

**RULES
OF
THE TENNESSEE STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION**

**CHAPTER 1640-01-22
HELPING HEROES GRANT PROGRAM**

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1640-01-22-.01 DEFINITIONS.

- (1) The definitions in T.C.A. § 49-4-902 shall apply to this rule.
- (2) Tennessee National Guard: The term is defined in T.C.A. § 49-4-926(b)(3).
- (3) Veteran: The term is defined in T.C.A. § 49-4-938(b)(2).

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-204, 49-4-902, 49-4-924, and 49-4-938. **Administrative History:** Public necessity rule filed October 23, 2008; effective through April 6, 2009. Public necessity rule filed October 23, 2008; effective through April 6, 2009. Public necessity rule expired effective April 7, 2009, and the rule reverted to its previous status. Original rule filed January 30, 2009; effective May 29, 2009. Amendments filed June 20, 2013; effective November 28, 2013. Amendments filed May 2, 2023; effective July 31, 2023.

1640-01-22-.02 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD AMOUNTS AND CLASSIFICATIONS.

- (1) The Helping Heroes Grant is intended to provide financial awards to veterans to offset costs associated with pursuing postsecondary education and shall be based on coursework in an eligible program of study in pursuit of an associate or baccalaureate degree at an eligible postsecondary institution.
- (2) The award amount for a Helping Heroes Grant is determined by the provisions of T.C.A. § 49-4-938 and set in the General Appropriations Act.
- (3) To receive a Helping Heroes Grant program award, a student must be enrolled and attending an eligible postsecondary institution as at least a part-time student, except in the following circumstances:
 - (a) In the semester of graduation, if less than six (6) credit hours are required to complete the student's eligible program of study;
 - (b) In any semester in which the eligible postsecondary institution does not offer at least six (6) credit hours of coursework applicable to the student's eligible program of study; or
 - (c) The student's eligible program of study requires enrollment in less than six (6) credit hours for a semester.

(Rule 1640-01-22-.02, continued)

- (4) In the event that net lottery proceeds are insufficient to fully fund the Helping Heroes Grant, TSAC shall determine the appropriate manner in which the awards shall be reduced.
- (5) Receipt of student financial aid from sources other than the Helping Heroes Grant that are applied to educational expenses will not operate to reduce the student's grant as long as the student's total aid does not exceed the total cost of attendance. In the event that a student's total aid exceeds the cost of attendance, the eligible postsecondary institution shall, to the extent it does not violate applicable federal regulations, use its institutional policy in reducing the student's total aid package.
- (6) The receipt of a Helping Heroes Grant is contingent upon admission and enrollment at an eligible postsecondary institution. Qualifying for this grant does not guarantee admission to an eligible postsecondary institution.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-204, 49-4-902, 49-4-924, and 49-4-938. **Administrative History:** Public necessity rule filed October 23, 2008; effective through April 6, 2009. Public necessity rule filed October 23, 2008; effective through April 6, 2009. Public necessity rule expired effective April 7, 2009, and the rule reverted to its previous status. Original rule filed January 30, 2009; effective May 29, 2009. Amendment filed June 20, 2013; effective November 28, 2013. Amendments filed May 2, 2023; effective July 31, 2023.

1640-01-22-.03 APPLICATION PROCESS.

- (1) The Helping Heroes Grant application shall be the means by which eligible students apply or reapply for the grant after their initial year of eligibility. The Helping Heroes Grant application must be submitted to TSAC as directed on the application.
- (2) Application deadlines shall be determined by the TSAC Executive Director and published on TSAC's website. If the deadline for the application occurs on a weekend or holiday, then the deadline will be the next business day. It is the responsibility of the student to submit the application in a timely manner to ensure it is received by the published deadlines.
- (3) The TSAC Executive Director is authorized to modify published application deadlines for well-documented extraordinary cause, if necessary to protect the public interest.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-204, 49-4-902, 49-4-924, and 49-4-938. **Administrative History:** Public necessity rule filed October 23, 2008; effective through April 6, 2009. Public necessity rule filed October 23, 2008; effective through April 6, 2009. Public necessity rule expired effective April 7, 2009, and the rule reverted to its previous status. Original rule filed January 30, 2009; effective May 29, 2009. Amendment filed June 20, 2013; effective November 28, 2013. Amendments filed May 2, 2023; effective July 31, 2023.

1640-01-22-.04 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY.

- (1) To be eligible for a Helping Heroes Grant a student shall:
 - (a) Satisfy the requirements of T.C.A. § 49-4-938;
 - (b) Have received an honorable discharge or remain in good standing while serving in an active reserve unit;
 - (c) Have been awarded the Iraq Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, or Inherent Resolve Medal on or after September 1, 2001;

(Rule 1640-01-22-.04, continued)

- (d) Not be in default on a federal Title IV educational loan or Tennessee educational loan; and
 - (e) Not owe a refund on a federal Title IV student financial aid program or a Tennessee student financial aid program.
- (2) The Helping Heroes Grant will not pay for:
- (a) Credit hours earned by examination;
 - (b) Courses audited by a student for which no college credit will be received;
 - (c) Continuing education courses, as defined by the eligible postsecondary institution; and
 - (d) Pass/Fail courses.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-204, 49-4-902, 49-4-924, and 49-4-938. **Administrative History:** Public necessity rule filed October 23, 2008; effective through April 6, 2009. Public necessity rule filed October 23, 2008; effective through April 6, 2009. Public necessity rule expired effective April 7, 2009, and the rule reverted to its previous status. Original rule filed January 30, 2009; effective May 29, 2009. Amendments filed June 20, 2013; effective November 28, 2013. Amendments filed May 2, 2023; effective July 31, 2023.

1640-01-22-.05 RETENTION OF AWARD – GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.

- (1) To retain a Helping Heroes Grant award authorized by this chapter, a student at an eligible postsecondary institution shall continue to meet all applicable requirements for the scholarship pursuant to 1640-01-22-.04 and shall reapply by completing the Helping Heroes Grant application pursuant to Rule 1640-01-22-.03 for each academic year.
- (2) A student must maintain satisfactory academic progress, as determined by the institution, at the end of each academic year to retain the grant.
- (3) If the student is otherwise eligible to receive a grant, but does not receive grant funding or grant funding is reduced because the cost of attendance is covered by other aid, the student shall remain eligible for the grant in subsequent semesters if all other applicable requirements are met.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-902, 49-4-924, and 49-4-938. **Administrative History:** Public necessity rule filed October 23, 2008; effective through April 6, 2009. Public necessity rule filed October 23, 2008; effective through April 6, 2009. Public necessity rule expired effective April 7, 2009, and the rule reverted to its previous status. Original rule filed January 30, 2009; effective May 29, 2009. Amendments filed May 2, 2023; effective July 31, 2023.

1640-01-22-.06 AWARD MADE IN ERROR.

- (1) If a student receives a Helping Heroes Grant and it is later determined that the award or some portion of the award was made in error, the student or the postsecondary institution may be required to repay the amount awarded in error.
- (2) If TSAC determines that the error was through no fault of the student, the student will not be required to repay the amount of the payment made in error.
- (3) Repayment from the student will be required if TSAC determines that fraud was committed by, or the error was the fault of, the student. When repayment is required, the student may not receive additional student aid from TSAC until repayment is made.

(Rule 1640-01-22-.06, continued)

- (4) Repayment from the eligible postsecondary institution will be required if TSAC determines that the error was the fault of the institution.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-902, 49-4-924, and 49-4-938. **Administrative History:** Public necessity rule filed October 23, 2008; effective through April 6, 2009. Public necessity rule filed October 23, 2008; effective through April 6, 2009. Public necessity rule expired effective April 7, 2009, and the rule reverted to its previous status. Original rule filed January 30, 2009; effective May 29, 2009. Amendments filed May 2, 2023; effective July 31, 2023.

1640-01-22-.07 REFUND POLICY.

- (1) If a recipient of a Helping Heroes Grant fails to complete a semester for any reason, the eligible postsecondary institution shall apply its refund policy to determine whether a refund may be required and whether funds must be returned to TSAC. The eligible postsecondary institution shall provide the student with a notice indicating the amount to be returned to the student and the amount to be refunded to TSAC. Additionally, the eligible postsecondary institution shall notify TSAC of the refund, which shall be noted on the student's record. The eligible postsecondary institution shall also be responsible for obtaining repayment from the student if necessary. The student shall be ineligible for student aid from TSAC until the refund is paid.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-902, 49-4-924, and 49-4-938. **Administrative History:** Public necessity rule filed October 23, 2008; effective through April 9, 2009. Public necessity rule filed October 23, 2008; effective through April 6, 2009. Public necessity rule expired effective April 7, 2009, and the rule reverted to its previous status. Original rule filed January 30, 2009; effective May 29, 2009. Amendments filed May 2, 2023; effective July 31, 2023.

1640-01-22-.08 TRANSFER STUDENTS.

- (1) A student receiving a Helping Heroes Grant shall continue receiving the grant at another eligible postsecondary institution so long as continuation requirements are met and the student is enrolled in at least six (6) semester hours.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-902, 49-4-924, and 49-4-938. **Administrative History:** Public necessity rule filed October 23, 2008; effective through April 6, 2009. Public necessity rule filed October 23, 2008; effective through April 6, 2009. Public necessity rule expired effective April 7, 2009, and the rule reverted to its previous status. Original rule filed January 30, 2009; effective May 29, 2009. Rule was previously numbered 1640-01-22-.09 but was renumbered 1640-01-22-.08 with the deletion of original rule 1640-01-22-.08 filed May 2, 2023; effective July 31, 2023.

1640-01-22-.09 TRANSIENT STUDENTS.

- (1) A transient student is eligible to receive a Helping Heroes Grant if all other eligibility requirements are met and if both the home and host institutions are eligible postsecondary institutions. The home institution shall award the grant to the transient student based on certification of eligibility from the host institution. The home institution shall certify to the TSAC that the student is eligible for the grant. Each eligible postsecondary institution shall develop a process to effectuate each provision of this rule and shall notify its students of the process and the availability of the necessary forms to comply with the requirements. At the end of the semester, the host institution shall provide the student's home institution with all information necessary for the home institution to determine continued grant eligibility.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-902, 49-4-924, and 49-4-938. **Administrative History:** Public necessity rule filed October 23, 2008; effective through April 6, 2009. Public necessity rule filed October 23, 2008; effective through April 6, 2009. Public necessity rule expired effective April 7, 2009, and the rule

(Rule 1640-01-22-.09, continued)

reverted to its previous status. Original rule filed January 30, 2009; effective May 29, 2009. Rule was previously numbered 1640-01-22-.10 but was renumbered 1640-01-22-.09 with the deletion of original rule 1640-01-22-.08 filed May 2, 2023; effective July 31, 2023.

1640-01-22-.10 APPEAL AND EXCEPTION PROCESS.

- (1) Each eligible postsecondary institution shall use its existing Institutional Review Panel (IRP) for purposes of reviewing and rendering decisions regarding appeals for the Helping Heroes Grant program. The IRP shall use the same procedures and timelines as those that currently exist for the review of Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) appeals as outlined in Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1640-01-19.
- (2) TSAC shall use the existing TSAC Appeals Panel to consider appeals and render decisions for those students who appeal a decision made by the IRP and for appeals made directly to TSAC. The same guidelines shall exist for appeals of the Helping Heroes Grant program as those that are currently in place for TELS as outlined in Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1640-01-19.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-902, 49-4-924, and 49-4-938. **Administrative History:** Public necessity rule filed October 23, 2008; effective through April 6, 2009. Public necessity rule filed October 23, 2008; effective through April 6, 2009. Public necessity rule expired effective April 7, 2009, and the rule reverted to its previous status. Original rule filed January 30, 2009; effective May 29, 2009. Rule was previously numbered 1640-01-22-.11 but was renumbered 1640-01-22-.10 with the deletion of original rule 1640-01-22-.08 filed May 2, 2023; effective July 31, 2023. Amendments filed May 2, 2023; effective July 31, 2023.