Notice of Fund Availability

Community College Opportunity Grants and Planning Grants to County Colleges

The final FY19 budget includes $25 million towards the Governor's proposed Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG) Program. Through this funding opportunity, the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) and the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) will select an inaugural cohort of county colleges to pilot the CCOG Program, during the Spring 2019 semester. This pilot will offer valuable lessons in planning for future funding to expand the number of students who can be offered free community college across the state.

The state's FY2019 budget appropriates $20 million toward CCOG awards to students with an adjusted gross income (AGI) under $45,000, and $5 million in direct grants to county colleges for planning, outreach, and recruitment of eligible students. To maximize the impact of the available appropriation, we will pilot this initiative with students at a select number of institutions.

New Jersey's county colleges may apply to pilot the CCOG Program by participating in the Community College Innovation Challenge (CCIC). County colleges chosen to participate will be designated as CCOG Pilot Schools. Every county college submitting a CCIC application will receive a grant of at least $250,000 which, for CCOG Pilot Schools, will support implementation of the CCOG Program, and for schools not selected, will help to build capacity for future iterations of this initiative.

Students attending a CCOG Pilot School will be eligible to receive CCOG awards if their AGI is between $0 and $45,000 and they take six or more credits at a selected county college. CCOG awards are "last-dollar" scholarships. The amount of an individual student's award shall be the student's total remaining balance of spring 2019 semester tuition and educational fees, after applying any other federal, state, or institutional aid which the student receives

HESAA and OSHE will jointly review submissions for the CCIC, and jointly administer this funding opportunity. They now invite New Jersey's county colleges to submit CCIC applications to be CCOG Pilot Schools.

Eligibility criteria
Each of New Jersey's county colleges is eligible to submit a CCIC application for identification as a CCOG Pilot School. Students attending CCOG Pilot Schools will be eligible for CCOG awards. HESAA and OSHE will jointly identify CCOG Pilot Schools based on the quality of their CCIC applications. Decisions will also include considerations of how institutional cost projections fit within statewide program funding constraints and a preference for ensuring geographic diversity of selected institutions across the state.

Application criteria
County colleges may participate in the CCIC by submitting an application as described below. The application must demonstrate the county colleges' ability to successfully implement the CCOG Program. Submissions will be assessed according to the three criteria set forth below.

1) **Outreach**. Please describe your plan for outreach into the local community to get new students to enroll. How will you let students know about the opportunity to go tuition-free to encourage new enrollment? Is there a particular student demographic that you are best positioned to serve on whom you will focus your outreach efforts? What challenges in recruitment and enrollment have you faced in the past, and how will you use the planning grant dollars to remedy those challenges? What steps will your institution take to contact current students who enrolled in the Fall 2018 semester and have not filed a FAFSA, in order to encourage them to file the form and have the opportunity to attend tuition-and-fee free for the following semester? How will your campus reach out to current students who attend less than half-time to encourage them to increase their enrollment intensity to take advantage of this program in the Spring, and likely complete a credential more quickly?

2) **Support.** Please describe the resources your institution has in place and its processes for supporting students through to completion of their academic program. What evidence-based practices do you employ to facilitate student success? How do you help students who struggle academically, socially, or with non-tuition financial issues? What challenges have you identified in retention or completion? How will the planning grant dollars help the college address these challenges either through the implementation of the CCOG Program, or in anticipation of the Program's expansion in future years?

3) **Costs and Data.** Please provide the following information:

   a) Using your institution's available data, please provide student unit-record level data on federal, state, and institutional aid that was awarded to all students in the Spring 2018 semester, as well as the credit hours completed and tuition and educational fees charged to each student enrolled in the Spring 2018 semester (HESAA will facilitate the secure file transfer of these data with personal identifying information).
   b) Using the data compiled in section 3(a) above, please calculate the amount of unmet need for each student enrolled in the Spring 2018 semester at your institution. Please include the tuition and educational fees that were not covered by other grants and scholarships, as well as an estimate of the unmet need due to costs of attendance other than tuition and fees (books, transportation, housing, etc.). Please calculate the average unmet need of tuition and educational fees for students with adjusted gross incomes between $0 and $45,000 who completed six credits or more in the Spring 2018 semester, after applying these students' other federal, state, and institutional aid.
   c) Please provide a list of all programs to be offered at your institution in the Spring 2019 semester, with itemized tuition and individual fees applicable to each program.

d) Please provide the net price faced by students at different income levels across the institution. For this response, please use the net price data definitions for IPEDS reports.
e) In addition, to help appropriately plan for costs in future years, please outline the steps you intend to take to keep tuition and educational fees increases at reasonable levels in the 2019-2020 academic year and beyond.

CCIC applications will be scored based on applicants' demonstrated competence in addressing the above-listed criteria. In addition, funding decisions will take into consideration the limits of the funds appropriated for this program, as well as the geographic diversity of the final pool.

We would ask that applicants limit their narrative responses to no more than 10 single-spaced pages, exclusive of the data requested in response to items 3(a) and 3(b) above.

Process for Submission and Notification
Completed applications are due from eligible institutions no later than August 31, 2018 and eligible institutions will be notified of their selection no later than September 28, 2018.

The narrative portion of the applications should be sent via e-mail to OSHE@oshe.nj.gov by the deadline (August 31, 2018) with the subject line "Community College Innovation Challenge Application." The student data should be submitted to HESAA via secure data transfer, and applicants should e-mail CCOG@hesaa.org for instructions to begin the process for securely transferring data files. HESAA must receive all files through secure transfer no later than August 31, 2018.

OSHE and HESAA will jointly review the applications. Questions about this notice may be directed to the e-mail addresses referenced above or to:

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