

NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Dr. William S. Carver, II

Interim President

September 10, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senior Continuing Education Administrators
Chief Student Development Administrators
Chief Academic Officers
Chief Business Officers

FROM: Kimberly Gold, Senior Vice President/Chief Academic Officer

RE: **Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Scholarship Program**

The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance on implementing the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Scholarship Program. Under the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER Fund), the U.S. Department of Education awards grants to Governors to provide local educational agencies (LEAs), institutions of higher education (IHEs), and other education-related entities with emergency assistance as a result of the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID19). Following the “Certification and Agreement for Funding under the Education Stabilization Fund Program Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund” (CFDA Numbers: 84.425C), the Governor of N.C. established the GEER Scholarships for N.C. Community College Workforce Continuing Education (WCE) students. The Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Funds Scholarship provides scholarships for eligible community college workforce continuing education students pursuing high-demand workforce training programs within ten workforce pathways leading to a State or industry-recognized credential. Colleges have local flexibility to add additional Pathways if necessary, to meet local workforce needs.

Eligibility Criteria

Scholarship awards are determined locally based on student need, local industry needs, number of eligible students, and cost of course, up to a maximum of either \$750 per course or the cost of the course fee(s) if the fee(s) exceed \$750. The scholarships help cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, supplies, credentialing tests, transportation, childcare, and other components of the total cost of attendance for students enrolled in the following ten workforce continuing education programs of study:

- Automotive
- Aircraft Maintenance
- Construction
- Criminal Justice
- Emergency Medical Services
- Healthcare
- Industrial/Manufacturing
- Information Technology
- Transportation
- Fire and Rescue Services

Note: Colleges have local flexibility to add additional Pathways to meet local workforce needs.

Eligible students applying for this Scholarship must reside in North Carolina, be enrolling in Workforce Continuing Education (WCE) pathways/courses offered for 96 hours or more, and leading to a State or industry-recognized credential. These pathways may consist of a single WCE course or a series of courses.

Colleges *must* process scholarship awards through their financial aid office to ensure correct awarding, coding, and reporting of aid to students. These funds shall not be processed using sponsorship or third-party payer workflows sometimes used for WCE students. While this reflects a change for some colleges, it is critical to the ongoing monitoring and reporting requirements of this program. A job aid to assist colleges is provided as an attachment to this memorandum. As a resource to colleges, a revision to the [2020-2021 Scholarship Guide](#) is live on the System Office website and includes student application materials. Additionally, a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document is attached.

Funding is made available through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER Fund) as authorized by Section 18002 of Division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Pub. L. No. 116-136 and awarded to North Carolina Office of the Governor by the U.S. Department of Education. These funds are contingent upon certification and transfer by the Office of State Budget and Management and remain available through September 30, 2022.

If you have questions about this new program, please contact:

- Nate Humphrey, Associate Vice President for Workforce & Continuing Education
 - humphreyn@nccommunitycolleges.edu
- James "J.W." Kelley, Associate Vice President for Student Services
 - kelleyj@nccommunitycolleges.edu
- Monty Hickman, Associate Director for Enrollment Management
 - hickmanm@nccommunitycolleges.edu
- Brandi Massey, Financial Aid SME
 - masseyb@nccommunitycolleges.edu

CC: Financial Aid Directors
Continuing Education Registrars

Attachments:

- GEER Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
- GEER Scholarship Application
- GEER Scholarship Allocation Memorandum

**Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Scholarship Program
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

Q: Do colleges have to work through their Financial Aid Office to award these funds?

A: Yes. It is critical awarding, coding, and reporting of this program be completed through the college's Financial Aid Office.

Q: Can colleges process GEER Scholarships as sponsorships or third-party payers?

A: No. It is critical awarding, coding, and reporting of this program be completed through the college's Financial Aid Office.

Q: When can colleges begin awarding GEER Scholarships to students?

A: Immediately. The State Board of Community Colleges authorized the program effective August 24, 2020. Recipients meeting eligibility requirements on or after this date may receive scholarship funds.

Q: Can colleges award more than one GEER Scholarship to a student on a pathway?

A: Yes. Colleges may award up to a maximum of either \$750 *per course* or the cost of the course fee(s) if the fee(s) exceed \$750 for each course within an identified WCE Pathway.

Q: Are degree-seeking or curriculum students eligible for these funds?

A: No. The GEER Scholarship Program is targeted only to eligible students pursuing an approved WCE Pathway.

North Carolina Community Colleges Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Scholarship Fund

The Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Funds Scholarship will provide scholarships for eligible community college students pursuing high-demand workforce training programs within ten workforce pathways leading to a State or industry-recognized credential. Colleges would have local flexibility to add additional Pathways if necessary to meet local workforce needs.

Use of Scholarship Funds

Scholarship awards are determined by each college based on student need, local industry needs, number of eligible students, and cost of course, up to a maximum of either \$750 per course or the cost of the course fee(s) if the fee(s) exceed \$750. The scholarships help cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, supplies, credentialing tests, transportation, childcare, and other components of the total cost of attendance for August 24, 2020, through September 30, 2022.

Student Eligibility Requirements

Eligible students applying for this scholarship must:

1. Resident of North Carolina
2. Students enrolling in Workforce Continuing Education (WCE) pathways/courses offered for 96 hours or more and leading to a State or industry-recognized credential. These pathways may consist of a single WCE course or a series of courses.
3. Students applying for the scholarship must be enrolled in one of the following ten programs of study¹:
 - Automotive
 - Aircraft Maintenance
 - Construction
 - Criminal Justice
 - Emergency Medical Services
 - Healthcare
 - Industrial/Manufacturing
 - Information Technology
 - Transportation
 - Fire and Rescue Services

Application Process

Application Process

- The System Office will promote and conduct outreach for the scholarship among the community colleges.
- Students will complete the GEER Scholarship application for the targeted academic year. Applications will be filed with the college financial aid office, Workforce Continuing Education department, or another college-designated office.
- Applicants bear full responsibility for completing the GEER application before each deadline, as established by the college.

¹ Colleges have local flexibility to add additional Pathways if necessary to meet local workforce needs.

Reporting

- The System Office will send the Colleague Financial Aid patch to Community College System Administrators. The System Office will be required to report monthly on these funds. The Financial Aid patch automates this data collection. The Financial Aid patch must be installed as soon as possible and no later than September 18, 2020, in order to meet the first reporting deadline.
- Also, since the funding source for this GEER Scholarship is federal COVID funding under Section 18002 of Division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Pub. L. No. 116-136, each college is required to report monthly to the North Carolina Pandemic Office (NCPRO) as they are already doing for other COVID funds allocated by the System Office.

**North Carolina Community Colleges
Governor's Emergency Education Relief
(GEER)
2020-2021 Student Application**

Instructions: Complete this application and return the completed application to the college's Financial Aid Office or Workforce Continuing Education Department.

Personal Information:

Full Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Mobile number: _____

Educational Information:

College you are attending: _____

____ Occupational Continuing Education Student (*must be enrolled in a credentialing program of at least 96 hours.*)

Select the Pathway you are enrolled in:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Automotive | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aircraft Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial/Manufacturing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Information Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Medical Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire and Rescue Services |

Course you are enrolled in: _____

Other Questions:

Have you or members of your family been directly or indirectly affected by COVID-19?
____ yes ____ no

If yes, how?

I have read and understand the requirements for assistance. I hereby declare that the information provided on this form is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Signature

Date



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Dr. William S. Carver, II

Interim President

September 9, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: NC Community Colleges

FROM: Candid Carrington, Associate Director of State Aid

SUBJECT: Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Scholarship

I am pleased to inform you that at the August 21, 2020 meeting, the State Board of Community Colleges approved an allocation for the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Scholarship to your college. The college will use these funds for scholarships to eligible community college students pursuing high-demand workforce training programs within ten workforce pathways leading to a State or industry-recognized credential. The scholarships will help cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, supplies, credentialing tests, transportation, childcare and other components of the total cost of attendance. The funding cycle for this program is August 24, 2020 through September 30, 2022. Please refer to the attached State Board of Community Colleges allocation notice (FC 02) for more details about the grant.

The Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Scholarship is awarded by the Governor under North Carolina’s federal award under Section 18002 of Division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Pub. L. No. 116-136. Since these are COVID-19 federal funds, each college is required to report monthly to the North Carolina Pandemic Office (NCPRO) on these funds, just as colleges are already doing for all other COVID-19 federal funds allocated by the System Office. These funds are subject to State and Federal audit requirements. Colleges shall comply with the provisions of all applicable acts, regulations, and assurances; the provisions of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations in 34 CFR parts 75, 76, 77, 81, 82, 84, 86, 97, 98, and 99; the OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485; and the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3474.

These funds will be processed through the college’s 112 report. A monthly department budget report (XDBR) is required for this allocation. Colleges will process funding through Financial Aid. After Financial Aid has awarded the students the GEER Scholarship, they will notify the college Business Office and the business office will cut a check from the state disbursing account using state purpose code 551 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. **Please post this allocation to your college budget prior to submitting your September 2020 files.**

**Funding Source: COVID-19 Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Scholarship
Purpose Code: 551 Voc. Code: 80**

College	GEER Scholarship Allocation
Alamance CC	\$ 246,584
Asheville-Buncombe TCC	\$ 288,660
Beaufort County CC	\$ 141,543
Bladen CC	\$ 93,001
Blue Ridge CC	\$ 214,421
Brunswick CC	\$ 151,882
Caldwell CC and TI	\$ 344,393
Cape Fear CC	\$ 327,247
Carteret CC	\$ 130,822
Catawba Valley CC	\$ 258,624
Central Carolina CC	\$ 273,514
Central Piedmont CC	\$ 277,556
Cleveland CC	\$ 373,918
Coastal Carolina CC	\$ 251,051
College of the Albemarle	\$ 162,305
Craven CC	\$ 220,973
Davidson County CC	\$ 154,221
Durham TCC	\$ 238,884
Edgecombe CC	\$ 136,906
Fayetteville TCC	\$ 1,578,760
Forsyth TCC	\$ 316,016
Gaston College	\$ 176,174
Guilford TCC	\$ 424,290
Halifax CC	\$ 95,383
Haywood CC	\$ 99,170
Isothermal CC	\$ 90,746
James Sprunt CC	\$ 109,423
Johnston CC	\$ 279,258
Lenoir CC	\$ 855,429
Martin CC	\$ 56,668
Mayland CC	\$ 168,857
McDowell TCC	\$ 79,855
Mitchell CC	\$ 135,289
Montgomery CC	\$ 72,750
Nash CC	\$ 211,400
Pamlico CC	\$ 34,886
Piedmont CC	\$ 210,039
Pitt CC	\$ 279,300

Randolph CC	\$ 183,279
Richmond CC	\$ 246,031
Roanoke Chowan CC	\$ 82,110
Robeson CC	\$ 394,679
Rockingham CC	\$ 107,636
Rowan-Cabarrus CC	\$ 482,873
Sampson CC	\$ 173,536
Sandhills CC	\$ 208,465
South Piedmont CC	\$ 318,526
Southeastern CC	\$ 206,593
Southwestern CC	\$ 204,976
Stanly CC	\$ 269,260
Surry CC	\$ 227,525
Tri-County CC	\$ 77,302
Vance-Granville CC	\$ 188,001
Wake TCC	\$ 983,614
Wayne CC	\$ 203,487
Western Piedmont CC	\$ 113,592
Wilkes CC	\$ 196,680
Wilson CC	\$ 121,633
TOTAL	\$ 14,549,996

THIS ALLOCATION HAS BEEN POSTED TO INCREASE YOUR COLLEGES' BUDGET AVAILABILITY.

Elizabeth P. Hovestein