



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

H. Martin Lancaster, President

June 28, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: NOW (New Opportunities for Workers Program) Colleges

FROM: Stephanie Deese, Director
Workforce Initiatives
Economic and Workforce Development

SUBJECT: Recommended Allocations for 2007

This correspondence is to inform you of the recommended changes in the New Opportunities for Workers Program (NOW) for Fiscal Year 2007, (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007).

The State Board will be asked at its upcoming meeting on July 21 to approve an allocation of resources in the amount of \$120,000 to several college Small Business Centers to incorporate the activities of the New Opportunities for Workers (NOW) program. The NOW program is a joint effort between the North Carolina Community College System (Small Business Center Network), the Department of Commerce (Division of Employment and Training), the North Carolina Rural Center and the NC REAL Enterprises, Inc. The funding for NOW comes from the U.S. Department of Labor's Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds to North Carolina, governed by the North Carolina Commission on Workforce Development.

The New Opportunities for Workers (NOW) program offers specialized entrepreneurial development education, training, assessment, and small business counseling. The program goal is to ensure that dislocated workers in North Carolina are given opportunities to develop their own small business as an alternative to searching for another job. The Community College System Small Business Centers (SBCs) serve as the physical location where most NOW services are provided. Classrooms, computers and the resources of the local community college are available at these sites.

The Rural Center's Institute for Rural Entrepreneurship, in conjunction with the NC REAL and the Community College System, recommends 15 sites to continue the activities of the NOW program in FY2007, as shown in Table 1.

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The factors that were considered in making these selections were performance criteria over the past two years of the program, including:

- Numbers of dislocated workers served;
- Numbers of courses or sessions offered;
- Drawdown of available funds;
- Strong linkages with Employment Security Commission and JobLink Career Center partners in their regions who refer dislocated workers to the program;
- Favorable impact on the dislocated workers served to date – i.e., business start-up or an informed decision not to start a business at this time – as determined through a survey by Connectinc. with NOW clients; and,
- Local demand for the program, as indicated in part by unemployment and layoffs.

TABLE 1. FY2007 Allocations by College for the NOW Program

Small Business Center	Amount of Funds Allocated
Cape Fear Community College	\$ 9,250
Cleveland Community College	\$ 9,250
Fayetteville Technical Community College	\$ 9,250
Lenoir Community College	\$ 9,250
Robeson Community College	\$ 9,250
Rowan-Cabarrus Community College	\$ 9,250
Sandhills Community College	\$ 9,250
South Piedmont Community College	\$ 9,250
Stanly Community College	\$ 9,250
Vance-Granville Community College	\$ 9,250
Western Piedmont Community College	\$ 9,250
Wilkes Community College	\$ 9,250
Blue Ridge Community College	\$ 3,000
College of the Albemarle	\$ 3,000
Wilson Technical Community College	\$ 3,000
TOTAL AMOUNT ALLOCATED	<u>\$120,000</u>

The reason for the lower allocations to the last three colleges listed in Table 1 is that they do serve regions of economic distress and have commitment from the college to continue the program, even at a relatively low level of volume, and the colleges have not seen a high level of demand for the NOW program so far. The colleges not selected for funding next year had very low levels of both activity and demand.

MEMORANDUM
NOW Program
Page 3

The NOW funds may be used to pay tuition assistance for individuals that qualify for the NOW project, marketing materials to advertise the NOW program, instructors' salaries, contractual services of staff, and travel for the SBC Directors to attend NOW meetings. The tuition assistance may be used for courses through curriculum or continuing education/module-based small business courses. The purpose in using the funds this way is to augment stressed SBC resources to offer small business counseling and tuition assistance to prospective entrepreneurs participating in NOW.

Because of the limited number of colleges offering the NOW program in FY2007, they should be encouraged to serve dislocated workers in counties not served by the program.

We will be holding a planning meeting later this summer to cover specific questions about the program and apply the SBCs' learning from the prior two years.

Attached is a budget form that needs to be completed and returned to me. Additional financial information will be sent to you under separate cover. Please note that these funds are reimbursable funds and that a monthly invoice needs to be submitted by the tenth (10) working day of the month.

Thank you for your interest and involvement in the NOW program. If you should have any questions, please contact me at deeses@nccommunitycolleges.edu or 919.807.7159.

SD/bl
Attachment

c: SBC Director
Alice Smith
Annette Dishner
Gina Sampson

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

New Opportunities for Workers (NOW) Program

 COLLEGE

July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

EFFECTIVE DATES

Upon recommendation of the North Carolina Community College System the following budget is allotted for the above indicated purpose and period.

COST ITEMS	APPROVED BUDGET
A. Salaries, Instructional	\$
B. Supplies and Materials	\$
C. Contractual Services	\$
D. Staff Travel	\$
E. Student Tuition	\$
F. Supplies and Materials	\$
G. Marketing/Recruiting	\$
H. Other Cost	\$
TOTAL COST (Total Budget is either \$9, 250 or \$3,000)	\$

Reimbursement will be made on actual cost not to exceed amounts shown in the Approved Budget Column.

NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

 Vice President for Business and Finance

 Date Budget Approved

 Director, Division of Auditing and Accounting