

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**Allocation for Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program**  
**July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024**

**Request:** The State Board of Community Colleges is requested to approve the allocation of \$1,000,000 in State funds to continue the Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program. The program will provide financial assistance of up to \$750 per course for resident students who enroll in noncredit, short-term workforce training programs that lead to an industry-recognized credential in fields with employer demand and competitive wages.

**Strategic Plan References:** Goal 4: Economic and Workforce Development  
Provide education, training, and credentials to develop the most competitive workforce in the nation.

Strategy: 4.3.1

**Background:** Session Law 2021-180 Section 6.6.(a) established the Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program and directed the State Board to collaborate with the Department of Commerce to determine the occupations in highest demand across the State and adopt rules for the disbursement of grants linking the program to these occupations. Grants may be for up to seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) per course to students pursuing short-term, noncredit State and industry-recognized workforce credentials. At a minimum, the legislation requires eligible students to qualify as residents for tuition purposes under the criteria outlined in G.S. 116-143.1 and following the centralized residency determination process administered by the State Education Assistance Authority. This program and approach build on the work of the N.C. Workforce Credentials and the State Board's strategic plan objectives.

Eligible programs will include courses and pathways leading to family-sustaining and in-demand credentials identified on the N.C. Workforce Credentials list. Identified pathways include credentials across all sectors in the State economy, including architecture and construction, health sciences, information technology, electrical line worker, manufacturing programs, and other programs that meet workforce needs.

**Rationale:** North Carolina must have a well-trained workforce in critical high-demand fields to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to grow our economy. Additionally, data shows many North Carolinians are seeking more stable, better-paying careers, and recent polling data from the Strada Center for Consumer Insights noted that 59% of adults considering enrolling in an education or training program prefer non-degree programs.<sup>1</sup> Community colleges are essential to North Carolina's continued economic recovery as we upskill, reskill, and graduate our workforce. However, unlike traditional academic programs of study, federal financial aid is unavailable for these programs. The Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program addresses this unmet need for the NCCCS and the State of North Carolina.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.stradaeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Public-Viewpoint-Report-Week-5.pdf>

For the 2021-23 biennium, the General Assembly allocated \$3,000,000 (\$1,000,000 recurring and \$2,000,000 nonrecurring) each year to the NC Community College System (NCCCS) to establish the Short-Term Workforce Development (STWD) Grant Program. The program aimed to serve eligible community college students pursuing high-demand workforce training programs within workforce pathways identified in collaboration with the Department of Commerce, leading to a State or industry-recognized credential. These funds are intended to remove access barriers to high-quality, in-demand, sustaining wage careers for North Carolinians. Each college will determine grant award amounts based on student needs, local industry needs, number of eligible students, and cost of the course/pathway, up to a maximum award of \$750 per course. The grants will help cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, supplies, credentialing tests, transportation, childcare, and any other components of the total cost of attendance. At a minimum, eligible students applying for this scholarship must:

- 1) Resident of North Carolina
  - a) As required by Session Law 2021-180, eligible students must establish residency under the criteria outlined in G.S. 116-143.1 following the coordinated and centralized residency determination process administered by the State Education Assistance Authority.
- 2) Students enrolling in Workforce Continuing Education (WCE) pathways/courses leading to a N.C. Workforce Credential identified as either Essential or Career level. These pathways may consist of a single WCE course or a series of courses.

The System Office developed a funding process which requires colleges to submit a request for funding that acknowledges agreement to meet program rules, reporting requirements, and student coding requirements. Each college is eligible for an allocation determined by the college's Budget Full-Time Equivalency (BFTE) in Tiers 1A, 1B, and 2 (excluding Tier 3) as presented in Table 1. The System President will have the authority to reallocate funds as needed during the program year to ensure full utilization of funds through a process developed by the System Office.

Table 1: College Allocation Eligibility

College	Continuing Education 2023-24 BFTE Tiers 1 and 2	Allocation Percentage	Allocation Amount
Alamance CC	239.5	1.08%	\$10,837
Asheville-Buncombe TCC	304.8	1.38%	13,792
Beaufort County CC	313.6	1.42%	14,190
Bladen CC	134.6	0.61%	6,090
Blue Ridge CC	256.1	1.16%	11,588
Brunswick CC	245.4	1.11%	11,104
Caldwell CC and TI	638.9	2.89%	28,909
Cape Fear CC	822.5	3.72%	37,216
Carteret CC	203.1	0.92%	9,190
Catawba Valley CC	631.6	2.86%	28,579
Central Carolina CC	431.9	1.95%	19,543
Central Piedmont CC	346.2	1.57%	15,665
Cleveland CC	589.9	2.67%	26,692
Coastal Carolina CC	404.9	1.83%	18,321
College of The Albemarle	176.5	0.80%	7,986
Craven CC	471.2	2.13%	21,321
Davidson Davie CC	223.2	1.01%	10,099
Durham TCC	495.9	2.24%	22,438
Edgecombe CC	301.3	1.36%	13,633
Fayetteville TCC	2,802.8	12.68%	126,816
Forsyth TCC	418.7	1.89%	18,945
Gaston College	152.4	0.69%	6,896
Guilford TCC	686.3	3.11%	31,054
Halifax CC	80.4	0.36%	3,638
Haywood CC	142.3	0.64%	6,439
Isothermal CC	104.8	0.47%	4,742
James Sprunt CC	495.8	2.24%	22,434
Johnston CC	373.9	1.69%	16,918
Lenoir CC	1,206.1	5.46%	54,574
Martin CC	135.9	0.61%	6,149
Mayland CC	118.0	0.53%	5,339
McDowell TCC	114.4	0.52%	5,176
Mitchell CC	297.7	1.35%	13,470
Montgomery CC	93.7	0.42%	4,240
Nash CC	271.4	1.23%	12,280
Pamlico CC	50.5	0.23%	2,285
Piedmont CC	330.0	1.49%	14,932
Pitt CC	331.4	1.50%	14,995

**Attachment FC 01**

Randolph CC	228.3	1.03%	10,330
Richmond CC	400.4	1.81%	18,117
Roanoke Chowan CC	2.6	0.01%	118
Robeson CC	779.7	3.53%	35,280
Rockingham CC	218.9	0.99%	9,905
Rowan-Cabarrus CC	519.6	2.35%	23,511
Sampson CC	296.8	1.34%	13,430
Sandhills CC	385.2	1.74%	17,430
South Piedmont CC	432.7	1.96%	19,579
Southeastern CC	147.5	0.67%	6,674
Southwestern CC	39.3	0.18%	1,778
Stanly CC	371.7	1.68%	16,819
Surry CC	264.1	1.19%	11,950
Tri-County CC	110.0	0.50%	4,977
Vance-Granville CC	242.3	1.10%	10,964
Wake TCC	1,366.6	6.18%	61,836
Wayne CC	254.7	1.15%	11,525
Western Piedmont CC	97.5	0.44%	4,412
Wilkes CC	370.5	1.68%	16,764
Wilson CC	134.5	0.61%	6,086
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>22,100.5</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 1,000,000</b>

**Time Period:** July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

**Fund Source and Availability:** Funding for this program is available from the 2023-24 General Fund Appropriations.

**Contact:**

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