

New Jersey Update for NJASFAA

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Governor Christie's Proposed Funding Levels FY 13

NJ Tuition Aid Grant (TAG)

Full-time TAG

- One of the largest increases in the grants and aid section of the budget
 - Recommended expenditures of **\$331M**
 - **\$30.7M** – new appropriations
 - **\$6M** carry forward
 - Total increase of 12.5% over FY12

AY 11-12 TAG Awards

Sector	2011-12 Average Tuition	Max. TAG Award	% of Tuition
County Colleges	2,870	2,458	85.6%
State Colleges	7,592	6,512	85.8%
RU/UMDNJ	10,104	8,812	87.2%
NJIT	11,756	9,984	84.9%
Nonpublic*	26,586	10,980	41.3%

****By law, the maximum TAG award at participating independent institutions is capped at 50% of the average sector tuition.***

Governor Christie's Proposed Funding Levels FY 13

NJ Tuition Aid Grant (TAG)

Part-time TAG for County Colleges

- Recommended funding level of **\$10.36M**
- Increase of **\$749K** – 7.8% over FY12

Governor Christie's Proposed Funding Levels FY 13

NJ STARS and NJ STARS II

- Recommended funding level of **\$13.849M**
- Reflects award structure for NJ STARS II proposed in FY 12 budget and **in bill on Governor's desk**
- In February, HESAA notified 15K high school seniors of their potential eligibility for NJ STARS

NJ STARS II

- Currently enables successful NJ STARS scholars to transfer to a New Jersey four-year public college or university and earn a bachelor's degree
- Pending legislation would:
 - Have state fund the entire grant (now 50% state/50% school)
 - Offer **\$1,250** per semester to all non-renewal students
 - Open to all TAG 4-year participating colleges and universities

Governor Christie's Proposed Funding Levels FY 13

- **Distinguished Scholar and Urban Scholar Programs – \$1.6M**
 - Merit-based programs recognizing academic achievement at the secondary level
 - Limited to renewal students since AY 2010-11
- **Survivor Tuition Benefit Program – \$38K**
 - Assists dependent children and surviving spouses of New Jersey firefighters, emergency workers and law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty

Governor Christie's Proposed Funding Levels FY 13

New – Governor's New Urban Scholarship Program

- **\$1M** to help students from economically disadvantaged areas who are in the top 5 percent of their high school class and have a GPA of 3.0 or higher
 - Must have a qualifying NJEI
- Camden City
 - East Orange
 - Newark
 - Trenton
 - Paterson
 - Lakewood
 - Vineland
 - Millville
 - Irvington
 - Jersey City
 - New Brunswick
 - Plainfield
 - Roselle Borough
 - Asbury Park

Governor Christie's Proposed Funding Levels FY 13

NJ Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Grants

- **\$500K** increase – total appropriation of **\$39M**
- 1.3% increase – Secretary of Higher Education's Budget
- HESAA provides administrative support
- 12,300 students per year
 - Maximum awards
 - County College **\$1,050**
 - State College **\$1,400**
 - Independent **\$2,500**

8

Governor Christie's Proposed Funding Levels FY 13

Veterinary Medical Education – \$51K

HESAA administers contractual agreements with out-of-state schools of veterinary medicine for New Jersey residents.

Governor Christie's Proposed Funding Levels FY 13

World Trade Center Scholarship – **\$202K**

Benefits dependent children and surviving spouses of N.J. residents killed in or who died as a result of the attacks on 9/11, or who died as a result of illness caused by exposure to the attack sites.

10

State Budget Process

- Hearings being held now
- Legislature works with Governor to finalize an Appropriations Bill
- Governor signs Appropriations Bill – end of June
- TAG tables finalized by the HESAA Board in July – meeting minutes forwarded to Governor for review and approval
- At the completion of the 10-day period, or if approved prior to the 10-day period, schools are provided with final TAG tables

HESAA New Hires

- **Ken Jones** – Director of Grants and Scholarships
- **Jason Chavez** – Associate Director of Grants and Scholarships
- **Pilar Sanchez** – Assistant Director of Grants and Scholarships

12

The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority is the only State agency with the sole mission of providing students and families with the financial and informational resources to pursue their education beyond high school.



Principals Letter



State of New Jersey
HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY
4 QUAKERBRIDGE PLAZA
PO BOX 545
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0545
1-800-792-8670
www.hesaa.org

CIRIS CHRISTIE
Governor
KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

GABRIELLE CHARETTE, Esq.
Executive Director

February 22, 2012

Buena Regional High School
125 Weymouth Road
Buena, NJ 08310-9620

It has come to my attention that a number of for profit companies have offered "free" seminars on financial aid and planning to students and families at secondary schools in New Jersey. These companies then solicit students and families they meet at these sessions to retain the company to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on their behalf. This service, of course, comes at a fee.

The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) believes that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is just that - free, and no student should ever be charged for FAFSA completion. As a state Authority, HESAA offers a number of services and counseling opportunities for students and families seeking assistance filing the FAFSA. **All of HESAA's services are free.** Our trained counselors will come to your school and give a presentation, walking students and families through the entire financial aid process, including FAFSA completion. Further, our Customer Care line at 800-792-8670, offers assistance in English and Spanish, and is staffed by trained financial aid counselors. Our website, www.HESAA.org, is replete with useful and accessible information.

If you are interested in having a financial aid counselor speak to your students, please contact Janet Cooper at (609) 588-3214 to arrange a convenient time.

Thank you

Sincerely,


Gabrielle Charette, Esq.
Executive Director

13

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Tax Verification Process

- HESAA Memorandum 4:12
- HESAA will continue to coordinate 2012-2013 verification selection with the federal selection
- Families selected for state verification must submit an IRS Tax Return Transcript in lieu of a “home copy” of the tax return (see Dear Colleague letter GEN-12-07 offering relief until 7-15-12)
- HESAA may require the submission of tax schedules and/or other documents to confirm asset values
- Unborn children included in household size

14

On the Horizon

- ISIR corrections are being processed daily
- June 1st FAFSA reminder for renewal students
- 3rd spring pre-disbursement roster
- “Verification by the Numbers” training May 9th
- NJ Change Form available on HESAA’s website
- NJ STARS II training and communications
- Revised P&P Manual early summer

15

HESAA Operations

HESAA staff members have experience and expertise in financial aid, lending, collections, grant administration and marketing

Customer Care Line – 1.800.792.8670
8 am to 8 pm Mon-Thurs, until 5 p.m. on Friday
Heather Hillman, Manager

16

HESAA Annual Volume of Activity

- 180,000 inbound calls
- 85,000 outbound calls
- 3.6 million outbound pieces of mail
- 280,029 inbound pieces of mail
- 329 high school visits
- 163 community organization visits
- 192 college visits (in- and out-of-state)

17

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New Jersey College Goal Sunday 2012

- 652 students served
- 90 percent of target audience reached based on income, race and location

NJCLASS

- Summer 2012 Funding – **\$20M** available
- Working to provide lowest interest rate possible
- 3% flat origination fee for fall
- Seniors allowed to take Option 3 loans

NJCLASS (continued)

- Disbursement dates determined by the school at time of certification
- NJCLASS loans available for preceding academic year balances
- Interest and origination fees waived for funds returned within 60 days
- Any scheduled disbursement can be reduced or cancelled at least three business days prior to disbursement

20

NJCLASS (continued)



Free NJCLASS online payment

- September 2011 through April 2012 – 92,740 online payments were processed totaling **\$35.8M**
- Set up bank account information
- Payments made before 2 pm posted the same evening
- No fees, no mail delay
- Borrowers are able to allocate payment amounts by loan as long as minimum payments for each loan are met
- Store up to three different bank profiles
- All located at www.hesaa.org in the portal listed under “**Manage My NJCLASS Account**”

21

John R. Justice Loan Redemption Program

- Supported through a federal grant and offered contingent upon receiving funds. NJ was awarded the grant in 2010 (30 students), 2011 (30 students) and is in the process of completing the grant application for 2012 (30 students).
- To qualify for loan repayment assistance, an applicant must:
 - Be currently employed full-time as an eligible prosecutor or public defender
 - Have eligible outstanding student loan debt in good standing with each lender
 - Complete the application process and be selected to participate
 - Sign a service agreement to remain employed as an eligible public defender or prosecutor for at least three years.

Governor Christie's Proposed Funding Levels FY 13

Primary Care Physician and Dentist Loan Redemption – \$1.5M – \$375K allocated by statute to nursing faculty loan redemption program

- Administered by UMDNJ under contract with HESAA
- Promotes access to primary care services in medically underserved areas of the State
- Redemption of providers' eligible student loan expenses in exchange for service in medically underserved areas
- Includes New Jersey licensed physicians, dentists, physician assistants, certified nurse practitioners and certified nurse midwives

23

Governor Christie's Proposed Funding Levels FY 13

Nursing Faculty Loan Redemption

- Aims to address current and projected critical shortage of nurse faculty in New Jersey
- Incentive to enter graduate nursing education programs
- Offers student loan redemption in exchange for full-time faculty employment at a N.J. school of nursing for a five-year period following completion of the approved graduate degree program

24

Thank you

