

- b) The student (and the student's spouse, if applicable) filed or are eligible to file a IRS Form 1040A or 1040EZ (he or she is not required to file a Form 1040), or
The student (and spouse, if applicable) is not required to file any income tax return, or
Anyone included in the student's household received benefits from a means-tested federal benefit program in 2007 or 2008, or
The student or spouse is a dislocated worker.

Note: an **independent student without dependents other than a spouse** does not qualify for the auto zero EFC.

Dislocated Worker

Someone who:

- Has lost a job;
- Has been laid off or has received a lay-off notice from a job;
- Is receiving unemployment benefits due to being laid off or losing a job and is unlikely to return to a previous occupation;
- Is self-employed but is unemployed due to economic conditions or a natural disaster; or
- Is a displaced homemaker, which is a person who previously provided unpaid services to the family, is no longer supported by the husband or wife, is unemployed or underemployed, and is having trouble finding or upgrading employment

If a person quits work, then generally he or she is not considered a dislocated worker, even if he or she is receiving unemployment benefits.

Means-Tested Federal Benefit Programs

- Supplemental security income (SSI)
- Food stamps
- Free and reduced price school lunches
- Temporary assistance for needy families (TANF)
- Special supplementary nutrition program for women, infants, and children (WIC)

Auto Zero EFC for Federal Pell Grant Only

A Pell-eligible student's EFC *for Federal Pell Grant purposes only* is set to zero if:

- The student's parent or guardian was a member of the Armed Forces who died as a result of performing military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001; and
- The student was under 24 years of age or enrolled at an institution of higher education at the time of the death

The Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs are to provide the Department of Education with the information necessary to determine which students qualify.