

SENATE, No. 1849

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Amends Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations act to expand eligibility under Community College Opportunity Grant program to certain volunteer emergency responders, regardless of income.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT amending the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations act,
2 P.L.2019, c.150.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. The following language provision in section 1 of P.L.2019,
8 c.150, the annual appropriations act for Fiscal Year 2020, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10
11 **74 DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

12 ***30 Educational, Cultural, and Intellectual Development***

13 ***36 Higher Educational Services***

14 ***2405 Higher Education Student Assistance Authority***

15 **GRANTS-IN-AID**

16
17 Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or regulation to the
18 contrary, the amount hereinabove appropriated for Community
19 College Opportunity Grants is subject to the following conditions:
20 (1) \$25 million is appropriated to the Higher Education Student
21 Assistance Authority for the purpose of providing grants to eligible
22 enrollees at New Jersey county colleges for the Fall 2019 and
23 Spring 2020 semesters, to pay for the costs of tuition or approved
24 educational fees, including fees for nursing, culinary, and other
25 career and technical education programs, or both, that are not
26 already covered by other available funding opportunities, including,
27 but not limited to, awards of tuition assistance and grants from any
28 source, as determined by the Higher Education Student Assistance
29 Authority; provided, however, that the Higher Education Student
30 Assistance Authority, in consultation with the Office of the
31 Secretary of Higher Education, shall establish criteria governing
32 student eligibility and other necessary program elements, which
33 shall be published on the Authority's Internet website; provided
34 further that for Fiscal Year 2020, grants shall be available only to
35 students determined to be eligible by the Authority, and whose
36 adjusted gross income does not exceed \$65,000; and provided
37 further that, notwithstanding the adjusted gross income limits
38 established herein for the Community College Opportunity Grant
39 program, a member of a volunteer fire company or an incorporated
40 volunteer first aid, emergency, rescue, or ambulance squad, who
41 meets all other eligibility criteria under the Community College
42 Opportunity Grant program, shall be eligible for the program; and
43 provided further that the maximum per student tuition and approved
44 educational fee amounts eligible for Community College
45 Opportunity Grants coverage shall not be more than two percent
46 greater than the equivalent tuition and fee amounts at each county

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 college in Academic Year 2018-2019; and provided further that
2 unexpended balances, not to exceed \$5 million, may be reallocated
3 to augment the Tuition **【Assistance】** Aid Grant program for county
4 colleges, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Higher
5 Education and subject to the approval of the Director of the
6 Division of Budget and Accounting; (2) students must be enrolled
7 in 6 or more credit hours, as defined pursuant to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.6;
8 (3) \$5,000,000 shall be allocated to the Office of the Secretary of
9 Higher Education for the purpose of providing capacity-building
10 grants of equal amount to all community colleges for outreach and
11 student success initiatives that support the goals of the Community
12 College Opportunity Grant program, pursuant to criteria to be
13 established by the Secretary and published on the Internet website
14 of the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, which shall
15 include but not be limited to implementing goals and strategies for
16 capacity building, increasing student completion, and reducing
17 financial burdens on students, subject to the approval of the
18 Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting.

19
20 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

21 22 23 STATEMENT

24
25 Under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 appropriations act, \$30 million
26 was appropriated to the Community College Opportunity Grant
27 (CCOG) Program. Of the \$30 million appropriated, footnote
28 language in the FY 2020 appropriations act provides that \$25
29 million is appropriated for the purposes of providing financial aid
30 grants to eligible students. The CCOG program provides county
31 college students enrolled in at least six credits who have adjusted
32 gross income at or below \$65,000 with financial aid grants, which
33 cover the remaining costs of tuition and certain fees after applying
34 all other grant and scholarship funds for which the student is
35 eligible.

36 This bill amends footnote language governing the CCOG
37 program in the FY 2020 appropriations act to provide that,
38 regardless of income levels, all members of a volunteer fire
39 company or an incorporated volunteer first aid, emergency, rescue,
40 or ambulance squad, meeting all other eligibility criteria under the
41 CCOG program, are eligible for financial aid grants.