



MASSACHUSETTS  
Department of  
Higher Education

**FY19 BUDGET REQUEST  
LINE ITEM # 7070-0065**

Massachusetts State  
Scholarship Program, or

## **MASSGrant**

FY18 Appropriation:  
\$96 million

**FY19 GOV Request:  
\$103 million**

# Support College Access & Affordability through Financial Aid

## What is MASSGrant?

The MASSGrant Program is the Commonwealth's primary need-based financial aid program, critical to the access and affordability of higher education for many Massachusetts students and families. Similar to the federal Pell Grant Program, it **provides financial assistance to low- and moderate-income undergraduate students** as identified by the FAFSA.



## A Two-Pronged Approach to Increasing MASSGrant's Impact

The buying power of an average MASSGrant—currently at approximately \$750—has diminished significantly in recent decades. In 1988, the average MASSGrant was sufficient to cover 85% of a student's tuition and mandatory fees at a public college or university; **by FY17, it only covered approximately 9% of these costs.** The availability of new revenues enabled by the 2011 Casino Gaming legislation provides an opportunity to begin reversing this trend.

### ■ **MASSGrant Increase for Community College Students.**

Governor Baker's proposed \$7.1 million increase to the MASSGrant Program effectively **doubles the amount of MASSGrant funding** available to community college students, **closing the funding gap for tuition and fee charges** that aren't being covered by eligible students' family contributions and current state and federal grants and waivers.

### ■ **Eligibility for Part-Time Community College Students.**

Along with the increase in the line item, Governor Baker has proposed that MASSGrant funds be made **available to both full-time and part-time community college students** for the first time. Currently, 60% of the state's community college students are enrolled part time, but these students do not currently qualify for MASSGrant aid.

"We've learned that many potential community college students—even those who have full Pell Grants—wind up attending no college at all because they can't cover that last remaining portion of tuition and fees. By covering this gap, **the Governor's proposal will place college, a job, and a bright future within the firm grasp of thousands more people.**"

—**Dr. J.D. LaRock**, BHE Member; President & CEO, Commonwealth Corporation

"There are many students in Massachusetts who attend community college part time. **MASSGrant would be life-altering for part-time students**, who generally have to support themselves and work their way through college."

—**Ashley McHugh**, Student, Mt. Wachusett Community College; Member, DHE's Student Advisory Council