FRONTLINERS

# Program Description

- **What is Futures for Frontliners (Futures)?**
  - A State of Michigan scholarship
  - For Michiganders without college degrees who worked in frontline jobs in essential industries during the state COVID-19 shutdown in spring 2020
  - It uses federal funds to launch the program and provide tuition-free access to Michigan's public community colleges to earn an associate degree or industry-recognized certificate.

# Pathways

- Futures offers **two pathways** to community college for:
  - **Path 1:** Frontline workers who have a high school diploma (or equivalent)
  - **Path 2:** Frontline workers who need to complete a high school diploma (or equivalent)
    - Managed by Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity's (LEO) Workforce Development

# Essential Industries

Using federal guidance, in Executive Orders 2020-21 and 2020-70, Governor Whitmer identified workers, and the fields they work in, who were critical to keeping our state running. These are:

- ▶ Chemical supply chains and safety
- ▶ Communications and information technology
- ▶ Critical manufacturing
- ▶ Defense industrial base
- ▶ Energy
- ▶ Financial services
- ▶ Food and agriculture
- ▶ Hazardous materials
- ▶ Healthcare and public health
- ▶ Law enforcement, public safety, and first responders
- ▶ Other community- or government-based operations and essential functions
- ▶ Public works
- ▶ Transportation and logistics
- ▶ Water and wastewater
- ▶ ....and additional critical infrastructure workers as identified by the Governor in her Executive Orders

# Website and Application

- **Application period:** September 10<sup>th</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020
- Applicants can apply online on the dedicated **LEO website** ([Michigan.gov/frontliners](https://Michigan.gov/frontliners)) and will need access to the internet, an email address, and a social security number to apply.

**Path 1: Community college for  
Frontline workers who have a high school  
diploma (or equivalent)**

# Path 1: Eligibility for the Scholarship

- Applicants must meet all the following criteria:
  - Be a Michigan resident
  - Have worked in an essential industry at least half-time for 11 of the 13 weeks between April 1 – June 30, 2020
  - Have been required by their job to work outside the home at least some of the time between April 1 – June 30, 2020
  - Have a high school diploma or equivalent (e.g. GED)
  - Not have previously earned an associate or bachelor's degree
  - Not be in default on a Federal student loan
  - Complete a Futures scholarship application by 11:59 pm on December 31, 2020

# Path 1: How to Apply for the Scholarship

- Applicants will create a username and password to access the (Michigan Student Scholarships and Grants (MiSSG) Student Portal to track their application status.
- Treasury's Customer Care Center will be providing support to applicants and can be reached on a dedicated phone number (517-636-7000) for Futures for Frontliners or by email: [MiStudentAid@michigan.gov](mailto:MiStudentAid@michigan.gov).
- Employment Verification Form

# Path 1: Receiving the Award

- ▶ Applicants will need to:
  - Apply to and be admitted to a Michigan public community college
  - Complete the current-year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
  - Enroll at least half time in a Pell-eligible program that is leading to an associate degree or industry-recognized certificate
  - Enroll in classes beginning in either the winter, spring, summer, or fall semesters of 2021.

# Path 1: Scholarship Funding

- ▶ Futures funding for community college is last-dollar.
  - 1. Tuition-restricted awards, Pell, and Michigan Competitive Scholarship
  - 2. Futures for Frontliners
- Non-tuition restricted gift aid or awards are not to be subtracted from the calculation of the award. Examples include:
  - Student loans
  - Work study
  - Qualified withdrawals from an education savings account
  - Expenses paid with a Michigan Education Trust contract or promise zone authority

# Path 1: Maintaining the Award

- **How do applicants remain eligible?**
  - Continue to be a resident of this state
  - Take at least 12 credit hours in a 12-month period
  - Maintain a 2.0 grade point average in courses taken by the individual as a Futures scholarship student. This means that grades earned prior to receiving the scholarship are not factored into the required calculation
  - Complete the FAFSA annually

**Path 2: Community college for  
Frontline workers who need to complete a  
high school diploma (or equivalent)**

# Path 2: Eligibility for the Scholarship

- Applicants must meet all the following criteria:
  - Be a Michigan resident
  - Have worked in an essential industry at least half-time for 11 of the 13 weeks between April 1 – June 30, 2020
  - Have been required by their job to work outside the home at least some of the time between April 1 – June 30, 2020
  - **Not** have a high school diploma or equivalent (e.g. GED)
  - **Not be currently enrolled in high school (K-12)**
  - **Be at least 18 years of age**
  - Complete a Futures scholarship application by 11:59 pm on December 31, 2020

# Path 2: How to Apply for the Scholarship

- Applicants must complete the Futures for Frontliners-High School Completion application on the website. (available September 10<sup>th</sup>)
- The applicant must provide:
  - Name and contact information
  - Date of birth
  - Social security number
- Employment verification form
- For questions regarding the application, contact [LEO-AdultEd@michigan.gov](mailto:LEO-AdultEd@michigan.gov).

# Path 2: Receiving the Award

- ▶ Applicants must:
  - Enroll in a state-approved adult education program (i.e., state or federally-funded program)
  - Begin adult education classes in 2021
- ▶ Students can be dually-enrolled in adult education and a community college or job training program or complete the programs sequentially.

# Path 2: Scholarship Funding

▶ The funding covers:

- High school completion and equivalency preparation
- Career advising and navigation
- High school equivalency testing fees (as applicable)
- Last-dollar scholarship for community college or job training program

# Path 2: Community College and Job Training Requirements

- ▶ Must enroll in a community college or training program that leads to an **industry-recognized credential** or an **associate degree**, including:
  - A training or associate degree program at any accredited Michigan public community college
  - A training opportunity available on Michigan Training Connect\* (MiTC)
  - A state-approved adult education integrated education and training (IET) program that leads to an industry-recognized credential

\* A MiTC program may only be selected after receiving career navigation assistance from a local MWA.

# Path 2: Maintaining the Award

- **How do applicants remain eligible?**
  - Continue to be a resident of this state.
  - Regularly attend the adult education and training program and satisfy local attendance requirements.
  - Maintain a 2.0 grade point average in courses taken by the individual as a Futures scholarship student or make satisfactory progress and are in good standing as defined by the training provider.
  - Complete the FAFSA annually.

# Path 2: Important Information for Providers

- ▶ The Futures for Frontliners program is an opportunity for ALL state and federally funded adult education programs
- ▶ It is a scholarship program for frontline workers, it is not a grant to the adult education providers.
  - Reimbursement for each Futures for Frontliner that **enrolls** at your program (*1+ hours of instruction*)
  - Reimbursement for each Futures for Frontliner that earns their **diploma or equivalent**
- ▶ The program supports Michigan's Sixty by 30 postsecondary attainment goal, so the focus must be on postsecondary credential attainment.

# The Role of **Adult Education Providers**

# Next Steps

- Visit [www.michigan.gov/frontliners](http://www.michigan.gov/frontliners) today and check out the Champions Toolkit today!
- Share this information within your agency.
- Ensure frontline workers are aware of the program and how to apply.
- Spread the word to employers and partners in the community.
- Engage with Michigan Works! and community colleges on associate's degree and industry-recognized credential programs for in-demand jobs in the local area.