



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

Back to Work: Early Childhood Education Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI)

Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) & Pell Eligibility Information

Do you have questions about the 0-250% Pell-eligibility requirement? We can help!

Pell eligibility is related to your **Estimated Family Contribution (EFC)**. Within the FAFSA or CASFA, you will add in information about yourself and/or your parents (if applicable) and from the FAFSA/CASFA, it calculates an **EFC**. This is like a “sliding point scale” based on the information provided on the FAFSA/CASFA application. Your EFC determines how much or what types of financial aid you may receive. The higher your EFC, the less likely you are to qualify for any grant (free) funding. For the 2021-2022 academic year (which is through June 30, 2022), the maximum Pell grant award from the Federal Department of Education is \$6,495 for the year or roughly \$3,247/semester.

- Someone with a EFC of **0** would likely receive the full \$6495; \$3247 for Fall and \$3247 for Spring
- However, someone with an EFC that is higher, say between 2901-3000, might only be eligible for \$3545 in Pell grant; \$1722 per semester
- Someone with an EFC closer to **5601-5700** would only receive \$845; \$422 per semester
- Anyone with an EFC of **5846 or above** (100% EFC max Pell threshold) would not be eligible for Pell grant based on their EFC

Therefore, we allow students to receive support from this scholarship through **250%** of the maximum Pell threshold (which is an EFC of 5486), which can help to take into account your individual needs—even if it the FAFSA/CASFA or Federal Student Aid is not.

To calculate this, we'd calculate 250% of 5486 (which is the highest EFC where you can still get some amount Pell grant, although small). **This is a total of EFC 14,614 or 250% of threshold.** That means that a student who has an EFC up to 14,615, may not qualify for Pell grant funding to help pay for school but likely still has “need” with school expenses/costs and in this case, could be served by our scholarship program.

You can access your EFC information within your FAFSA or CASFA application. If students are receiving any form of federal aid, such as SNAP or WIC, would already qualify, and there would not be a need to calculate Pell Eligibility.

In short, as long as you have an EFC that is equal to or less than 14,615, you are eligible for the Back to Work: ECE COSI Scholarship Program.