

## Supporting Tennessee veterans in postsecondary education: The Helping Heroes Grant Program

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### Introduction

In 2008, the General Assembly passed Public Chapter 1142 (PC 1142), creating the Helping Heroes grant program to provide postsecondary education financial assistance to Tennessee citizens who are decorated, post-9/11 veterans.<sup>1</sup> The grant, established in *Tennessee Code Annotated* 49-4-938 as part of the state's system of lottery-funded scholarships, is intended to offset the costs of postsecondary education for qualifying veterans.<sup>2</sup>

Helping Heroes grant awards total either \$500 or \$1,000 per student per semester (according to part-time or full-time status), dependent upon

students' passing their courses. Veterans who qualify are permitted to use the grants as supplements to other sources of postsecondary financial aid, such as the GI Bill.<sup>3</sup> The Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) administers the Helping Heroes grant program.<sup>4</sup>

PC 1142 requires the Comptroller's Office to review the program to determine its effectiveness in educating veterans, beginning in the fifth year of the program's operation (2012-13) and every four years thereafter.<sup>5</sup> This brief represents the Comptroller's first review of the Helping Heroes grant program.

### Methodology

The information presented here is based on:

- data analysis by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) and TSAC about Helping Heroes Grant recipients, including Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) eligibility, GPA and ACT scores, accumulation of postsecondary credit hours, and degree programs;
- state laws and policies regarding TELS programs and the Helping Heroes Grant program;

### Tennessee's lottery-funded scholarship system

The Tennessee Education Lottery, which began in January 2004, funds several postsecondary scholarships and grants for eligible Tennessee students, including the HOPE scholarship, the HOPE access grant, the General Assembly Merit Scholarship, the ASPIRE award, and the Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant. In subsequent years, the General Assembly passed legislation allowing the Tennessee Education Lottery to fund additional programs. The most recent expansion occurred in 2008, when three new programs were created: the HOPE scholarship for non-traditional students, the Rural Health Loan Forgiveness program, and the Helping Heroes Grant Program.

Sources: Public Chapter 298, 2003, <http://www.tn.gov/sos/>.  
Public Chapter 1142, 2008, <http://www.tn.gov/sos/>.

Nneka Norman-Gordon, Higher Education Resource Officer with the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury, and former Associate Legislative Research Analyst with the Offices of Research and Education Accountability, also contributed to this report.

- Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) rules and regulations regarding TELS programs and the Helping Heroes Grant program;
- information provided by THEC and TSAC staff.

### **Tennessee’s focus on increasing the number of postsecondary credentials includes education for veterans**

One of the stated missions of the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs is to connect veterans with educational resources. By 2016, the Department of Veterans’ Affairs hopes to increase the percentage of Tennessee veterans with associate’s degrees from 35 percent to 37 percent and those with bachelor’s degrees from 23 percent to 25 percent.

In November 2013, the administration announced the formation of a task force to evaluate how to best serve Tennessee’s veterans seeking a certificate or degree beyond high school. The task force is charged with identifying common educational obstacles for transitioning veterans; researching best practices to serve student veterans; and making recommendations on improving opportunities for veterans to earn a certificate or degree beyond high school. The task force is part of the “Drive to 55” initiative to raise the number of Tennesseans with a certificate or degree beyond high school from the current 32 percent to 55 percent by the year 2025.

The task force is expected to engage a variety of stakeholders including higher education leaders, veterans, and advocacy groups, and is expected to present recommendations to the Governor later in 2014.

Sources: Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs, About TVDA, *Vision*, <http://www.state.tn.us/veteran/> (accessed May 19, 2014).

Yvette Martinez, Assistant Commissioner of Outreach and Communications, Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs, e-mail and attachments, June 3, 2014.

Tennessee Newsroom and Media Center, *Haslam Announces Veterans Education Task Force*, Nov. 14, 2013, <https://news.tn.gov/> (accessed Nov. 21, 2013).

## **Background**

### ***What are the qualifications for the Helping Heroes grant?***

To qualify for a Helping Heroes grant, a veteran must:

- Be a former member of the armed forces, or a former or current member of a reserve or a Tennessee National Guard unit who was called into active military service of the United States
- Have received an honorable discharge
- Have been awarded
  - The Iraq Campaign Medal; or
  - The Afghanistan Campaign Medal; or
  - The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, on or after September 11, 2001
- Have not yet received a baccalaureate degree
- Be admitted to, and enroll in, an eligible postsecondary institution seeking an associate’s or bachelor’s degree
- Be a citizen of Tennessee
- Be a resident of Tennessee for one year immediately preceding the date of application
- Not be in default on a federal Title IV educational loan or Tennessee educational loan
- Not owe a refund on a federal Title IV student financial aid program or a Tennessee student financial aid program
- Be in compliance with federal drug-free rules and laws for receiving financial assistance
- Not be incarcerated
- Apply or reapply for a Helping Heroes grant for any semester that the student successfully completes six or more semester hours<sup>6</sup>

Veterans are not required to meet any academic standard to qualify for the grant, although they

must qualify for admittance to the postsecondary institution they seek to attend.

Grant recipients may continue to receive the grant as long as they meet the qualifications and until one of the following occurs:<sup>7</sup>

- the student earns a baccalaureate degree or
- the eighth anniversary of the veteran's honorable discharge from military service or
- the student receives the grant for a maximum of the equivalent of eight full semesters (with part-time students accumulating half-semester)

TSAC rules provide grant recipients a means to appeal a postsecondary institution's decision to deny or revoke an applicant's Helping Heroes grant. Rules require institutions to create review panels and procedures, and to notify applicants and grant awardees about the process and timeframe required to appeal.<sup>8</sup> To date, no Helping Heroes grant awardees or recipients have made any appeals,<sup>9</sup> likely because the grant eligibility requirements are specific and unambiguous.

***What are the award amounts for grant recipients? For what expenses can recipients use the awards?***

TSAC awards Helping Heroes grants to qualified veterans on a first come, first served basis. Grant awards are either \$500 per semester for part-time students (completion of six to 11 semester hours) or \$1,000 per semester for full-time students (completion of 12 or more semester hours). A student must continue to meet the Helping Heroes grant requirements and reapply to TSAC each academic year to retain the grant. Grant recipients can use the awards to pay for tuition, fees, books, on-campus housing – any expense that is considered part of the total cost of attending the higher education institution. Helping Heroes grants can be used for remedial and developmental courses and distance education courses, as well.<sup>10</sup>

Helping Heroes grants may be awarded in addition to students' other financial aid. A student's Helping Heroes grant award may be reduced by the receipt of other financial aid sources only if the student's total aid exceeds the total cost of attendance – which includes tuition, fees, cost of on-campus housing, books, etc. – at an eligible postsecondary institution.<sup>11</sup> (For example, if a student's total cost of attendance during a semester was \$2,168 and the student received \$2,200 in financial aid, including \$1,000 from the Helping Heroes grant program, the Helping Heroes grant would be reduced by \$32, the difference between \$2,200 and \$2,168.)

***How is the Helping Heroes grant funded?***

The Helping Heroes grant is funded through the state's lottery scholarship program and is administered by TSAC. Public Chapter 1142 of 2008, which created the program, originally set a cap of 375 on the number of recipients per semester and on the total grant expenditures of \$750,000 per year.<sup>12</sup> In 2009, the General Assembly removed the cap on the number of recipients.<sup>13</sup> The cap on total grant expenditures per year remains in place.<sup>14</sup>

TSAC notifies qualified applicants that they are eligible to receive the award at the beginning of the academic year, but grant awards are not distributed to students until the end of the semester. Grant awardees are on track to receive grant funds if they successfully complete postsecondary courses at statutorily eligible postsecondary institutions.<sup>15</sup>

Because funding is awarded at the end of the semester, TSAC must estimate the number of awardees who will successfully complete the specified credit hours. Some students will not complete their courses (i.e., some will fail, some will drop out) and ultimately will not receive funds through the Helping Heroes grant program.<sup>16</sup>

In 2012, the total amount awarded for the Helping Heroes grant exceeded the cap on total grant expenditures by \$55,730; in each of the three years prior to 2012, the total amount of the grant funds expended annually was well below the statutory requirement. (See [Exhibit 1.](#)) According to TSAC, in 2011-12, a higher percentage of those awarded the grant successfully fulfilled the requirements and received grant funds (83 percent of awardees compared to about 73 percent in previous years). In addition, the average amount of the award increased from about \$1,360 in previous years to about \$1,580 in 2011-12.<sup>17</sup>

More than 1,300 veterans have been awarded a combined total of \$3.1 million over the life of the program.<sup>18</sup>

### Analysis

In 2012, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission released a report analyzing the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship programs for special populations, including the Helping Heroes grant program. Much of the information included in this review is taken from THEC's analysis.

### ***What are some characteristics of Helping Heroes grant recipients?***

#### **Demographics**

The majority of Helping Heroes grant recipients are Caucasian (82 percent in 2011-12) and male (89 percent in 2011-12).<sup>19</sup> Most (76 percent in 2010-11) earn less than \$36,000 annually. Slightly more than a quarter of grant recipients (26 percent) earn less than \$12,000 annually and a similar number (27 percent) earn between \$12,001 and \$24,000.<sup>20</sup> (See [Exhibit 2.](#))

#### **Academic Preparedness**

On average, Helping Heroes grant recipients have grade point averages of 2.8, compared to 3.4 for other Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) recipients, and ACT scores of 20 compared to 23 for other TELS recipients. Helping Heroes recipients are more likely to require remedial and developmental coursework; approximately one-third of Helping Heroes grant recipients must take at least one remedial and development course.<sup>21</sup> (See [Exhibit 3.](#))

### ***Where are Helping Heroes grant recipients enrolling? What are they studying?***

In 2012-13, the majority (about 73 percent) of

**Exhibit 1: Helping Heroes Grant Recipients and Dollars Awarded, 2008-2012**

Academic Year	Total Students Served <sup>A</sup>	Unduplicated Student Count <sup>B</sup>	Average Award per Student <sup>C</sup>	Total Dollars Awarded <sup>C</sup>
2008-09	267	260	\$1,406	\$365,614
2009-10	367	234	\$1,398	\$513,242
2010-11	503	314	\$1,352	\$680,000
2011-12	510	510	\$1,577	\$805,730
2012-13	486	484	\$1,582	\$765,855
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,127</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>\$1,433</b>	<b>\$3,130,441</b>

A. Total students served count includes duplications of awards granted (e.g., student receives a grant while attending one institution in the fall and also receives a grant while attending another institution in the spring, and is counted twice here)

B. Represents the total number of students that have participated in the program

C. Calculated using Total Students Served

Source: Tennessee Higher Education Commission, *2012 Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Special Report: An examination of grant and loan forgiveness programs for special populations*, 2012, p. 34, <http://www.state.tn.us/thecl/> (accessed Sept. 5, 2013); Tim Phelps, Associate Executive Director for Grant and Scholarship Programs, Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, e-mail, Sept. 9, 2013, Nov. 21, 2013, and Nov. 22, 2013.

Helping Heroes grant recipients chose to enroll at Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) four-year institutions (about 46 percent) or two-year community colleges (about 27 percent). This trend has held constant every year since the program's inception. In 2012-13, about 13 percent enrolled in University of Tennessee institutions, all of which are four-year, and about the same percentage enrolled in independent four-year institutions. Few have chosen to enroll, thus far, in proprietary (or

private / business and trade) institutions.<sup>22</sup> None have enrolled in independent two-year institutions. (See Exhibit 4. See Appendix A for a list of eligible institutions by institution type. See Appendix B for the total number of students and grant award amounts received by each eligible institution since the program's inception.)

Exhibit 5 displays the college majors chosen the initial semester a Helping Heroes grant recipient

**Exhibit 2: Demographics of Helping Heroes grant recipients, 2008-09 through 2011-12**

		2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Gender</b>	Female	19%	14%	12%	11%
	Male	81%	86%	88%	89%
<b>Race</b>	African American	13%	12%	10%	11%
	Caucasian	76%	78%	80%	82%
	Other	11%	11%	10%	7%
<b>Adjusted Gross Income</b>	\$12,000 or less	29%	25%	26%	**
	\$12,001 – \$24,000	35%	20%	27%	**
	\$24,001- \$36,000	18%	23%	13%	**
	\$36,001 - \$48,000	7%	10%	12%	**
	\$48,001 - \$60,000	7%	8%	5%	**
	\$60,001 - \$72,000	3%	3%	5%	**
	\$72,001 - \$84,000	1%	4%	4%	**
	\$84,001 - \$96,000	0%	1%	3%	**
Over \$96,000	1%	4%	5%	**	

Notes: (1) Excludes students with missing data by category. (2) \*\* = Data not available.

Source: Tennessee Higher Education Commission, *2012 Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Special Report: An examination of grant and loan forgiveness programs for special populations*, 2012, p. 35, <http://www.state.tn.us/thecc/> (accessed Sept. 5, 2013). Emily House, Lottery Scholarship and Student Financial Aid Research Director, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, e-mail attachment, Feb. 13, 2014.

**Exhibit 3: Academic preparedness of Helping Heroes Grant recipients compared to TELS recipients since inception of both programs**

	Helping Heroes Recipients	TELS Recipients
Average High School GPA	2.81	3.42
Average Composite ACT Score	20	23
% Taking at least one remedial and development course	34%	19%

Notes: (1) TELS recipients include HOPE, GAMS, ASPIRE and ACCESS.

(2) Excludes students with missing ACT or High School GPA data and represents unduplicated headcounts.

Source: Tennessee Higher Education Commission, *2012 Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Special Report: An examination of grant and loan forgiveness programs for special populations*, 2012, p. 37, <http://www.state.tn.us/thecc/> (accessed Sept. 5, 2013).



enrolls in a postsecondary institution. Almost one-third (30 percent) of Helping Heroes grant recipients initially select a program within liberal arts and sciences.<sup>23</sup>

**What is known about the outcomes of veterans receiving the Helping Heroes grant awards?**

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) tracks the number of credit hours taken and completion rates of Helping Heroes grant

recipients. According to the data, most grant recipients attempt fewer credit hours in their first semester than other lottery scholarship recipients (12.2 average hours compared to 14.4), but are on par with most other full-time, first-semester freshmen in the state (12.8). (See Exhibit 6.) Based on the average number of credit hours attempted in their first semester, THEC estimates that the average Helping Heroes grant recipient attending full-time could achieve their degree within 150 percent of normal time, which

**Exhibit 4: Helping Heroes grant recipients by institution type and academic year, 2008-12 (in descending order by number of students in most recent year)**

Institution Type	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Board of Regents / Four-Year	179	221	259	240	222
Board of Regents / Community Colleges	52	80	156	157	133
Independent / Four-Year	7	24	35	56	63
University of Tennessee System / Four-Year	19	40	51	55	62
Proprietary	3	2	2	2	6
Independent / Two-Year	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>486</b>

Source: Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011, [Grants and Scholarships Summary Update](#), pp. 39-40, <http://www.tn.gov/tsac/> (accessed April 17, 2014). Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, *Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program, Summary Report, 2011-2012 TELS Summary Report*, pp. 20-21, <http://www.tn.gov/CollegePays/> (accessed Sept. 5, 2013). Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, Sept. 26, 2013, Board of Directors Meeting, pp. 75-76 (accessed April 16, 2014).

**Exhibit 5: Percent of Helping Heroes grant recipients by college major in the first semester**

Major	Percent 2010	Percent 2011
Liberal Arts & Sciences	35%	30%
Undeclared	14%	16%
Business Management & Administrative Services	8%	9%
Protective Services & Public Affairs	8%	7%
Health Professions & Related Services	8%	6%
Engineering	6%	5%
Social Sciences	3%	3%
Computer & Information Sciences	1%	3%
Biological Sciences/Life Sciences	3%	3%
Physical Sciences	1%	2%
Other	12%	17%

Note: Percentages may not total 100 because of rounding.

Source: Emily House, Lottery Scholarship and Student Financial Aid Research Director, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, e-mail attachment, September 21, 2013, and e-mail, Feb. 14, 2014.

translates to about three years for a two-year Associate's degree and six years for a four-year Bachelor's degree.

THEC's analysis noted that the first two cohorts of Helping Heroes grant recipients "are progressing at high rates" and that "their progression rates are relatively stable across postsecondary systems."<sup>24</sup>

As shown by Exhibit 8, over half of Helping Heroes grant recipients enrolled at a community college completed their associate's degree within three years for cohort years 2008 and 2009. The percent of those graduating in that time frame dropped to 38 percent for 2010. THEC notes that this rate is based on preliminary data and does not yet reflect all students who will have graduated by the end of 2013.

Some Helping Heroes grant recipients have received bachelor's degrees: 34 grant recipients from the 2008 cohort and 35 grant recipients from the 2009 cohort earned bachelor's degrees by the spring of 2013. To date, these are the only cohorts that have been enrolled long enough to have earned a bachelor's degree.<sup>25</sup>

**Exhibit 6: Average credit hours attempted by Helping Heroes grant recipients in their first semester, by institution type**

Institution Type	Average HH credit hours attempted	2010 TELS FTF average credit hours attempted	2010 TN Public FTF average credit hours attempted
TBR Universities	11.8	14.4	13.8
TBR Community Colleges	10.9	12.4	11.0
UT Institutions	13.2	14.6	14.2
TICUA Institutions	16.0	15.3	15.2
<b>Average across systems</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>12.8</b>

Notes: TELS: Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship

FTF: First Time Freshman

TBR: Tennessee Board of Regents

UT: University of Tennessee

TICUA: Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association

Source: Tennessee Higher Education Commission, *2012 Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Special Report: An examination of grant and loan forgiveness programs for special populations*, 2012, p. 38,

<http://www.state.tn.us/thecc/> (accessed Sept. 5, 2013).

## Conclusion

The Helping Heroes grant program provided more than \$3.1 million in grants to 1,325 veterans from its inception in 2008 through 2013. The program has reached capacity, and some grant recipients have earned associate's and bachelor's degrees. The program reached (and exceeded) capacity in 2011-12 and 2012-13. The number of grant awardees was lowered in 2012-13 in an attempt to avoid exceeding the statutory cap of \$750,000, which had been exceeded by more than \$50,000 in 2011-12, the year the largest number of Helping Heroes grants was awarded. The cap was again exceeded in 2012-13, but by a smaller amount (\$16,000). According to TSAC, in 2012-13, 216 eligible applicants did not receive funding because of the statutory cap.<sup>26</sup>

According to the results of THEC's analysis, Helping Heroes grant recipients are persisting at high rates despite their needs for remediation. THEC suggests that one factor in the veterans' success might be an institutional focus on serving veteran students. Many Tennessee institutions attended by Helping Heroes grant recipients have been included on recent lists of "military friendly" postsecondary institutions.<sup>27</sup> THEC proposes

examining best practices from these institutions to see whether they could be used to improve results for at-risk students in other TELS programs.<sup>28</sup>

**Exhibit 7: Percent of Helping Heroes grant recipients accumulating at least 24, 48, 72, and 96 credit hours by cohort year**

Cohort Year	System	at least 24	at least 48	at least 72	at least 96
2008	TBR Universities	100%	99%	94%	88%
	TBR Community Colleges	95%	86%	79%	68%
	UT Institutions	100%	100%	100%	81%
	TICUA Institutions	NA <sup>1</sup>	NA <sup>1</sup>	NA <sup>1</sup>	NA <sup>1</sup>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>98%</i>	<i>95%</i>	<i>91%</i>	<i>79%</i>
2009	TBR Universities	97%	92%	81%	78%
	TBR Community Colleges	90%	72%	58%	48%
	UT Institutions	100%	100%	94%	94%
	TICUA Institutions	NA	NA	NA	NA
	<i>Total</i>	<i>95%</i>	<i>88%</i>	<i>71%</i>	<i>73%</i>
2010	TBR Universities	98%	93%	80%	68%
	TBR Community Colleges	88%	67%	52%	32%
	UT Institutions	100%	93%	85%	77%
	TICUA Institutions	100%	100%	100%	75%
	<i>Total</i>	<i>93%</i>	<i>79%</i>	<i>79%</i>	<i>63%</i>
2011	TBR Universities	98%	93%	80%	65%
	TBR Community Colleges	95%	82%	54%	30%
	UT Institutions	91%	91%	83%	78%
	TICUA Institutions	100%	100%	NA	NA
	<i>Total</i>	<i>96%</i>	<i>91%</i>	<i>72%</i>	<i>57%</i>

Notes: NA = Not Applicable. This denotes that either:

1. The cohort has not had sufficient time (or the data is not yet available) to accumulate the credit hour benchmark (assuming 12 hours a semester).
2. There were no students in the original cohort (as is the case for TICUA institutions in the 2008 and 2009 cohorts).

Source: Emily House, Lottery Scholarship and Student Financial Aid Research Director, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, e-mail attachment, Nov. 21, 2013.

**Exhibit 8: Percent of Helping Heroes grant recipients enrolled at a community college graduating with an Associate's degree within 3-years**

Cohort Year	3-yr Graduation Rate
2008	53%
2009	55%
2010	38%

Notes:

1. 3-year graduation rates represent 150% of normal time for an Associate's Degree at a Community College.
2. Information for the 2010 cohort is reliant on preliminary data, so this rate may be artificially low. Further, these students would have graduated this past spring, so this does not account for students who graduated during the summer term, or will graduate in December 2013.



## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Public Chapter 1142, 2008, Section 15, <http://www.tn.gov/sos/> (accessed April 15, 2014).
- <sup>2</sup> Rules of the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, Chapter 1640-01-22-.02 (1), Helping Heroes Grant Program, Scholarship Award Amounts and Classifications, effective May 29, 2009, <http://www.tn.gov/sos/> (accessed June 24, 2012).
- <sup>3</sup> Rules of the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, Chapter 1640-01-22-.02 (2), Helping Heroes Grant Program, Scholarship Award Amounts and Classifications, effective May 29, 2009, <http://www.tn.gov/sos/> (accessed June 24, 2012).
- <sup>4</sup> Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, *The Helping Heroes Grant*, <https://www.tn.gov/> (accessed April 15, 2014).
- <sup>5</sup> Public Chapter 1142, 2008, Section 15, <http://www.tn.gov/sos/> (accessed April 15, 2014).
- <sup>6</sup> Application deadlines are: September 1 for fall enrollment, February 1 for spring enrollment and May 1 for summer enrollment. Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, *The Helping Heroes Grant*, <http://www.tn.gov/> (accessed April 17, 2014). *Tennessee Code Annotated* 49-4-904.
- <sup>7</sup> Rules of the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, Chapter 1640-01-22-.05, Helping Heroes Grant Program, Retention of Award – General Requirements, effective May 29, 2009, <http://www.tn.gov/> (accessed April 16, 2014).
- <sup>8</sup> Rules of the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, Chapter 1640-01-22-.11, Helping Heroes Grant Program, Appeal and Exception Process, effective May 29, 2009, <http://www.tn.gov/sos/> (accessed April 16, 2014).
- <sup>9</sup> Tim Phelps, Associate Executive Director for Grant and Scholarship Programs, Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, e-mail, Aug. 31, 2012.
- <sup>10</sup> Rules of the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, Chapter 1640-01-22-.02, .05, and .08, Helping Heroes Grant Program, effective May 2009, <http://www.tn.gov/sos/> (accessed Jan. 6, 2014).
- <sup>11</sup> Rules of the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, Chapter 1640-01-22-.02(4), Helping Heroes Grant Program, effective May 2009, <http://www.tn.gov/sos/> (accessed Jan. 6, 2014).
- <sup>12</sup> Public Chapter 1142, 2008, <http://www.tn.gov/sos/> (accessed April 15, 2014).
- <sup>13</sup> Public Chapter 501, 2009, <http://state.tn.us/sos/> (accessed June 24, 2014).
- <sup>14</sup> Tennessee Code Annotated 49-4-938(k).
- <sup>15</sup> If a student successfully completes 12 or more semester hours, then the student will receive the full amount of the grant. If a student successfully completes 6 to 11 semester hours, then the student will receive one half of the full grant. A student successfully completing fewer than 6 semester hours in a semester will not be eligible for the grant for that semester. *Tennessee Code Annotated* 49-4-938(e).
- <sup>16</sup> Tim Phelps, Associate Executive Director for Grant and Scholarship Programs, Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, e-mail, Aug. 30, 2013, and telephone interview, Aug. 30, 2013.
- <sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>18</sup> Tennessee Higher Education Commission, *2012 Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Special Report: An examination of grant and loan forgiveness programs for special populations*, 2012, p. 9, <http://www.state.tn.us/> (accessed Sept. 5, 2013). Tim Phelps, Associate Executive Director for Grant and Scholarship Programs, Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, e-mail, Sept. 9, 2013.
- <sup>19</sup> Tennessee Higher Education Commission, *2012 Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Special Report: An examination of grant and loan forgiveness programs for special populations*, 2012, p. 35, <http://www.state.tn.us/> (accessed Sept. 5, 2013). Emily House, Lottery Scholarship and Student Financial Aid Research Director, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, e-mail attachment, Feb. 13, 2014.
- <sup>20</sup> Tennessee Higher Education Commission, *2012 Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Special Report: An examination of grant and loan forgiveness programs for special populations*, 2012, p. 35, <http://www.state.tn.us/> (accessed Sept. 5, 2013).
- <sup>21</sup> Tennessee Higher Education Commission, *2012 Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Special Report: An examination of grant and loan forgiveness programs for special populations*, 2012, p. 37, <http://www.state.tn.us/> (accessed Sept. 5, 2013).
- <sup>22</sup> The private / business and trade category of schools comprises the Art Institute of Tennessee—Nashville, O'More College of Design, South College, and Victory University.
- <sup>23</sup> Programs of study within the liberal arts and sciences area encompass a wide variety of disciplines in Tennessee institutions. For example, MTSU's College of Liberal Arts includes programs of study in Art, English, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Geoscience, History, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology, and Speech and Theater. See [www.mtsu.edu/liberalarts/](http://www.mtsu.edu/liberalarts/).
- <sup>24</sup> Tennessee Higher Education Commission, *2012 Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Special Report: An examination of grant and loan forgiveness programs for special populations*, 2012, p. 38, <http://www.state.tn.us/> (accessed Sept. 5, 2013).

- <sup>25</sup> Emily House, Lottery Scholarship and Student Financial Aid Research Director, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, e-mail, March 13, 2014.
- <sup>26</sup> Tim Phelps, Associate Executive Director for Grant and Scholarship Programs, Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, e-mail, Nov. 22, 2013.
- <sup>27</sup> At least two groups provide lists of military friendly higher education institutions: (1) Victory Media, Inc., a veteran-owned business formed in 2001(see [www.militaryfriendlyschools.com/](http://www.militaryfriendlyschools.com/)) and (2) Military Advanced Education by KMI Media Group (see [www.kmimediagroup.com/](http://www.kmimediagroup.com/)).
- <sup>28</sup> Tennessee Higher Education Commission, *2012 Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Special Report: An examination of grant and loan forgiveness programs for special populations*, 2012, p. 40, <http://www.state.tn.us/> (accessed Feb. 28, 2014).

## **Appendix A: Tennessee postsecondary institutions eligible for Helping Heroes grant awards**

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### Public Universities (Four-year)

Austin Peay State University  
East Tennessee State University  
ETSU School of Pharmacy  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Tennessee State University  
Tennessee Technological University  
University of Memphis  
University of Tennessee, Chattanooga  
University of Tennessee, Health Sciences Center  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
University of Tennessee, Martin

### Public Community Colleges (Two-year)

Chattanooga State Community College  
Cleveland State Community College  
Columbia State Community College  
Dyersburg State Community College  
Jackson State Community College  
Motlow State Community College  
Nashville State Community College  
Northeast State Community College  
Pellissippi State Community College  
Roane State Community College  
Southwest Tennessee Community College  
Volunteer State Community College  
Walters State Community College

### Independent Institutions (Four-year)

Aquinas College  
Baptist Memorial College of Health and Sciences  
Belmont University  
Bethel University  
Bryan College  
Carson Newman College  
Christian Brothers University  
Cumberland University  
Fisk University  
Freed Hardeman University  
Hiwassee College

### Independent Institutions (Four-year) - cont'd

Johnson University  
King College  
Knoxville College  
Lane College  
Lee University  
LeMoyne-Owen College  
Lincoln Memorial University  
Lipscomb University  
Martin Methodist University  
Maryville College  
Memphis College of Art  
Milligan College  
Rhodes College  
Southern Adventist University  
Tennessee Temple University  
Tennessee Wesleyan College  
Trevecca Nazarene University  
Tusculum College  
Union University  
University of the South  
Vanderbilt University  
Watkins College of Art, Design, and Film  
Welch College (formerly Free Will Baptist Bible College)

### Independent Institutions (Two-year)

John A. Gupton College

### Proprietary Institutions (Two- and Four-Year)

Art Institute of Tennessee-Nashville  
O'More College of Design  
South College  
Victory University (formerly Crichton College)

Source: Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, "Eligible Postsecondary Institutions," <http://www.tn.gov/CollegePays/> (accessed Feb. 14, 2014).

**Appendix B: Helping Heroes grant awards by institution type and academic year, 2008-2013**

	2008-2009 Actual Recipients		2009-2010 Actual Recipients		2010-2011 Actual Recipients		2011-2012 Actual Recipients		2012-13 Actual Recipients	
	Students	\$	Students	\$	Students	\$	Students	\$	Students	\$
<b>Independent / Four -Year</b>										
Aquinas College	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$1,500	1	\$500
Baptist College of Health Sciences	1	1,500	1	1,000	1	1,500	0	0	0	0
Belmont University	0	0	0	0	1	2,000	0	0	3	\$5,000
Bethel University	0	0	1	2,000	8	9,000	6	10,000	15	\$24,500
Bryan College	0	0	0	0	1	1,000	1	1,000	1	\$2,000
Carson Newman College	0	0	1	500	0	0	0	0	1	\$2,000
Christian Brothers University	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumberland University	1	1,000	0	0	0	0	1	2,000	3	\$6,000
Fisk University	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Free Will Baptist Bible College (now Welch College)	0	0	2	4,000	1	2,000	1	1,500	--	--
Freed Hardeman University	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hiwassee College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson University	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
King College	1	1,000	1	1,000	2	3,000	1	2,000	1	\$2,000
Knoxville College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lambuth University (ceased operations in 2011)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--
Lane College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lee University	2	2,500	2	4,000	1	1,000	3	5,000	0	0
LeMoyne-Owen College	0	0	1	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln Memorial University	0	0	0	0	1	1,000	2	4,000	3	\$6,000
Lipscomb University	0	0	3	5,000	7	9,500	17	31,000	23	\$40,500
Martin Methodist University	1	2,000	5	7,000	8	10,500	5	5,000	3	\$4,500
Maryville College	0	0	1	2,000	2	3,000	1	2,000	1	\$1,000
Memphis College of Art	0	0	1	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milligan College	0	0	1	500	2	3,000	2	2,000	1	\$1,500
Rhodes College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South College	0	0	1	2,000	0	0	0	0	--	--
Southern Adventist University	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tennessee Temple University	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tennessee Wesleyan College	0	0	1	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trevecca Nazarene University	0	0	1	1,000	0	0	2	4,000	0	0

	2008-2009 Actual Recipients		2009-2010 Actual Recipients		2010-2011 Actual Recipients		2011-2012 Actual Recipients		2012-13 Actual Recipients	
	Students	\$	Students	\$	Students	\$	Students	\$	Students	\$
<b>Independent / Four -Year</b>										
Tusculum College	0	0	1	1,000	0	0	11	16,500	6	\$6,500
Union University	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3,000	1	\$2,000
University of the South	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vanderbilt University	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Victory University (formerly Crichton)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--
Watkins College of Art, Design, & Film	1	1,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Welch College (formerly Free Will Baptist Bible College)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$9,500</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>\$37,000</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>\$46,500</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>\$90,500</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>\$104,000</b>
<b>Independent / Two-Year</b>										
John A. Gupton College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Proprietary</b>										
Art Institute of Tennessee-Nashville	3	\$6,000	2	\$3,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
O'More College of Design	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
South College	0	0	0	0	2	\$3,000	2	\$3,000	6	\$7,500
Victory University (formerly Crichton College)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$7,500</b>
<b>University of Tennessee System</b>										
University of TN, Chattanooga	4	\$5,500	8	\$12,000	6	\$9,000	12	\$21,500	16	\$26,500
University of TN, Health Science Center	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2000	2	4,000
University of TN, Knoxville	13	19,500	28	43,500	34	50,500	33	58,500	32	54,000
University of TN, Martin	2	2,000	4	5,000	11	15,500	9	14,500	12	21,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>\$27,000</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>\$60,500</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>\$96,500</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>\$105,500</b>

	2008-2009		2009-2010		2010-2011		2011-2012		2012-13	
	Actual Recipients		Actual Recipients		Actual Recipients		Actual Recipients		Actual Recipients	
	Students	\$	Students	\$	Students	\$	Students	\$	Students	\$
<b>Board of Regents / Four Year</b>										
Austin Peay State University	57	\$79,986	62	\$84,242	92	\$134,500	68	\$107,230	73	\$118,355
East Tennessee State University	36	49,000	84	120,000	56	81,500	53	87,500	26	41,500
ETSU School of Pharmacy	1	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Middle Tennessee State University	51	80,148	39	56,500	72	99,500	69	112,500	70	116,000
Tennessee State University	2	3,000	6	9,500	1	2,000	2	4,000	1	2,000
Tennessee Technological University	2	4,000	5	8,000	8	11,500	10	17,500	13	20,000
University of Memphis	30	46,131	25	38,500	30	46,500	38	61,500	39	62,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>\$263,265</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>\$316,742</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>\$375,500</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>\$390,230</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>\$360,355</b>
<b>Community Colleges</b>										
Chattanooga State	5	\$6,500	5	\$7,500	8	\$11,000	14	\$22,500	12	\$15,500
Cleveland State	1	1,000	2	2,500	7	9,000	7	9,500	2	2,500
Columbia State	3	2,500	5	6,500	5	5,500	0	0	6	8,500
Dyersburg State	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1,000	0	0
Jackson State	2	1,500	6	7,500	6	6,500	14	18,000	17	23,500
Motlow State	5	7,000	3	3,000	11	11,000	7	8,500	7	8,000
Nashville State	6	5,849	2	3,000	7	9,000	3	5,000	3	6,000
Northeast State	0	0	10	11,500	27	35,500	43	60,500	21	30,500
Pellissippi State	14	17,000	25	27,500	46	52,500	34	52,500	33	47,500
Roane State	4	2,500	3	3,500	13	13,000	6	7,500	3	3,000
Southwest Tennessee	4	5,000	11	11,500	12	11,500	9	11,000	5	7,000
Volunteer State	5	5,500	6	9,000	10	11,000	12	19,000	13	20,500
Walters State	3	5,500	2	3,000	4	4,500	7	10,500	11	16,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>\$59,849</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>\$96,000</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>\$180,000</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>\$225,500</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>\$188,500</b>



Total Awards By Institution Type	2008-2009 Actual Recipients		2009-2010 Actual Recipients		2010-2011 Actual Recipients		2011-2012 Actual Recipients		2012-13 Actual Recipients	
	Students	\$	Students	\$	Students	\$	Students	\$	Students	\$
	Independent / Four-Year	7	\$9,500	24	\$37,000	35	\$46,500	56	\$90,500	63
Independent / Two-Year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Proprietary Institutions	3	6,000	2	3,000	2	3,000	2	3,000	6	7,500
University of Tennessee System	19	27,000	40	60,500	51	75,000	55	96,500	62	105,500
Board of Regents / Four-Year	179	263,265	221	316,742	259	375,500	240	390,230	222	360,355
Community Colleges	52	59,849	80	96,000	156	180,000	157	225,500	133	188,500
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>\$365,614</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>\$513,242</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>\$680,000</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>\$805,730</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>\$765,855</b>

Source: Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program Summary Report, [2010-2011 TELS Summary Report](http://www.tn.gov/), <http://www.tn.gov/> (accessed April 21, 2014); [2011-12 TELS Year End Report](http://www.tn.gov/), <http://www.tn.gov/>; Sept. 26, 2013, Board of Directors Meeting (accessed April 16, 2014).



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