



# TRRC Workforce Financial Aid for the 2019-20 School Year

## Guidelines and Call for Proposals

The TRRC Education Committee's sub-program for Workforce Financial Aid (WFA) is open to Community Colleges and Higher Education Centers (including New College Institute) that serve the Tobacco Region. Funding is intended to remove financial barriers for residents working to obtain nationally-recognized workforce and post-secondary credentials required for employment in in-demand careers with Tobacco Region employers.

**Due Date:** Proposals will be accepted by the Commission through **March 28, 2019** for WFA funding to serve permanent residents of Tobacco Region localities in the **2019-20 school year**. A total of **\$3 million** is available for WFA proposals in FY19.

**Funding Priorities:** WFA proposals should focus - to the maximum extent possible - on the ranked funding priorities adopted by the Education Committee, as follows:

1. Workforce Credentials - All certifications that can be completed in six months or fewer;
2. STEM-H and Advanced Manufacturing applicants who can attain their degree/certificate within one year;
3. STEM-H and Advanced Manufacturing applicants who are working towards a degree or certificate, for which completion will require more than one year;
4. All other students who might obtain their degree/certificate within one year;
5. All other full-time, program-placed students, for which completion will require more than one year.

For students receiving funding from the Commonwealth's **FastForward Workforce Credential** program, the Commission will support one-sixth of the cost of the training program and certification, (half of the one-third share the student is responsible for) with the remainder to be covered by FTWC and potentially state FANTIC funds or other sources.

**Eligible uses of WFA:** WFA support shall be used only for tuition and mandatory fees. Books, transportation and other expenses will not be eligible for WFA.

**"Last Dollar" Support:** It has always been Commission policy that TRRC financial aid be awarded only as "last dollar" support, after all other state, federal and private financial aid options have been exhausted.

**Maximum Funding Requests:** The Education Committee has made additional funds available for FY 2019-20 requests, over the amounts approved for 2018-19. Therefore, the amount requested by each institution should not exceed 105% of the amount that was approved for WFA funds for that institution for the current 2018-19 school year. The amount requested by institutions that received the maximum \$300,000 funding for 2018-19 should therefore not exceed **\$315,000**.

**Matching Fund Requirement:** Per the Code of Virginia, all Commission grants require at least dollar-for-dollar match on the funding request to the Commission. Applicants must demonstrate how they will provide non-Commission matching financial aid support equal to or exceeding the requested TRRC funds.

Proposals submitted by the March 28<sup>th</sup> due date will be acted on by the Commission at its meetings to be scheduled in May/June 2019. For assistance or questions about program objectives, the application process and funding requirements, please contact the TRRC Grants Staff.