

CCOG Incentive Funding Distribution Model
New Jersey Community Colleges

The Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 includes funds to provide each of the county colleges in New Jersey with Student Success Incentive Funding to support the goals of the Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG) Program. The funding may be used for implementation of student success strategies and initiatives to reduce the financial burden of students. This grant is awarded in two installments; the first upon the receipt of required documents and the second upon review of the interim grant report.

An Act Concerning Financial Aid for County College Students and Supplementing Chapter 71B of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes (P.L. 2021, c.026) states:

“The Legislature shall annually appropriate to the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education such funds as may be necessary for Student Success Incentive funding to provide capacity-building grants to each county college to support the goals of the Community College Opportunity Grant Program. The Secretary of Higher Education shall distribute funding made available pursuant to this section to county colleges for outreach, recruitment, and promoting the success of county college students. The secretary shall establish the purposes for which a county college may use a grant received pursuant to this section, which shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) establishing mentorship programs;
 - (2) hosting events to assist students and families in completing financial aid applications;
- and
- (3) addressing students’ material hardships, such as lack of access to food, medical care, housing, child care, and transportation.

b. The secretary shall distribute the funding made available pursuant to this section. The secretary may retain up to five percent of the funding for grant administration activities designed to increase the effectiveness of the program. Fifty percent of the remaining appropriation shall be distributed equally among all of the county colleges, while the other fifty percent of the remaining appropriation shall be distributed based on the total number of students at each county college who received awards¹ under the program during the previous academic year.”

It is important to note that the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education receives five percent of the total allocation off the top (i.e. in FY21, the total available to community colleges collectively was \$4,750,000, not \$5 million as appropriated).

¹ Part-time and full-time students are counted equally and there is no weight given to the amount of each student’s CCOG award. In addition, students who may be considered CCOG eligible but do not receive an award because other programs cover their tuition and fees are not counted. It is simply the total number of students who received any amount of CCOG awards the previous academic year.