



TRRC Workforce Financial Aid for the 2020-21 School Year

Guidelines & Call for Proposals – Due Date March 19, 2020

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 Tobacco Region 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, using its online application, through **March 19, 2020** for WFA funding to serve permanent residents of Tobacco Region localities in the **2020-21 school year**. A total of **\$3 million** is available for WFA proposals in the current FY20 Commission budget.

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

1. All certifications that can be completed in six months or fewer;
2. Identified target program 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;
4. All other community college students who might obtain their degree/certificate within one year;
5. All other full-time, program-placed students.

For students receiving funding from the Commonwealth's **FastForward Workforce Credential Grant** 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 FFWCG 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.

Maximum Funding Requests: The Education Committee has tentatively (pending the outcome of the budget to be approved in the 2020 General Assembly session) made up to \$3 million available for FY 2020-21 requests. Therefore, the amount requested by each institution should not exceed the amount that was approved for WFA funds for that institution for the current 2019-20 school year. The amount requested by institutions that received the maximum \$315,000 funding for 2019-20 should therefore not exceed **\$315,000 for the 2020-21 school year**. However, please note that pending the outcome of the Virginia budget proposal that would provide free VCCS tuition for certain student populations, full TRRC funding at the current levels is not guaranteed.

“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.

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.

New Documentation Requirement: Recipients of TRRC WFA grants will be expected to report, on an individual student basis, the full distribution of all financial aid and/or other funding used to meet that student's financial responsibility to the college. This documentation may be marked “Confidential” to protect the student's privacy.

Proposals submitted by the March 19th due date will be acted on by the Commission at its meetings to be scheduled in late-May 2020. For assistance or questions about program objectives and requirements, please contact the TRRC Grants Staff.