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A Call to College Last Dollar Grant Guidelines 2026-2027

As presented to the ACTC Governing Board on 11/19/2025

Below are the guidelines adopted by A Call to College (ACTC), an Ohio non-profit corporation, for the application and awarding of Last Dollar Grants (LDG), and for setting forth the obligations of recipients. Guidelines are approved annually by the ACTC Governing Board and may be amended at any time without prior notice by ACTC. All financial awards are subject to the availability of funds of ACTC.

ACTC encourages students to apply for all possible sources of funding for their post-secondary education, including local, state, federal and college-based scholarships, grants and subsidized loans. ACTC does not guarantee that every Newark City School (NCS) District student will receive financial aid to fund his/her post-secondary education. Students should not rely on, or plan to receive such assistance.

ACTC does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, color, national origin, physical disability or sexual orientation.

A. **1. ELIGIBILITY—To be considered for a LDG, a student must:**

a. be a graduate or graduating student of NCS as follows: Newark High School after 1991, Newark City Schools Digital after 2018, Newark City Schools Alternative Academy after 2026;
b. have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of no less than 2.0 if a graduating high school student or an applicant who has never enrolled full-time (12 or more credits or equivalent) in a post-secondary program; **or** have a post-secondary cumulative GPA of no less than 2.0; **or** have no less than a 2.0 GPA for the last term of full-time enrollment in a post-secondary program;
c. plan to attend an accredited post-secondary school/program which accepts federal student aid: full-time in a bachelor's degree program; **or** at least half-time in an associate's degree program from a community or technical college; **or** in a short-term adult education, technical or trade program;
d. file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
e. apply for campus-based aid and other sources of financial aid for which the student feels he/she may be eligible by the applicable priority deadlines and;
f. demonstrate unmet financial need as determined by the FAFSA Submission Summary, Financial Aid Award Letter~~,~~ and financial aid received from other sources.

*Applicants who do not meet the LDG eligibility requirements (A.1.a-f) but have compelling family/financial circumstances that warrant a review, may submit an appeal to the ACTC Exceptions Committee for final consideration.

2. Applicants who do not meet the LDG eligibility requirements (A.1.a-f) but were active participants in high school programming may be eligible for a LDG award if ~~they are~~:

g. they are a graduating NCS senior who attended 4 or more advising meetings, and completed at least one of the following: ACTC sponsored ACT event, College Application Blitz, financial aid event or submitted three or more college applications.
h. they are a NCS graduate (as explained above) who meets the GPA requirement and while in high school attended 4 or more official advising meetings, and completed at least one of the following: ACTC sponsored ACT event, College Application Blitz, financial aid event or submitted three or more college

applications.

i. their FAFSA Submission Summary indicates that they have a family with multiple dependent students in college and do NOT qualify for a maximum Last Dollar Grant. In this case, the student's SAI will be divided by the total number of dependent students in college for the purposes of LDG calculation to determine if a maximum LDG can be awarded.

B. **APPLICATION—To apply for a LDG, a student must submit to the ACTC office by the applicable deadlines:**
   a. the LDG application by the priority deadline—applicants failing to meet this deadline may not receive funding;
   b. a copy of the FAFSA Submission Summary based on the FAFSA;
   c. a copy of the Financial Aid Award Letter from the college the student plans to attend and
   d. a copy of the student's ~~latest grade card or an~~ unofficial college transcript or a document showing the student's current cumulative GPA.

C. **AWARDS**
   a. The amount of a LDG award (for A.1.a-f) is up to unmet need not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars ($2,500) per academic year to be disbursed evenly over student's first two enrollment periods.
   b. The minimum LDG award is one thousand dollars ($1,000) per academic year to be disbursed in the student's first enrollment period.
   c. Programs that are less than one academic year are eligible for a 1-year award for that academic year to be disbursed in the student's first enrollment period.
   d. All LDG funds are paid directly to the post-secondary institution.
   e. Award of a LDG for any term or year neither guarantees nor implies award of a subsequent grant.
   f. Eligible students may be awarded up to the equivalent of four years of LDGs.

D. **EXPECTATIONS OF RECIPIENTS**
   a. Students must notify ACTC immediately if they do not attend college, leave or plan to change schools mid-year so adjustments may occur. It is the responsibility of the student to request funds to be returned to ACTC. Eligibility and/or re-awarding within the school year can only be determined and processed once the unused portion of the grant is returned to ACTC.
   b. Grant recipients shall volunteer up to four hours of service to ACTC for each year the grant is received.