

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocation for Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program
July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges is requested to approve a revised allocation of \$2,000,000 in State funds to continue the Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program. This revised allocation reflects the \$1,000,000 allocation approved by the State Board on May 15, 2026, and an additional \$1,000,000 in nonrecurring funds. These funds are established under Section 6.6 of Session Law 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257).

The program will provide financial assistance of up to \$750 per course 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: Goal 4: Economic and Workforce Development

Provide education, training, and credentials to develop the most competitive workforce in the nation.

Strategy: 4.3.1

Background: G.S. 115D-10.19 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) per course to students pursuing short-term, noncredit State and industry-recognized workforce credentials. This program and approach build on the work of the N.C. Workforce Credentials and the State Board's strategic plan objectives.

Eligible programs will include courses and pathways leading to family-sustaining and in-demand credentials identified on the N.C. Workforce Credentials list. Identified pathways include credentials across all sectors in the State economy, including construction, health sciences, information technology, electrical line workers, manufacturing programs, and other programs that meet workforce needs.

Rationale: North Carolina faces a critical need for a skilled workforce to meet employer demand, particularly in high-growth sectors. The Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program provides essential, flexible financial support for students pursuing short-term, noncredit training that leads to industry-recognized credentials.

While federal financial aid has expanded to support some short-term programs, this State-funded program remains critical to ensuring broad access across a wider range of workforce training opportunities. By covering costs such as tuition, fees, books, supplies, and credentialing exams, the program helps remove financial barriers and enables more North Carolinians to access training that leads to employment and family-sustaining wages.

At a minimum, eligible students applying for this scholarship must:

- 1) Be a resident of North Carolina
 - a) As required by G.S. 115D-10.19, 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) Enroll in Workforce Continuing Education (WCE) pathways/courses leading to an industry-recognized credential.

To improve alignment with institutional capacity, allocations will be based on three defined allocation groups:

- Group A Colleges: \$100,000
- Group B Colleges: \$26,000
- Group C Colleges: \$10,400

Initial Allocation Approach

- \$1,800,000 will be distributed at the start of the fiscal year
- Funds are divided evenly within each tier

Performance-Based Redistribution

- \$200,000 will be held in a reserve fund at the System Office
- Mid-year, funds will be redistributed to colleges that have fully expended their initial allocation, with consideration given to prior-year utilization levels.

This ensures full utilization of funds and rewards high-performing colleges. The System President will have the authority to reallocate funds as needed during the program year to ensure full utilization of funds.

Table 1: College Allocations

College	Allocation	Allocation Group
Alamance Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Beaufort County Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Bladen Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Blue Ridge Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Brunswick Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute	\$26,000	Group B
Cape Fear Community College	\$100,000	Group A
Carteret Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Catawba Valley Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Central Carolina Community College	\$26,000	Group B

College	Allocation	Allocation Group
Central Piedmont Community College	\$100,000	Group A
Cleveland Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Coastal Carolina Community College	\$26,000	Group B
College of The Albemarle	\$26,000	Group B
Craven Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Davidson-Davie Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Durham Technical Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Edgecombe Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Fayetteville Technical Community College	\$100,000	Group A
Forsyth Technical Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Gaston College	\$26,000	Group B
Guilford Technical Community College	\$100,000	Group A
Halifax Community College	\$10,400	Group C
Haywood Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Isothermal Community College	\$26,000	Group B
James Sprunt Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Johnston Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Lenoir Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Martin Community College	\$10,400	Group C
Mayland Community College	\$10,400	Group C
McDowell Technical Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Mitchell Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Montgomery Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Nash Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Pamlico Community College	\$10,400	Group C
Piedmont Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Pitt Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Randolph Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Richmond Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Roanoke-Chowan Community College	\$10,400	Group C
Robeson Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Rockingham Community College	\$26,000	Group B

College	Allocation	Allocation Group
Rowan-Cabarrus Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Sampson Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Sandhills Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Southeastern Community College	\$26,000	Group B
South Piedmont Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Southwestern Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Stanly Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Surry Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Tri-County Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Vance-Granville Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Wake Technical Community College	\$100,000	Group A
Wayne Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Western Piedmont Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Wilkes Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Wilson Community College	\$26,000	Group B
Total Initial Allocation	\$1,800,000	
System Office Reserve for Mid-Year Reallocation	\$200,000	
Full Allocation	\$2,000,000	

Time Period: July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Fund Source and Availability: Funding for this program is available from the 2026-27 General FundAppropriations.

Contact:

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