NATIONAL BOARD
for Professional Teaching Standards®

THIRD-PARTY PAYER FUNDING FAQS FOR CANDIDATES

Effective August 8, 2026

General Information

What is a Third-Party Payer?

Some states, districts, or organizations help cover National Board Certification and Maintenance of Certification (MOC) fees. When they pay the National Board directly on a candidate's behalf, they are called Third-Party Payers (TPPs).

How do I apply for TPP funding?

Some states and districts offer funding to help cover the cost of component/MOC fees. These programs may have their own application steps or deadlines. Before you register, contact your state or local program administrator to learn:

- What funding or incentives are available in your area.
- Whether you need to apply before registering.
- Any special requirements or documents needed.

Are there any prerequisites to receiving TPP funds?

Yes. You must agree to the release of your information before your TPP can designate funding to your account. You can update your *Third-Party Release Agreement* from the *Terms and Agreements* page of your account.

When will TPP funding be posted to my account?

If you are approved for funding, your TPP will apply funding for the 2026-27 cycle directly to your National Board account by February 22, 2027. When the funds are posted, you'll receive an email confirmation. **Important Note:** Funding is **not guaranteed** and is designated at the discretion of the TPP. Funding is also component-specific, so be sure to tell your TPP which components you plan to purchase well in advance.

What is the designation deadline and why is it important?

The designation deadline is the last day a TPP can add or change funding in your National Board account for the current cycle. If your TPP hasn't provided funding for the components you plan to purchase by that date, you'll need to pay those fees out of pocket. For the 2026-27 cycle, the designation deadline is February 22, 2027.

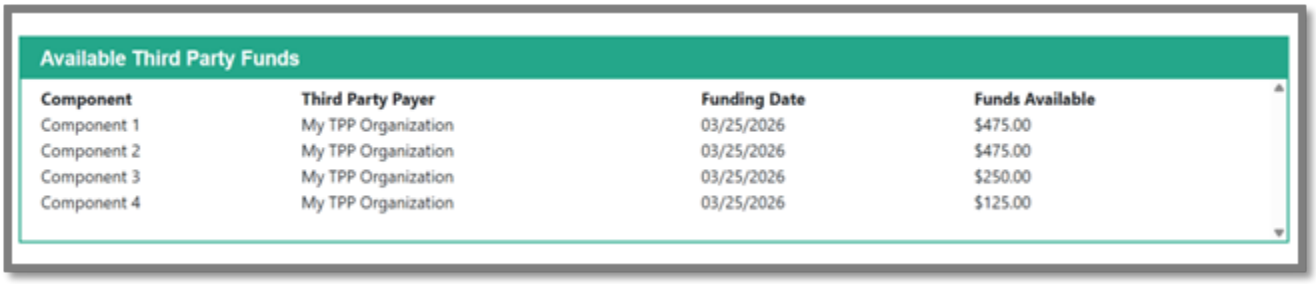
Using TPP Funding to Complete a Purchase

How can I see what TPP funding is available to me?

You can view your available funding in your National Board account by selecting *Payment Portal* from the left menu. The *Available Funding* section will appear only if funds have been designated for you. If you don't see this section, your TPP hasn't added funding to your account.

If you are approved for funding, **your TPP has until February 22, 2027, to designate funding to your account.** When the funds are posted, you'll receive an email confirmation. If funds are not posted by the deadline, you'll need to pay your fees out of pocket.

Important Note: Funding is component-specific, so be sure to tell your TPP which components you plan to purchase well in advance.



Available Third Party Funds

Component	Third Party Payer	Funding Date	Funds Available
Component 1	My TPP Organization	03/25/2026	$475.00
Component 2	My TPP Organization	03/25/2026	$475.00
Component 3	My TPP Organization	03/25/2026	$250.00
Component 4	My TPP Organization	03/25/2026	$125.00

Where do I purchase a component/MOC using TPP funding?

All candidates purchase components and MOC directly through their **National Board account**.

- **Returning and MOC candidates:** Log in to your **existing account** to complete your purchase. **Do not create a new account.**
- **New candidates:** If you don't have an account yet, you can create one at any time.

I'm expecting TPP funding. How can I complete my purchase if the funding isn't available yet?

When you reach the checkout page, you'll have the option to indicate that you are expecting third-party funding.

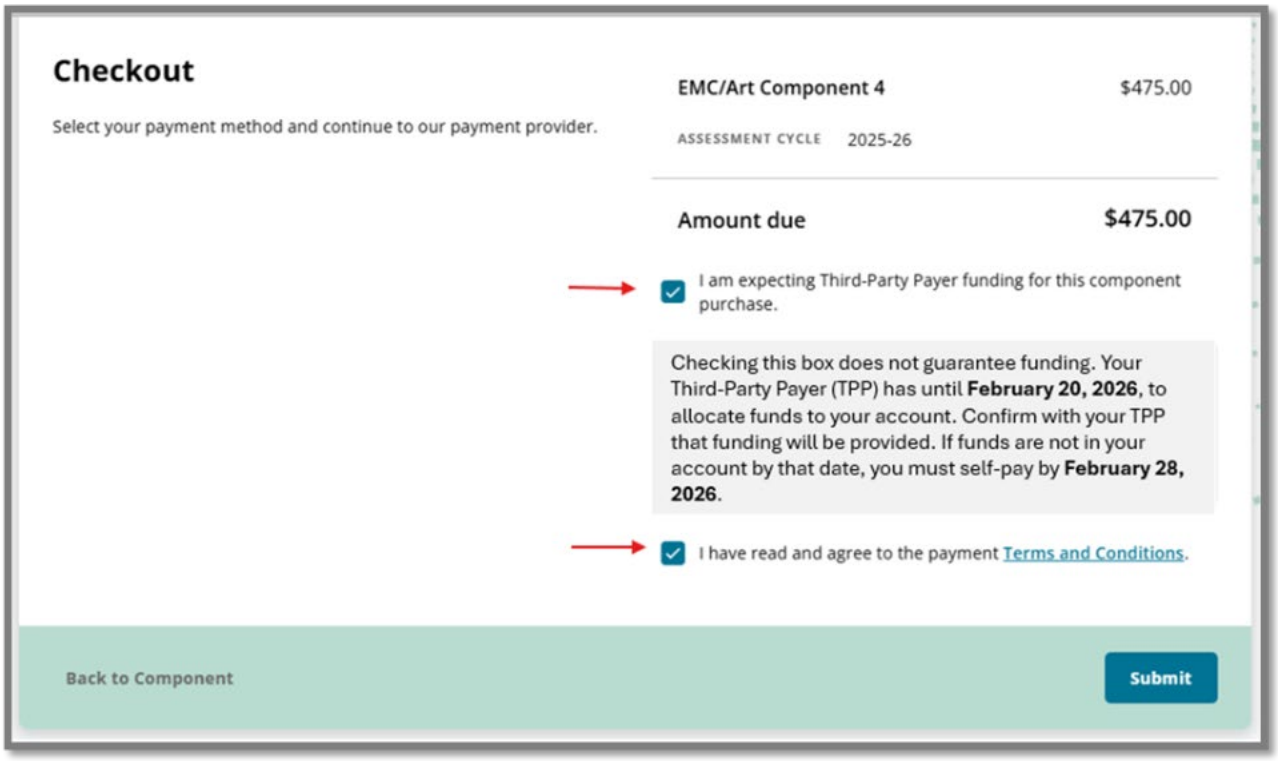
From the *My Components* page of your National Board account:

1. Click the name of the component you want to purchase, then select *Purchase*.
2. On the checkout page, select *I am expecting Third-Party funding*, agree to the payment terms, and click *Submit*.

If your TPP later designates funding that **fully covers the cost** of the component and is applied for the correct component and attempt, the component will be **purchased automatically** once funding is posted to your account.

If the designated funding **covers only part of the cost**, you'll need to **pay the remaining balance in full** to complete your purchase. **Payment plans cannot be used to cover the remaining balance.**

Important: Selecting the *expecting funding* option does **not** guarantee you'll receive funding. If funding is not designated by the **February 22, 2027, designation deadline**, you'll need to pay the component fee out of pocket to complete your purchase.



My TPP has already provided funding; how do I complete my purchase?

From the *My Components* page of your National Board account:

1. Click on the name of the component you want to purchase, then select *Purchase*.
2. During checkout, apply any available funding that appears.

Review these step-by-step instructions for details.

Important: Funding will **only appear at checkout** if it is designated for the **correct component and attempt**. If you see funding in your account, but it does not appear during checkout, it may be designated for a different component or attempt. Contact your TPP to confirm how the funding was designated.

I have TPP funding on my account, but I can't use it for the component I want. Why?

Funding is component and attempt-specific:

- Funding designated for a specific component cannot be used to purchase a different component.
- Funding designated for components 1-4 cannot be used to purchase MOC.
- Funding designated for an initial attempt cannot be used to purchase a retake.
- Funding designated for a retake attempt must be labeled as "retake" and cannot be used to purchase an initial attempt.

TPPs choose which components they'll fund and only they can change the designations. If the funding you need isn't available, contact your TPP and ask them to update your

designations before the February 22, 2027, deadline. If changes aren't made by the deadline, you'll need to pay the fees out of pocket.

Why did the TPP funding on my account disappear?

Funding designations are managed by your TPP. When the registration window closes, any unused funding is automatically returned to your TPP, and they will decide whether the funds can be used in a future cycle. Contact your TPP directly if you have questions about future availability.

Can I choose not to apply TPP funding to my purchase?

Yes. If you don't want to use the available TPP funds, contact your TPP before completing your purchase and ask them to remove the funds from your account before February 22, 2027. You won't be able to complete your purchase until this is done.

What happens if I receive TPP funding after I've paid out of pocket?

What happens next depends on **how you paid** and **how much funding is designated**.

- **If you paid out of pocket (paid in full):** If the funding is designated by the designation deadline for the correct component and attempt, the funding will be applied automatically and you'll receive a refund for the difference. You don't need to take any action. Refunds are typically processed within six weeks.
- **If you used a payment plan and receive *full* funding:** If the funding fully covers the cost of the component and is designated by the designation deadline for the correct component and attempt, the funding will be applied automatically. Your payment plan will be canceled, and any payments already made will be refunded within approximately six weeks. Depending on your payment schedule, you may be charged one additional installment before the cancellation is complete. Any extra charge will be refunded.
- **If you used a payment plan and receive *partial* funding:** Partial funding is not applied automatically. In this situation, you must withdraw and repurchase the component before the registration deadline, paying the remaining balance in full by credit card. Payment plans cannot be used to pay the remaining balance.

Please note:

- Funding cannot be applied as an overpayment to purchases made in a previous cycle.

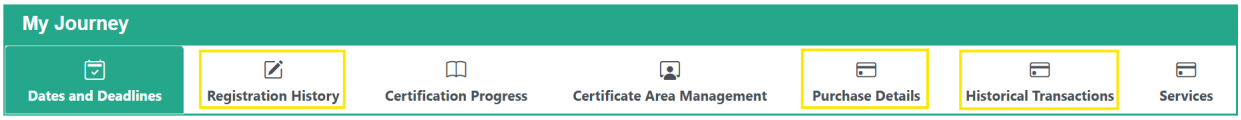
What happens if I only receive partial TPP funding?

If your TPP only provides enough funding to cover part of the purchase, you'll be required to pay the remaining balance using a credit card at the time of purchase. The Payment Plan cannot be used to cover partial payments.

Where can I access my purchase history?

You can view your purchase history and receipts in your National Board account by selecting *My Purchases* from the left menu. Your transactions are grouped into three tabs:

- **Registration History:** Includes transactions for registration fee paid after May 22, 2022.
- **Purchase Details:** Includes transactions for component purchases made after May 22, 2022, and services purchased after December 7, 2024.
- **Historical Transactions:** Includes transactions for all non-payment plan purchases and refunds completed before May 22, 2022, as well as all services purchased before December 7, 2024.



If I withdraw, will I receive a refund of the payments I made?

If you withdraw by the withdrawal deadline, you'll receive a refund for any component fees you paid and any funding you received will be returned to your TPP. Review all important dates and deadlines here.

- The registration fee and service charges are nonrefundable.
- Withdrawals submitted after the deadline are not eligible for a refund.