



# SHORT-TERM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

**FINAL REPORT**  
***FISCAL YEAR 2023-24***

Programs & Student Services Division  
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# Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program

## Background

Session Law 2021-180 Section 6.6.(a) established the Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program and directed the State Board to collaborate with the Department of Commerce. The purpose was 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 could be awarded for up to seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) per course to students pursuing short-term, noncredit State and industry-recognized workforce credentials. The legislation stipulated that eligible students had to qualify as residents for tuition purposes under the criteria outlined in G.S. 116-143.1 and follow the centralized residency determination process administered by the State Education Assistance Authority.

This program and approach built upon the work of the N.C. Workforce Credentials and the State Board's strategic plan objectives. Eligible programs included courses and pathways leading to family-sustaining and in-demand credentials identified on the N.C. Workforce Credentials list. These pathways encompassed credentials across all sectors of the State's economy, including architecture and construction, health sciences, information technology, electrical line worker programs, manufacturing, and other programs addressing workforce needs. In 2023, the General Assembly allocated \$1,000,000 to the NC Community College System (NCCCS) for the Short-Term Workforce Development (STWD) Grant Program.

## Administration:

Under this program, each college was eligible for an allocation determined by the college's Budget Full-Time Equivalency (BFTE) in Tiers 1A, 1B, and 2 (excluding Tier 3) as detailed in Appendix I. For program monitoring, funds were allocated and tracked through the college's monthly 112 financial reports using purpose code 554 and vocational code 80. Student awards were disbursed through the financial aid module of the colleges' student information system, Ellucian's Colleague, facilitating comprehensive data collection on awardees and program outcomes.

## Reporting Plan:

The NCCCS was required to provide an annual report on the Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, the House Appropriations Committee on Education, and the Fiscal Research Division on the administration of the STWD Grant Program for the prior academic year by April 1, 2024.

Data collected for this report each academic year was to include, at minimum, the amount of grant funds disbursed and the number of eligible students receiving funds by each program.

## Outcomes:

Data collected for this report each academic year includes the amount of grant funds disbursed and the number of eligible students receiving funds by each program.

Table 1: Disbursement and Student Awards

	<b>FY22-23</b>	<b>FY23-24</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Grant Funds Dispersed</b>	\$2,963,387.58	\$510,712.83	\$3,474,100.41
<b>Total Students Awarded</b>	4,969	1,136	6,105
<b>Awards by Program of Study</b>			
	<b>FY22-23</b>	<b>FY23-24</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Agriculture &amp; Natural Resources</b>	2	0	2
<b>Biotechnology &amp; Life Sciences</b>	19	20	39
<b>Business, Finance &amp; Retail Operations</b>	18	4	22
<b>Construction and Skills Trade</b>	269	155	424
<b>Cosmetic Arts &amp; Barbering</b>	246	159	405
<b>Criminal Justice</b>	114	8	122
<b>Distribution &amp; Logistics</b>	17	9	26
<b>Emergency Medical Services</b>	606	58	664
<b>Fire &amp; Rescue Services</b>	245	23	268
<b>Health Occupations / Medical Office</b>	2,355	466	2,821
<b>Hospitality &amp; Tourism</b>	1	0	1
<b>IT Certifications</b>	88	16	104
<b>Manufacturing</b>	202	38	240
<b>Real Estate, Insurance &amp; Appraisal</b>	70	28	98
<b>Truck Driver Program</b>	626	105	731
<b>Withdrawn/No course entry</b>	91	47	138

## Program Evaluation:

The Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program positively impacted community colleges in North Carolina. The program expanded access to educational and employment opportunities. Students who might not otherwise have afforded educational and training programs were offered financial assistance for the first time. Beyond access, more students were given a valuable opportunity to gain new skills, improve their earning potential, and gain access to better career opportunities. Since workforce continuing education programs are accelerated, students could enter the workforce with essential skills in a short period of time.

The program was particularly beneficial for non-traditional students, such as adult learners or students with families and work responsibilities. Generally, these students may not have been able to commit to longer degree programs, but benefited from the shorter, targeted training programs that led to industry-recognized credentials. Lastly, by completing a program that led to an industry-recognized credential, students improved their earning potential and gained access to better job opportunities.

Program highlights are listed below:

- \$3,474,100 allocated to students.
- 6,105 students received funding from the program.
- Over 1,800 credentials were awarded.
- Contributed to an overall increase in enrollment.

Table 2: Workforce Continuing Education Instructional FTE

Spring 2022	Spring 2023	Change in Percentage
13, 475	15,022	11% Increase
Summer 2022	Summer 2023	
9,379	10,589	13% Increase
Fall 2022	Fall 2023	
16,097	17,784	10% Increase

## Appendix I: State Board Action

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
Allocation for Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program  
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Request:

The State Board of Community Colleges is requested to approve the allocation of \$1,000,000 in State funds to continue the Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program. 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:

Session Law 2021-180 Section 6.6.(a) established the Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program and directed 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. At a minimum, the legislation requires eligible students to qualify as residents for tuition purposes under the criteria outlined in G.S. 116-143.1 and following the centralized residency determination process administered by the State Education Assistance Authority. 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 architecture and construction, health sciences, information technology, electrical line worker, manufacturing programs, and other programs that meet workforce needs.

Rationale:

North Carolina must have a well-trained workforce in critical high-demand fields to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to grow our economy. Additionally, data shows many North Carolinians are seeking more stable, better-paying careers, and recent polling data from the Strada Center for Consumer Insights noted that 59% of adults considering enrolling in an education or training program prefer non-degree programs. Community colleges are essential to North Carolina's continued economic recovery as we upskill, reskill, and graduate our workforce. However, unlike traditional academic programs of study, federal financial aid is unavailable for these programs. The Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program addresses this unmet need for the NCCCS and the State of North Carolina.

For the 2021-23 biennium, the General Assembly allocated \$3,000,000 (\$1,000,000 recurring and \$2,000,000 nonrecurring) each year to the NC Community College System (NCCCS) to establish the Short-Term Workforce Development (STWD) Grant Program. The program aimed to serve eligible community college students pursuing high-demand workforce training programs within workforce pathways identified in collaboration with the Department of Commerce, leading to a State or industry-recognized credential. These funds are intended to remove access barriers to high-quality, in-demand, sustaining wage careers for North Carolinians. Each college will determine grant award amounts based on student needs, local industry needs, number of eligible students, and cost of the course/pathway, up to a maximum award of \$750 per course. The grants will help cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, supplies, credentialing tests, transportation, childcare, and any other components of the total cost of attendance. At a minimum, eligible students applying for this scholarship must:

- 1) Resident of North Carolina
  - a) As required by Session Law 2021-180, 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) Students enrolling in Workforce Continuing Education (WCE) pathways/courses leading to a N.C. Workforce Credential identified as either Essential or Career level. These pathways may consist of a single WCE course or a series of courses.

The System Office developed a funding process which requires colleges to submit a request for funding that acknowledges agreement to meet program rules, reporting requirements, and student coding requirements. Each college is eligible for an allocation determined by the college's Budget Full-Time Equivalency (BFTE) in Tiers 1A, 1B, and 2 (excluding Tier 3) as presented in Table 1. The System President will have the authority to reallocate funds as needed during the program year to ensure full utilization of funds through a process developed by the System Office.

**Table 1: College Allocation Eligibility**

College	Continuing Education 2023-24 BFTE Tiers 1 and 2	Allocation Percentage	Allocation Amount
Alamance CC	239.5	1.08%	\$10,837
Asheville-Buncombe TCC	304.8	1.38%	13,792
Beaufort County CC	313.6	1.42%	14,190
Bladen CC	134.6	0.61%	6,090
Blue Ridge CC	256.1	1.16%	11,588
Brunswick CC	245.4	1.11%	11,104
Caldwell CC and TI	638.9	2.89%	28,909
Cape Fear CC	822.5	3.72%	37,216
Carteret CC	203.1	0.92%	9,190
Catawba Valley CC	631.6	2.86%	28,579
Central Carolina CC	431.9	1.95%	19,543
Central Piedmont CC	346.2	1.57%	15,665
Cleveland CC	589.9	2.67%	26,692
Coastal Carolina CC	404.9	1.83%	18,321
College of The Albemarle	176.5	0.80%	7,986
Craven CC	471.2	2.13%	21,321
Davidson Davie CC	223.2	1.01%	10,099
Durham TCC	495.9	2.24%	22,438
Edgecombe CC	301.3	1.36%	13,633
Fayetteville TCC	2,802.8	12.68%	126,816
Forsyth TCC	418.7	1.89%	18,945
Gaston College	152.4	0.69%	6,896
Guilford TCC	686.3	3.11%	31,054
Halifax CC	80.4	0.36%	3,638
Haywood CC	142.3	0.64%	6,439
Isothermal CC	104.8	0.47%	4,742
James Sprunt CC	495.8	2.24%	22,434
Johnston CC	373.9	1.69%	16,918
Lenoir CC	1,206.1	5.46%	54,574
Martin CC	135.9	0.61%	6,149
Mayland CC	118.0	0.53%	5,339
McDowell TCC	114.4	0.52%	5,176
Mitchell CC	297.7	1.35%	13,470
Montgomery CC	93.7	0.42%	4,240
Nash CC	271.4	1.23%	12,280
Pamlico CC	50.5	0.23%	2,285
Piedmont CC	330.0	1.49%	14,932



Pitt CC	331.4	1.50%	14,995
Randolph CC	228.3	1.03%	10,330
Richmond CC	400.4	1.81%	18,117
Roanoke Chowan CC	2.6	0.01%	118
Robeson CC	779.7	3.53%	35,280
Rockingham CC	218.9	0.99%	9,905
Rowan-Cabarrus CC	519.6	2.35%	23,511
Sampson CC	296.8	1.34%	13,430
Sandhills CC	385.2	1.74%	17,430
South Piedmont CC	432.7	1.96%	19,579
Southeastern CC	147.5	0.67%	6,674
Southwestern CC	39.3	0.18%	1,778
Stanly CC	371.7	1.68%	16,819
Surry CC	264.1	1.19%	11,950
Tri-County CC	110.0	0.50%	4,977
Vance-Granville CC	242.3	1.10%	10,964
Wake TCC	1,366.6	6.18%	61,836
Wayne CC	254.7	1.15%	11,525
Western Piedmont CC	97.5	0.44%	4,412
Wilkes CC	370.5	1.68%	16,764
Wilson CC	134.5	0.61%	6,086
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>22,100.5</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 1,000,000</b>

# Appendix II: Allocation Memo

October 27, 2023

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** North Carolina Community Colleges

**FROM:** Katie Buchanan, Associate Director of State Aid

**SUBJECT:** Allocation for Short-Term Workforce Development Grant FY 2023-24

I am pleased to inform you that at the August 18, 2023, meeting, the State Board of Community Colleges approved an allocation to continue the Short-Term Workforce Development Grant program for its third year. This funding will be used to provide financial assistance for resident students who enroll in noncredit, short-term workforce training programs that lead to an industry-recognized credential in fields with competitive wages. Please see State Board item [FC 01](#) for more details.

These funds will be processed through the college's 112 report. A monthly department budget report (XDBR) is required for this allocation. Please email this report to Andrew Gardner at [gardnera@nccommunitycolleges.edu](mailto:gardnera@nccommunitycolleges.edu).

Colleges will process funding through Financial Aid. After Financial Aid has awarded the student funding, they will notify the college Business Office and the business office will cut a check from the state disbursing account using state purpose code 554 and vocational code 80 made payable to the college. The check should then be receipted into the colleges applicable institutional fund account to cover student awards. It is the responsibility of the college business office to make sure all expense reporting requirements are met.

Funding is available from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Funds will be processed through the college's 112 report. **Please post this allocation to your college budget prior to submitting your November 2023 files.**

**FUNDING SOURCE: STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS**  
**PURPOSE CODE: 554 VOC CODE: 80**

COLLEGE	ALLOCATION
Alamance Community College	\$10,837
Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College	\$13,792
Beaufort County Community College	\$14,190
Bladen Community College	\$6,090
Blue Ridge Community College	\$11,588
Brunswick Community College	\$11,104
Caldwell Community College & TI	\$28,909
Cape Fear Community College	\$37,216
Carteret Community College	\$9,190
Catawba Valley Community College	\$28,579
Central Carolina Community College	\$19,543
Central Piedmont Community College	\$15,665
Cleveland Community College	\$26,692

Coastal Carolina Community College	\$18,321
College of The Albemarle	\$7,986
Craven Community College	\$21,321
Davidson Davie Community College	\$10,099
Durham Technical Community College	\$22,438
Edgecombe Community College	\$13,633
Fayetteville Technical Community College	\$126,816
Forsyth Technical Community College	\$18,945
Gaston College	\$6,896
Guilford Technical Community College	\$31,054
Halifax Community College	\$3,638
Haywood Community College	\$6,439
Isothermal Community College	\$4,742
James Sprunt Community College	\$22,434
Johnston Community College	\$16,918
Lenoir Community College	\$54,574
Martin Community College	\$6,149
Mayland Community College	\$5,339
McDowell Technical Community College	\$5,176
Mitchell Community College	\$13,470
Montgomery Community College	\$4,240
Nash Community College	\$12,280
Pamlico Community College	\$2,285
Piedmont Community College	\$14,932
Pitt Community College	\$14,995
Randolph Community College	\$10,330
Richmond Community College	\$18,117
Roanoke Chowan Community College	\$118
Robeson Community College	\$35,280
Rockingham Community College	\$9,905
Rowan-Cabarrus Community College	\$23,511
Sampson Community College	\$13,430
Sandhills Community College	\$17,430
South Piedmont Community College	\$19,579
Southeastern Community College	\$6,674
Southwestern Community College	\$1,778
Stanly Community College	\$16,819
Surry Community College	\$11,950
Tri-County Community College	\$4,977
Vance-Granville Community College	\$10,964
Wake Technical Community College	\$61,836
Wayne Community College	\$11,525
Western Piedmont Community College	\$4,412
Wilkes Community College	\$16,764
Wilson Community College	\$6,086
TOTAL	\$1,000,000

# NC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

C R E A T I N G   S U C C E S S

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