



Post-9/11 GI Bill: Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship

What is the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship?

Public Law 111-32, the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship, amends the Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33) to include the children of service members who die in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. The benefit is retroactively effective to August 1, 2009; the same day the Post-9/11 GI Bill took effect. Eligible children attending school may receive up to the highest public, in-state, undergraduate tuition and fees, plus a monthly living allowance and books and supplies stipend under this program.

Who is eligible?

Children of an active duty member of the Armed Forces who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001, are eligible for this benefit. A child may be married or over 23 and still be eligible.

Eligible children:

- are entitled to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level
- have 15 years to use the benefit beginning on his or her 18th birthday
- may use the benefit until his or her 33rd birthday
- cannot use benefit before age 18, even if he or she has completed high school
- are not eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program

Rules for eligible children serving, or who have served, in the Armed Forces:

- If the child is eligible under the Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty, Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve, and/or the Reserve Educational Assistance Program, then he or she must relinquish eligibility under one of those programs to receive benefits under Post-9/11 GI Bill.
- A child's character of discharge from his or her own service does not impact eligibility resulting from the line of duty death of a parent.
- A child on active duty will receive benefits at the active duty benefit rate (eligible for full tuition and fees but not eligible for monthly housing allowance or books and supplies stipend).



- A child on active duty who meets the service requirements to transfer entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill may be eligible to transfer up to 36 months of Fry Scholarship entitlement to his or her dependents.
- A child may only qualify for up to 36 months of benefits under Fry and Post-9/11 GI Bill based on their own service. However, an individual may receive additional entitlement if another parent transfers entitlement to the individual.

Children who have used or wish to use entitlement under Dependents' Educational Assistance (chapter 35):

- If a child is eligible for the Fry Scholarship, he or she may be eligible for VA's Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA). Although the benefits cannot be used at the same time, a child may be eligible for up to 48 months of benefits between the two programs. Find out more about DEA at <http://ht.ly/1ET7N>.
- If a child already used DEA anytime from August 1, 2009-July 31, 2010, he or she may retroactively use the Fry Scholarship instead. Apply on VA Form 22-5490, Dependents' Application for VA Education Benefits, and note in the "Remarks" section that the child wishes to receive benefits under the Fry Scholarship instead of DEA.

When will benefits be paid?

VA will begin issuing payments under this benefit by August 1, 2010. This includes retroactive payments for eligible children enrolled during the period of August 1, 2009, through July 31, 2010. VA began accepting applications for this benefit May 1, 2010. Children enrolled from August 1, 2009, through July 31, 2010, may receive retroactive payments for that time.

How to apply:

A new version of the VA Form 22-5490, "Dependents' Application for VA Education Benefits" is available on VA's website, www.GIBill.va.gov, from "VONAPP," the online application. Paper versions may also be printed from VONAPP. A parent or guardian must sign the application if the child is under age 18.

For more information, call toll-free 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551), or visit the VA GI Bill Website at <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.