



U.S. Department of Education
Office of Postsecondary Education

OPEID: 00374900

George Mason University

Fairfax, VA

FY: 2026

Print Date: 05/28/2026

We are pleased to inform you that your institution has been designated as an eligible institution for the Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) under section 312 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEA).

This designation allows you to apply for grants programs under section 312 of the HEA. You must meet the programmatic requirements for the program(s) that you wish to apply for in order for your grant application to be reviewed. In order to receive the grant funding, you must be selected in the application process and follow the guidelines for the specific grant.

Institutions that have an existing grant may be prohibited from receiving additional grant awards under any provision of the HEA. If you have a current grant that will end during this fiscal year, you may be eligible to apply for additional programs.

As a result of receiving this designation, your institution is eligible for a waiver of the non-Federal share matching requirements under the Federal Work Study Program (FWS) the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program (FSEOG) and the TRIO Student Support Services Programs under Title IV of the HEA. Your institution is also potentially eligible for a waiver of the Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language (UISFL) Program matching requirement, pending a demonstration of your institution's need for such a waiver in your application for new awards under this program.

NOTE: Branch and satellite campuses are not eligible for the waiver of the non-Federal share matching requirements. If the main campus is eligible for grant programs under section 312 of the HEA, and they receive the cost-share waiver, the main campus' waiver can be extended to its eligible branch and satellite campuses.

The eligibility for a waiver of the non-Federal share matching requirements is allowable for a one-year period beginning July 1, 2026. The offices within the Department of Education that administer those specific programs will handle the waiver of the cost sharing and will contact your federal student aid administrator.

Institution substantially increased the higher education opportunities for low-income students

If you have questions concerning this designation, please contact Nemeka Mason-Clerc at Nemeka.Mason@ed.gov or (202) 987-1340. If you have questions concerning the waiver of the non-Federal share matching requirements for FWS or FSEOG, please contact the Campus-Based Call Center at CODSupport@ed.gov or (800) 848-0978.

Please retain this letter as evidence of your eligibility and for an adequate audit trail. Also, please note this eligibility designation is only for FY26. You must apply for eligibility designation annually.

Sincerely,

Victor O. Shirley
Senior Director for Institutional Service
Office of Postsecondary Education