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# **Financial Aid Is Available For Single Mothers!**

Being a single mother is a tough job, and it's made even tougher by the economic realities of the last few years. The last thing a single mother wants to do is to take a low-paying dead end job; the ideal job is one that pays well and allows advancement in the career field of their choice while still allowing a mom to be a mom. The best way to achieve that goal is through education. Read more about [single mother grants](#).

Even though higher education may be the solution for moving away from economic hardship, it's not always easy getting through college because college can be very expensive. When a budget is tight, higher education may seem like an expense that is only for those with lots of discretionary income. However, single mothers have an opportunity to help them get through college in the form of financial aid.

There are several types of financial aid that can help pay for college, including grants, scholarships and work-study programs. Any one of the three, or a combination of them, can be a major milestone in helping a single mother complete a college degree. Go online and learn more about [grants for single moms](#).

One type of financial aid that is readily available is called a grant. A grant is awarded to students who meet the guidelines of the program and who can help the grant itself achieve its specific goals. A grant is not a loan; it does not need to be repaid. Private foundations, academic institutions, and even the federal government provide many types of grants to students so that they can complete their education. If a single mother applies for and is awarded a grant, it could be a major stepping stone to the achievement of a college degree, without the sacrifice of the family budget. The United States Congress recently made it easier for students applying for financial aid to get more money. They increased the size of the Pell Grant, one of the most well known government grants, to \$5,500 per student for 2010, which is an increase of \$500 from the 2009 budget.

\$200 million more federal dollars were also allocated to the work-study program by Congress in the Recovery Act. This means that 133,000 more students will be able to participate in work-study programs through their college or university to help pay for their education. By providing this essential funding, Congress is allowing more opportunity for financial aid to single mothers who are trying to further their educational horizons.

Single mothers may also benefit from financial aid in the form of scholarships. Scholarships are usually awarded to a student based on their performance, such as academic achievement or athletic ability. However, many scholarships are based on a student's situation or inclusion or interest in a certain group. Most states have some type of scholarship available to single parents. Scholarships are funded by a variety of groups or entities, including but not limited to, private businesses or organizations, non-profit groups, government agencies, or academic institutions. Many scholarship applications will require a student to fill out a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) because they may be need-based scholarships that require proof of financial eligibility.

One of the most important things to remember about financial aid is that it is a process with specific guidelines and deadlines. Missing an important component of the application or applying late may result in a rejection. Fortunately, universities and colleges have financial aid offices to help applicants through the sometimes lengthy and time-consuming process. It's also important to remember that an applicant doesn't need to limit themselves to only one type of financial aid. By applying for grants, scholarships and other forms of financial aid simultaneously, a single mother can greatly increase her chance of receiving ample help to pay for tuition, fees, and books.

A single mother can set the example she wants to for her children by using all the resources she has available for financing her education. [Grants](#), scholarships, or other types of financial aid may be just what a single mother needs to help her achieve her goal of an [online degree](#).

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