



*The Grand Chapter of Florida Order of the Eastern Star, Inc.*

**Gail Jerrell  
Worthy Grand Matron**

7321 NW CR 235  
Alachua, FL 32615

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alachuaso@windstream.net

August 10, 2023

Mr. Shane Andrew  
Superintendent, Alachua County  
620 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, FL 32601-5448

Re: Florida Eastern Star Grant Program

Dear Mr. Andrew:

We are pleased to present the following information regarding The Florida Eastern Star Grant Program.

The Grand Chapter of Florida, Order of the Eastern Star, Charitable Foundation, Inc. (Florida Eastern Star) has developed a program that permits funds to cover tuition for those accepted in an accredited college, university, community college or vocational institution within the State of Florida. This grant is available to Florida high school seniors, including home schooled students, graduating in 2024 (the "Florida Eastern Star Grant Program"). While grade point average is, of course, important, the primary focus of the Florida Eastern Star Grant Program is a student's desire for a career or vocation and a need for these funds.

Due to our current social structure, changes are occurring to traditional careers and occupations and the manner in which such positions are conducted. There will certainly be much more emphasis on technology and its ability to assist while conducting our business remotely, including working from a home office, virtual meetings, online doctor's visits as well as online shopping. Thus, we believe that some form of higher education and/or training is more important than ever as our youth enter this changing society.

Attached is a copy of the information and requirements for the Florida Eastern Star Grant Program as well as our form of application. We respectfully request that you make this information available to seniors in the high schools and home-schooled individuals in your District.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact Lois Casaccia, Past Grand Matron, at 813-655-1555 or via email loismock3@aol.com

Sincerely,

The Grand Chapter of Florida Order of the  
Eastern Star, Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Gail Jerrell  
Worthy Grand Matron



Enclosures

**FLORIDA EASTERN STAR GRANT TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
AND OUTLINE OF PROPOSAL**

Request for Proposal	Offer the Florida Eastern Star Tuition Grant Program to the students, who are legal residents of Florida and who will be graduating from the High School(s), including home schooled students, in all 67 Florida School Districts in 2024 and who will be thereafter attending an accredited university, college, junior college, community college or vocational institution within the State of Florida.
Sponsor of Program	The Grand Chapter of Florida Order of the Eastern Star, Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Contact Information for Sponsor of Program	Lois Casaccia, P.G.M., Member of the Finance Committee; 1410 Crooked Stick Drive, Valrico, FL; 33596 813.655.1555; loismock3@aol.com
Name of Program	Florida Eastern Star Grant Tuition Assistance Program.
Program Available to:	Florida high school seniors graduating in 2024.
Funds to Pay for:	Tuition to an accredited university, college, junior college, community college or vocational institution within the State of Florida. It is a one-time grant for a one-year period. The amount of the award will be based on the amount available in the Fund. The awards will be divided between applicants who will attend college, junior college, community college and vocational school within the State of Florida. The money is issued for tuition ONLY and does not need to be repaid.
Deadline for Submission for Request for Award	January 1, 2024
Amount(s) to be Awarded	A total of \$30,000 to be divided among the particular awardees dependent upon the type of assistance payment.
When Paid	On tuition due date established by the university, college, junior college, community college or vocational institution.
To Whom Paid	The tuition award will be paid directly to the university, college, junior college, community college or vocational institution.
Requirements for Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Florida High School Senior graduating in 2024.</li> <li>• Acceptance to the university, college, junior college, community college or vocational institution of choice within the State of Florida.</li> <li>• Submission of a 5-paragraph essay on the subject of <b>“What does Freedom of Speech Mean to You?”</b></li> </ul>
How Will Notification of Award be Made?	The student and university, college, junior college, community college or vocational institution will each be notified in writing by The Grand Chapter of Florida Order of the Eastern Star, Charitable Foundation, Inc. The Worthy Grand Matron, or her designee, may present a Certificate to each student at the annual awards ceremony at their school. All funds will be sent directly to university, college, junior college, community college or vocational institution by the tuition due date.



**THE GRAND CHAPTER OF FLORIDA ORDER OF THE EASTERN  
STAR, CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, INC.**

**FLORIDA EASTERN STAR GRANT TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
FOR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR  
GRANT APPLICATION – 2024**

Name:	
Street Address:	
City / State / Zip	
Telephone Number:	
Email Address:	
Grade Point Average:	
Graduation Date:	
Name Of School You are Planning to Attend	
Mailing Address:	
Contact Name / Telephone No.	
Have You Been Accepted:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <b><u>Please provide a copy of Acceptance Letter</u></b> <input type="checkbox"/> No
Intended Major or Trade	
Signature:	

The FL Eastern Star Tuition Grant Program to the students, who are legal residents of Florida and who will be graduating from a from a High School, including home school, in one of the 67 Florida School Districts in 2024 and who will be thereafter attending an accredited university, college, junior college, community college or vocational institution within the State of Florida. This is a one-time tuition grant. A total of up to \$30,000 to be split among the particular awardees dependent upon the type of assistance payment. The applicant must submit a five-paragraph essay – on the subject of “*What does Freedom of Speech Mean to You?*”

Please submit your completed and signed application no later than January 1, 2024. The package should include: (a) Copy of Acceptance to School of Choice, if you have received it; (b) Essay; and (c) Completed Application. The package may be either mailed or emailed and must be submitted to:

Lois A. Casaccia P.G.M.; Member of the Finance Committee  
The Grand Chapter of Florida Order of the Eastern Star,  
Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
1410 Crooked Stick Drive, Valrico, FL 33596  
Email address: loismock3@aol.com