



## Maine Equal Justice

People Policy Solutions

**Do you qualify to get TANF?  
Do want to get an education that will help you provide for your family?**

### **Parents as Scholars may be for you!**

Parents as Scholars (PaS) is a TANF program that helps low-income parents who are enrolled in two or four-year college studies with:

- Monthly cash benefits (the same amount you would receive from TANF), and
- Support services including child-care, transportation reimbursement, car repairs, book and supplies (the amounts for these supportive services are determined by program rules).

PaS can assist with tuition costs not covered by the grants and scholarships listed in your financial aid award letter. If eligible, PaS can pay up to \$3,500 for tuition costs per academic year.

#### **Who can get Parents as Scholars?**

You must qualify for TANF to apply for Parents as Scholars. To qualify for TANF you must have low income and be legally responsible for a child under 18.

If you are already a TANF participant, the next step is to figure out what two or four-year college program would be a good fit for you. You must choose a program that will help you get a good job.

You can't get PaS if you already have a bachelor's degree that should help you get a good job or if you have the skills to earn more than 85% of the median income. You will need to demonstrate that you have the aptitude to succeed in college, (being accepted to a college program is typically considered to be proof of aptitude).

#### **Are there other requirements?**

Parents as Scholars participants must be enrolled for 12 credits each semester and maintain a GPA of 2.0. After the first 24 months of PaS, participation hours and requirements may increase.

#### **Will DHHS help me get into college?**

No. It is up to you to figure out what college and education program you want to pursue. It is worth checking with FedCap to make sure that the program you choose will work for PaS.

If you are not sure what college program makes sense for you, or how to apply for college, help is available!

Contact Maine Educational Opportunity Center at 1-800-281-3703. They can help you consider different programs and apply for student financial aid (FAFSA).



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I have questions. Great! Call Maine Equal Justice at 626-7058, ext. 212 for more information about Parents as Scholars.