

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocation for Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program
January 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges is asked to approve the allocation of \$3,000,000 in State funds to establish the Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program. The program will provide financial assistance for up to \$750 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:

Theme: Student Interest and Access

Goal #1: Increase the percentage of North Carolinians, particularly within underserved populations, pursuing and easily accessing education or training through North Carolina community colleges.

- Objective 1.3. Identify and reduce access barriers for all prospective students, particularly among underserved populations.
 - Strategy 1.3.1. Improve and augment existing financial assistance programs and services to better assist students with educational costs, particularly costs beyond tuition and fees (e.g., books, transportation, childcare, etc.).

Theme: Economic and Workforce Development

Goal #5: Develop a workforce pipeline for emergency response, pandemic-proof, and high-demand industries.

- Objective .5. Develop a workforce pipeline for emergency response, pandemic-proof, and high-demand industries.
 - Strategy 3.5.1 Implement the N.C. Workforce Credentials framework.

Background: Session Law 2021-180 Section 6.6.(a) establishes the Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program and directs 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 (\$750.00) 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 builds on the work of the N.C. Workforce Credentials and the State Board's strategic plan objectives.

Eligible programs will include courses and pathways that meet local workforce needs and are 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, growing 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.¹ Community colleges will be 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. Establishing the Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program begins to address this unmet need for the NCCCS and the State of North Carolina.

In 2021, the General Assembly allocated \$3,000,000 to the N.C. Community College System (NCCCS) for 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 intend 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 will develop a funding process for colleges to submit a request for funding, an agreement to meet program rules, and the reporting and student coding requirements. Each college is eligible for an allocation determined by the college’s Budget Full-Time Equivalency (BFTE) weighted for each funding Tier 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.

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

Table 1: College Allocation Eligibility

College	Continuing Education 2021-22 BFTE Weighted by Tier	Allocation Percentage	Allocation Amount
Alamance CC	470.9	1.61%	\$48,172
Asheville-Buncombe TCC	499.9	1.70%	\$51,139
Beaufort County CC	309.1	1.05%	\$31,620
Bladen CC	179.5	0.61%	\$18,362
Blue Ridge CC	418.4	1.43%	\$42,801
Brunswick CC	270.0	0.92%	\$27,620
Caldwell CC and TI	703.1	2.40%	\$71,925
Cape Fear CC	780.5	2.66%	\$79,843
Carteret CC	279.2	0.95%	\$28,561
Catawba Valley CC	510.8	1.74%	\$52,254
Central Carolina CC	514.6	1.75%	\$52,642
Central Piedmont CC	640.9	2.19%	\$65,563
Cleveland CC	664.7	2.27%	\$67,997
Coastal Carolina CC	582.5	1.99%	\$59,588
College of The Albemarle	343.9	1.17%	\$35,180
Craven CC	537.4	1.83%	\$54,975
Davidson Davie CC	319.0	1.09%	\$32,633
Durham TCC	532.6	1.82%	\$54,484
Edgecombe CC	296.3	1.01%	\$30,311
Fayetteville TCC	3,416.2	11.65%	\$349,469
Forsyth TCC	617.0	2.10%	\$63,118
Gaston College	319.3	1.09%	\$32,664
Guilford TCC	787.3	2.68%	\$80,539
Halifax CC	186.1	0.63%	\$19,038
Haywood CC	210.2	0.72%	\$21,503
Isothermal CC	184.2	0.63%	\$18,843
James Sprunt CC	393.8	1.34%	\$40,285
Johnston CC	586.4	2.00%	\$59,987
Lenoir CC	1,673.7	5.71%	\$171,216
Martin CC	97.2	0.33%	\$9,943
Mayland CC	261.5	0.89%	\$26,751
McDowell TCC	106.7	0.36%	\$10,915
Mitchell CC	323.4	1.10%	\$33,083
Montgomery CC	165.2	0.56%	\$16,900
Nash CC	433.2	1.48%	\$44,315
Pamlico CC	135.6	0.46%	\$13,872
Piedmont CC	334.5	1.14%	\$34,219
Pitt CC	570.6	1.95%	\$58,371
Randolph CC	377.5	1.29%	\$38,617

Richmond CC	497.9	1.70%	\$50,934
Roanoke Chowan CC	125.6	0.43%	\$12,849
Robeson CC	786.8	2.68%	\$80,488
Rockingham CC	204.7	0.70%	\$20,940
Rowan-Cabarrus CC	938.3	3.20%	\$95,986
Sampson CC	373.6	1.27%	\$38,218
Sandhills CC	433.3	1.48%	\$44,326
South Piedmont CC	681.8	2.32%	\$69,747
Southeastern CC	332.8	1.13%	\$34,045
Southwestern CC	436.9	1.49%	\$44,694
Stanly CC	608.7	2.08%	\$62,269
Surry CC	440.2	1.50%	\$45,031
Tri-County CC	161.1	0.55%	\$16,480
Vance-Granville CC	397.9	1.36%	\$40,704
Wake TCC	1,720.3	5.87%	\$175,983
Wayne CC	376.1	1.28%	\$38,474
Western Piedmont CC	175.5	0.60%	\$17,953
Wilkes CC	370.2	1.26%	\$37,870
Wilson CC	231.6	0.79%	\$23,691
Total FTE	29,326.2	100%	\$ 3,000,000

Time Period: January 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022.

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is available as authorized by Session Law 2021-180 Section 6.6.(a).

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