



TRRC Workforce Financial Aid for the 2023-24 Academic Year

Guidelines & Call for Proposals – Due Date March 23, 2023

The Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission’s (TRRC) Workforce Financial Aid Program (WFA) is open to Community Colleges and Higher Education Centers and New College Institute serving 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: The Commission will accept proposals submitted through TRRC’s online application through **Thursday, March 23, 2023**, for WFA funding to serve permanent residents of Tobacco Region localities in the **2023-24 academic year**. The current FY23 Commission budget allocates \$2.2 million is to support Workforce Financial Aid proposals.

Funding Priorities & Application Requirements: The Commission’s four funding priorities for the WFA Program are listed below in ranked order. Applicant institutions must use WFA funding for all eligible students in a higher priority category program before using WFA funding for other eligible students in a lower priority category.

Priority	Program	Definition	Required for Submission
1	Workforce Credentials*	Short term, non-credit certificates approved by VCCS under Fast Forward Training Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of all short-term, noncredit workforce credential training requested for scholarship support under Priority 1
2	Non-G3 Eligible Programs in STEM-H and Advanced Manufacturing	For Credit Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees in STEM-H and Advanced Manufacturing fields not eligible for G3 program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of all Non-G3 STEM-H and Advanced Manufacturing, requested for scholarship support under Priority 2 Total amount of scholarship funding requested for Non G3-Eligible Programs.
3	G3 Eligible Programs in STEM-H and Advanced Manufacturing	For Credit Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees in STEM-H and Advanced Manufacturing fields eligible for G3 program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of all G3-Eligible programs requested for scholarship support under Priority 3 Total amount of scholarship funding requested for G3-Eligible Programs.
4	High-demand occupations (to be approved by TRRC)	For Credit Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees. Non STEM-H or Advanced Manufacturing. Limited to two (2) specific areas of study (General Studies degrees not eligible).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of training under Priorities 4 Total amount of scholarship funding requested for specified high demand programs. Must include documentation of employer demand.

*For Students receiving FastForward Workforce Credential funding, TRRC will support one-sixth of the cost of training program and certification (half of one-third share the student is responsible for), with the remainder to be covered by FFWC and potentially state FANTIC funds or other sources. However, TRRC will allow up to 50% tuition reimbursement for FFWC-eligible training cohorts conducted during periods when FFWC funding is not available due to state funding limitations. When requesting reimbursement, documentation should include the date FFWC funds were exhausted or limited by Virginia Community College System.

Eligible uses of WFA: WFA support shall be used only for tuition and mandatory fees. WFA funds may not be used for books, transportation and other expenses.

Funding Requests: The current FY23 Commission budget has \$2.2 million available to support Workforce Financial Aid grants in the 2023-24 school year. *Tier I Requests:* Community Colleges where the majority of the student population is from TRRC localities may apply for up to \$240,000. *Tier II Requests:* Community Colleges without a majority of TRRC localities in service area, and Higher Education Centers in the region may apply for up to \$100,000.

- Tier I Community Colleges:** Central Virginia, Danville, Mountain Empire, Patrick & Henry, Southside Virginia, Southwest Virginia, Virginia Highlands, Wytheville

- **Tier II Community Colleges and Higher Education Centers:** Brightpoint, New River, Virginia Western; New College Institute, Southern Virginia Higher Education Center, Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center

Grant Conditions:

- **Matching Funds:** Grantees must provide at least dollar-for-dollar matching funds.
- **Documentation Requirements:**
 - Grantees must 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. This documentation may be marked “confidential” to protect student privacy, and the Commission asks that any other sensitive data (such as security numbers, student health or disability status, etc.) be redacted. Grantees are expected to work with the college’s financial aid office to track scholarship commitments through the People Soft system.
 - Grantees must report the program/major for each scholarship recipient in order for TRRC staff to validate eligibility under the approved priorities.
- **Dual Enrollment:** Dual Enrollment funding will be limited to regional high school program offerings at community college facilities. These scholarship funds will be limited to Advanced Manufacturing and Information Technology career programs. At least fifty percent 50% match must be provided toward Dual Enrollment tuition and fees.
- **Poverty Level Income Requirements:** Grantees will limit scholarships for G3 Eligible and Non-G3 Eligible for credit programs to students with family income up to 500% of Poverty Level for their family size (See below). Grantees must work with the college’s financial aid office in order to verify income eligibility and to track scholarship commitments through the People Soft system.
- **Final Reimbursement:** Grantees must submit final reimbursement request no later than 90 days after end of academic year.

Federal Poverty Guidelines:

TRRC utilizes the U.S. Federal Poverty Guidelines issued annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to determine financial eligibility for its WFA programs. HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2023 are below.

2023 Poverty Guidelines: 48 Contiguous States (for Virginia):

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline	500% of Poverty Guideline
1	\$ 14,580	\$ 72,900
2	\$ 19,720	\$ 98,600
3	\$ 24,860	\$ 124,300
4	\$ 30,000	\$ 150,000
5	\$ 35,140	\$ 175,700
6	\$ 40,280	\$ 201,400
7	\$ 45,420	\$ 227,100
8	\$ 50,560	\$ 252,800

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,140 for each additional person.

The Commission intends to act on proposals submitted by the March 23, 2023, deadline at its meeting in May 2023. For assistance or questions about program objectives and requirements, please contact the TRRC Grants Staff.