

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION

COMMITTEE: Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy **NO.:** FAAP 11-02
COMMITTEE DATE: January 25, 2011
BOARD DATE: February 1, 2011

APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2012 CASH GRANT AWARDS

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education allocates Cash Grant awards, contingent upon state funding, to institutions of public higher education for Fiscal Year 2012, as attached.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 15A, Sections 9(i) and 16
Contact: Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Senior Deputy Commissioner, Access and Student Financial Assistance

Background

The Cash Grant Program is designed to assist students with financial need in meeting mandatory fees and non-state-supported tuition. It is a complementary program to the Need-Based Tuition Waiver Program.

Funding for the Cash Grant Program, currently \$26,391,254, is based on the annual appropriation for state financial aid. Each year, the Board of Higher Education votes on how these funds will be distributed among the campuses.

As with the Need-Based Tuition Waiver program, beginning in Fiscal Year 2012, a new formula model will be used to determine Cash Grant allocations. The formula utilizes three-year average data and a two-year phase-in approach. The revised formula is reflective of the financial need of enrolled students, as it considers those eligible for the Federal Pell Grant, as well as those that mirror median income families within the Commonwealth. This new formula model follows recommendations from the Task Force on Student Financial Aid report, as accepted by the Board of Higher Education in 2006. These recommendations encouraged the allocation of need-based state financial aid to institutions whose students demonstrate the greatest financial need.

The Department of Higher Education held several meetings to discuss the implementation of a formula model with college and university presidents, members of the public college financial aid community and various campus representatives, over the past twenty-four months. Overall, institutions have responded positively regarding the fairness of the proposed formula and its impact on annual allocations.

The attached allocations assume level funding of the Cash Grant Program in FY2012. The Board of Higher Education, however, may revise the allocations on the basis of the most current annual enrollment and financial aid data, and if future state appropriations for financial aid were to differ, requiring an adjustment in the proposed allocations.

Recommended Distribution of Cash Grant by Campus for FY2012

Name of Institution	FY2011 Award	FY2012 Award
University of Massachusetts Amherst	\$3,135,658	\$2,871,342
University of Massachusetts Boston	\$1,709,357	\$1,755,676
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth	\$946,145	\$1,081,338
University of Massachusetts Lowell	\$1,166,617	\$1,249,421
Sub Total:	\$6,957,777	\$6,957,777
Bridgewater State College	\$1,708,097	\$1,671,496
Fitchburg State College	\$805,749	\$833,540
Framingham State College	\$813,490	\$793,366
Massachusetts College of Art	\$374,033	\$374,608
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	\$404,863	\$385,312
Massachusetts Maritime Academy	\$194,067	\$172,458
Salem State College	\$1,872,002	\$1,802,453
Westfield State College	\$864,794	\$957,495
Worcester State College	\$880,146	\$926,513
Sub Total:	\$7,917,241	\$7,917,241
Berkshire Community College	\$363,682	\$361,882
Bristol Community College	\$741,578	\$858,910
Bunker Hill Community College	\$1,328,125	\$1,179,160
Cape Cod Community College	\$521,423	\$536,089
Greenfield Community College	\$409,150	\$382,167
Holyoke Community College	\$812,702	\$901,314
Massachusetts Bay Community College	\$546,197	\$569,259
Massasoit Community College	\$834,277	\$837,207
Middlesex Community College	\$776,350	\$922,521
Mount Wachusett Community College	\$559,384	\$617,682
North Shore Community College	\$924,960	\$918,837
Northern Essex Community College	\$915,386	864,639
Quinsigamond Community College	\$818,706	944,783
Roxbury Community College	\$707,376	\$528,502
Springfield Tech. Community College	\$1,256,940	\$1,093,286
Sub Total:	\$11,516,236	\$11,516,236
Grand Total:	\$26,391,254	\$26,391,254