

**ASSEMBLY, No. 5991**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 15, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Makes supplemental appropriation of \$3.5 million for Community College Opportunity Grant – Adult Postsecondary Career and Technical Education.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/15/2021)**

A SUPPLEMENT to the annual appropriations act for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, P.L.2021, c.133.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.2021, c.133, the annual appropriations act for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, there is appropriated from the General Fund the following amount for the purpose specified:

74 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

30 Educational, Cultural, and Intellectual Development

36 Higher Educational Services

2405 Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

GRANTS-IN-AID

45-2405 Student Assistance Programs .....	\$3,500,000
Total Grants-in-Aid appropriation,	
Higher Educational Services .....	\$3,500,000

Grants-in-Aid:

45 Community College Opportunity Grant –	
Adult Postsecondary Career and	
Technical Education.....	(\$3,500,000)

Notwithstanding any provision of P.L.2021, c.26 (C.18A:71B-111 et seq.) or any other law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, the amount hereinabove appropriated for Community College Opportunity Grant – Adult Postsecondary Career and Technical Education is appropriated for the purpose of providing financial aid grants to eligible adult students enrolled in postsecondary career and technical education programs offered by county vocational school districts for the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters, to pay for the costs of tuition and approved educational fees, including fees for nursing, culinary, and other career and technical education programs that are not already covered by any other State, federal, and institutional need-based grants or merit scholarships. To be eligible to receive a financial aid grant, a student shall: be an adult student, which is defined as a postsecondary student who is enrolled in a postsecondary career and technical education program that prepares the student to earn a license or industry-recognized certification or to take a nationally-recognized exam; be a legal resident of the State in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:71B-2 or P.L.2018, c.12 (C.18A:71B-2.1), except for any requirement under those provisions of law to be enrolled in an eligible institution of

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 higher education; be enrolled in a postsecondary career and  
2 technical education program of at least four months in length; be  
3 enrolled in a county vocational school district that serves the  
4 student's county of residence or be enrolled in an out-of-county  
5 vocational school district, in which case the student, if otherwise  
6 eligible, shall receive a grant to cover the remaining costs of  
7 tuition and approved educational fees, charged at the out-of-  
8 county rate of the county vocational school district at which the  
9 student is enrolled; not have an annual adjusted gross income  
10 that is negative; have an annual adjusted gross income between  
11 \$0 and \$65,000; have applied for all other available forms of  
12 State, federal, and institutional need-based grants and merit  
13 scholarships and, in accordance with annually established  
14 deadline dates, have completed and submitted a Free Application  
15 for Federal Student Aid, other financial aid form, or, as  
16 applicable, a State financial aid form as required by the authority  
17 pursuant to subsection b. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.12  
18 (C.18A:71B-2.1); not owe a refund on a grant or scholarship  
19 previously received from a State or federal program through any  
20 institution or be in default on any loan made under any State or  
21 federal student loan program at any institution, unless the student  
22 makes arrangements with the Higher Education Student  
23 Assistance Authority to repay the debt; be in good academic  
24 standing and meet the minimum standards for academic  
25 performance and satisfactory academic progress as defined by  
26 the county vocational school district which the student is  
27 attending; and be enrolled in between six and 18 credits hours, or  
28 the recognized equivalent range or credits as determined by the  
29 Higher Education Student Assistance Authority. In addition to  
30 the amount hereinabove appropriated for Community College  
31 Opportunity Grant – Adult Postsecondary Career and Technical  
32 Education, there are appropriated such amounts as are required to  
33 cover the costs of increases in the number of applicants  
34 qualifying for awards or to fund shifts in the distribution of  
35 awards that result in an increase in total program costs, subject to  
36 the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and  
37 Accounting.

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39 2. This act shall take effect immediately.  
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#### 42 STATEMENT

43  
44 This bill provides a supplemental appropriation of \$3.5 million  
45 for Community College Opportunity Grant – Adult Postsecondary  
46 Career and Technical Education. The supplemental appropriation is

1 intended to provide last-dollar financial aid grants to adult students  
2 enrolled in postsecondary career and technical education programs  
3 offered by county vocational school districts. Grants provided  
4 under the bill would cover the remaining costs of eligible tuition  
5 and fees after the application of all other State, federal, and  
6 institutional need-based grants or merit scholarships.

7 Under the bill, an adult student would be eligible for financial  
8 aid under the CCOG Program if the student: is a legal resident of  
9 the State; is enrolled in a postsecondary career and technical  
10 education program of at least four months in length offered by a  
11 county vocational school district; is enrolled at the county  
12 vocational school district that serves the student's county of  
13 residence or is enrolled at an out-of-county vocational school  
14 district, in which case the student, if otherwise eligible, would  
15 receive a grant under the program to cover the remaining costs of  
16 tuition and approved educational fees, charged at the in-district rate  
17 for the county vocational school district at which the student is  
18 enrolled; does not have an annual adjusted gross income that is  
19 negative; has an annual adjusted gross income between \$0 and  
20 \$65,000; has applied for all other available forms of State, federal,  
21 and institutional need-based grants and merit scholarships and  
22 submitted a financial aid form; does not owe a refund on a grant or  
23 scholarship previously received from a State or federal program  
24 through any institution or be in default on any loan made under any  
25 State or federal student loan program at any institution, unless the  
26 student makes arrangements with the Higher Education Student  
27 Assistance Authority to repay the debt; and is in good academic  
28 standing and meets the minimum standards for academic  
29 performance and satisfactory academic progress as defined by  
30 county vocational school district which the student is attending.