

Leroy Springs Student Loan Program

For Senior Colleges and Universities

THE PROGRAM

Purpose

The Leroy Springs Student Loan Program is sponsored by The Springs Close Foundation to aid worthy young men and women in need of financial assistance to attend college or a school of nursing.

Eligibility

Applications will be accepted only for students enrolled full time at four-year accredited colleges and universities in the State of South Carolina.

When the Lancaster Campus of the University of South Carolina offers the Freshman and/or Sophomore courses applied for, applicants are encouraged to attend there.

Residence Requirements

Preference will be given to applicants who are residents of Lancaster County, Fort Mill Township and Chester Township or whose parents or guardians work full time in one of these areas.

Scholastic Requirements

For Freshmen:

To be eligible for consideration for a student loan, Freshmen:

1. Must take College Board Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or American College Test (ACT).
2. Must have a combined score of at least 820 on the verbal and math sections of the SAT. If ACT is taken, scores must be comparable to 820 on the SAT.
3. Must be in upper 50% of graduating class, and/or have a high school GPA of 2.5 on the State's Uniform Grading Scale.

For Upperclassmen:

To be eligible for consideration for a student loan, upperclassmen must have satisfactory grades for courses taken in prior years, whether for initial application or for a renewal. The definition of "satisfactory grades" is a cumulative 2.5 grade point average or better.

Application Procedure

Each applicant must complete a Leroy Springs Student Loan application form. Applications for the fall and spring semesters are available April 1st and must be turned in no later than May 1st. Applications for the spring semester only are available November 1st and must be turned in by December 1st.

Application forms and general information concerning the Student Loan Program may be secured from the offices of The Springs Close Foundation.

Student Loan Committee

For the convenience of applicants in the various areas and for assistance in administering the program generally, members have been appointed in the following areas:

Fort Mill Area: Information and applications will be available at the office of The Springs Close Foundation, 1826 Second Baxter Crossing. (803) 548 - 2002

Lancaster Area: Information and applications will be available at the office of The Springs Close Foundation, 201 West Gay Street. (803) 286 - 2197

Chester Area: Information and applications will be available at the office of The Springs Close Foundation, 109 Gadsden Street. (803) 581 - 7874

Kershaw Area: Information and applications will be available at the Kershaw Recreation Department. (803) 475 - 2142

Initial Applications

Information Required With Application

Applicants requesting financial assistance for the first time must furnish the following:

1. Completed loan application form.
2. For high school seniors, high school transcript including SAT or ACT scores, rank in class and GPA.
3. For upperclassmen, college transcript after current semester exams are finished and grades are posted showing at least a 2.5 GPA.
4. Letter of recommendation from high school principal, superintendent or guidance counselor.
5. If the student is an upperclassman, the letter should be from a faculty advisor, department head or professor.

6. A letter in the applicant's handwriting stating the reason for desiring a college education, plans upon graduation and any other information which the applicant believes will have a bearing upon eligibility for a loan.

Renewal Applications

Applicants requesting continuing assistance must furnish the following:

1. Completed loan application form
2. Transcript of college record after current semester exams are finished and grades are posted for the academic year showing at least a cumulative 2.5 grade point average has been maintained.
3. Transcripts must show full time study as defined by college (usually 12 hours per semester) before renewal can be given.

Financial Aid

All Student Loan Applicants Must File For Financial Aid at College or University Attending

All applicants must fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid form (FAFSA). This form may be obtained from the high school Guidance Office, the Financial Aid Office at the college the student plans to attend or online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Copies of the analysis reply should **not** be sent to The Springs Close Foundation but should be directed to the college.

Since many of the financial aid programs administered by the school provide the student financial aid on a grant basis rather than a loan basis, all applicants for loans from The Springs Close Foundation are required to file for financial aid at the school they plan to attend. Final decision on the request for a Leroy Springs Student Loan cannot be made until the college notifies the Foundation regarding other financial aid awarded.

Other Financial Aid

Students applying for a student loan will find that the college or university they plan to attend are participants in one or more of the following financial aid programs.

PELL GRANT – Program funded by the federal government for students who can show financial need.

FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANTS (FSEOG) – Generally restricted to undergraduate students with exceptional financial need.

FEDERAL WORK-STUDY (FWS) – Jobs assigned by financial aid officer with earnings limited to financial need of student.

FEDERAL STAFFORD LOANS (SUBSIDIZED and UNSUBSIDIZED) – Government insures loans from S.C. Student Loan Corporation and, if student can show need, the

government will pay interest while student is in school. If the loan is not need-based, the student will pay interest while in school. The student repays loan in installments after graduating or withdrawing from school.

FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN – Loans made by financial aid officer at school. The loans are interest free while borrower is in school, then interest accrues during repayment period, which may extend up to ten years.

SOUTH CAROLINA TUITION GRANTS – Students attending private colleges and universities in South Carolina may also be eligible for a tuition grant from the State. This is a program to equalize the cost of the private school with the State-supported system. A grant may be made to a student based on the amount appropriated by the State for this program and the student's financial need.

S.C. NEED-BASED GRANTS – These funds are available to students attending public colleges and universities in South Carolina and are awarded on the basis of financial need. They are available to legal residents of the state. Total funds may vary from year to year depending on appropriations from state government.

Students must inquire about these programs and other possible aid at the college in which they are to be enrolled.

Interview Procedure

Frequency of Interview: An initial interview will be held after the first application is received. In succeeding years, the interview is not required but the student must furnish a current transcript and evidence that financial need still exists. (Fill out FAFSA Form)

Schedule of Interview: Interviews will be scheduled by a member of the Student Loan Committee. The applicant will be given notice of the date, time and place of the interview.

Attendance: At the interview, the applicant must be accompanied by their father and/or mother or a legal guardian or spouse.

Place: The interview will be in the office of the member of the Student Loan Committee from whom the applicant received the application unless they are notified otherwise. The interview will be conducted by a representative of The Springs Close Foundation.

Responsibilities: All applications will be reviewed prior to the interview to see that requirements have been met. The interview will be conducted, counseling provided and recommendations on each applicant will be made.

Applications that are approved: Upon approval, The Springs Close Foundation will notify the applicant in writing and give instructions regarding any forms necessary to complete the loan.

Applications not approved: The Springs Close Foundation will notify the applicant in writing and will offer counseling to clear up questions the applicant may have.

The Student Loan

Loans Made For One Year Only

All Leroy Springs Student Loans are awarded for one year on applications received by May 1st and for one semester on applications received by December 1st.

Students must apply each year.

Amount of Loan

The amount loaned to each applicant will be based on the individual's need subject to the following conditions:

1. Loans will be made to apply against direct education expenses. (tuition, room and board and fees.)
2. No loans will be made for the total amount of college expenses.
3. The maximum loan available for undergraduate students is \$3,000 per school year with an optional \$500 book allowance.
4. The maximum loan available for medical or dental school students is \$4,000 per school year with an optional \$500 book allowance.

Follow-Up Procedure

It will be the responsibility of The Springs Close Foundation to prepare and maintain all records required pertaining to loan applications and make payments to colleges as due.

Conditions of Loan

Promissory Note

A promissory note will be required for each loan. The applicant's signature plus two signatures as co-signors will be required on all notes with preference on co-signors as follows:

1. When a student lives with parents, both parents should co-sign the note.
2. When only one parent is available as a co-signor, that parent and the closest relative who is regularly employed and living in the community should co-sign the note.
3. If parents are deceased, a legal guardian should sign. The other co-signor should be someone regularly employed and living in the community and acceptable to the Foundation.
4. If parents are living outside the geographic area and applicant lives with relatives, the relatives where applicant resides should sign if they are employed on a full-time basis. If not employed on a full-time basis, co-signors who are employed full-time and are residents of the community will be required.
5. Married students' notes should be co-signed by both parents or by their spouse and the parent having the highest level of income.

6. Independent students (may or may not be married), who are students not dependent on parents and not taken as dependents on parent's income tax return, should get co-signors who are acceptable to The Springs Close Foundation and who are regularly employed and living in the community.

Repayment

Leroy Springs Student Loans are made with the agreement that:

1. Repayments are to begin within six (6) months after student graduates, drops below full-time status or withdraws from school.

If a student continues in graduate school, the repayments are to begin within six (6) months after the student leaves graduate school, drops below full-time status or completes graduate work; however, the student must make a written request for an extension of the repayment period when planning to attend graduate school.

2. Repayments are to be made in monthly installments. The amount per month is to be determined by dividing the number of months allowed in No. 3 below into the total amount loaned.
3. The number of years the student has participated in the Leroy Springs Student Loan Program will determine the time limit for repayment of the loan.

Students participating 1 year - Repay in 48 monthly installments

Students participating 2 years - Repay in 60 monthly installments

Students participating 3 years - Repay in 72 monthly installments

Students participating 4 years - Repay in 84 monthly installments

Interest Charges

No interest will be charged if repayment is made in monthly installments as outlined above, beginning six months after student graduates, drops below full-time status or withdraws from school.

Anyone not meeting these repayment conditions will be given written reminder and interest will begin at the rate of 8% on each payment not paid on time.

**The Springs Close Foundation, Inc.
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