



## Tuition Incentive Program Fact Sheet Academic Year 2014-15



### Description

The Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) is an incentive program that encourages eligible students to complete high school by providing tuition assistance for the first two years of college and beyond. To meet the financial eligibility requirement, a student must have (or have had) Medicaid coverage for 24 months within a 36-consecutive month period as identified by the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS). TIP provides assistance in two phases. Phase I covers tuition and mandatory fee charges for eligible students enrolled in a credit-based associate degree or minimum one year certificate program at a participating Michigan community college, public university, degree-granting independent college, federal tribally-controlled college, or Focus: HOPE. Phase II provides a maximum of \$2,000 total tuition assistance for credits earned in a four-year program at an in-state, degree-granting college or university. Award parameters are subject to legislative changes.

### Application

Students are identified by DHS as having met the Medicaid eligibility requirement. Student Scholarships and Grants (SSG) will accept certification of Medicaid benefits received while in Michigan only and only from DHS for the purposes of verifying if a person is Medicaid eligible for 24 months within the 36 months before application. Students may be identified as TIP eligible as early as age 9. Since the student must be Medicaid eligible for 24 months out of a 36-consecutive month period, we begin to look at the 36-month period prior to the date of the student's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday and go forward until high school graduation. Medicaid eligibility prior to that 36 month period is not counted. After being identified, SSG will send the student an acceptance form. The student must then complete the acceptance form and return it to SSG **before** graduation from high school or GED completion<sup>1</sup> **and must graduate before** their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday to activate financial eligibility for the program. SSG will send the student an "eligibility letter" in their senior year of high school. The student should present this letter to their college financial aid office upon enrollment to receive payment. **The student is responsible for notifying SSG of a change of address or college choice.**

NOTE: Identified students are encouraged to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) even though it is not necessary for establishing TIP eligibility. By filing the FAFSA, students will be considered for other federal and state financial aid programs and, if eligible, can use those additional funds to cover other educational expenses such as books, supplies, transportation, or room and board. The FAFSA can be filed online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) or students can receive a paper form by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

### Program Limits, Phase I:

Students must begin using TIP by enrolling at a participating college (see page 3) within four years of high school graduation. Eligibility ends ten years from the date of high school graduation or GED completion. Future awards are subject to available and approved funding.

Phase I covers the cost of tuition at the current in-district rate at participating Michigan community colleges (see page 3). For persons not residing in a community college district, the out-of-district rate may be authorized. Tuition at the lower level resident rate is covered at **participating** Michigan public universities. The amount that can be received at participating degree-granting independent colleges, federal tribally-controlled colleges, or Focus: HOPE is \$95<sup>2</sup> per credit hour.

Mandatory fees cannot exceed \$250 per semester or term. Mandatory fees must be specified in the college's course catalog as mandatory for all students as a condition of enrollment.

Not all colleges and universities offer associate degree programs (see page 3). If the college or university does not offer two-year associate degree or certificate programs, the student will not receive TIP assistance for the first two years. TIP benefits cannot exceed 80 semester or 120 term credits (24 semester or 36 term credits per academic year).



<sup>1</sup> A student has until August 31 of the academic year in which his/her class graduates.

<sup>2</sup> Amount is based on the average current in-district tuition rate at participating Michigan community colleges.

## Tuition Incentive Program Fact Sheet (continued)

### **Program Limits, *Phase II*:**

Phase II provides tuition and mandatory fee assistance not to exceed \$500 per semester or \$400 per term up to a maximum of \$2,000 for credits earned in a four-year program at a Michigan degree-granting college or university. Phase II must be completed within 30 months of completion of Phase I requirements. Students can receive Phase II benefits without having received Phase I benefits. To receive Phase II benefits, the student must demonstrate the eligibility criteria for Phase I and have one of the following:

- 56 transferable semester or 84 transferable term credits
- An associate degree or certificate (minimum of one year)

### **Eligibility for both Phase I and Phase II**

- Provide evidence of eligibility, i.e., submit a copy of the “eligibility letter” to the financial aid office of the college.
- Must complete the acceptance form and return it to SSG no later than August 31 of the academic year in which the student graduates from high school or completes the GED.
- Obtain a high school diploma, certificate of completion, or GED certificate prior to age 20.
- Be enrolled at least half time in a program earning less than 80 semester or 120 term credits.
- Be a Michigan resident as determined by institutional criteria.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or approved refugee.
- Must not be incarcerated (does not include detention of a juvenile in a State-operated or privately operated detention facility).
- Must not be in default on Federal/State student loan.
- Meet SAP according to institutional policy.

### **For More Information**

Visit [www.michigan.gov/ssg](http://www.michigan.gov/ssg). Contact the Tuition Incentive Program, **Student Scholarships and Grants**, toll-free at 1-888-4-GRANTS (1-888-447-2687), e-mail [ssg@michigan.gov](mailto:ssg@michigan.gov), or fax 517-241-5835.

## Tuition Incentive Program Fact Sheet (continued)

### Participating Institutions

See the list below and note which institutions are Phase II ONLY prior to enrollment.

<b><i>Phase I ONLY</i></b>	Alpena Community College Bay de Noc Community College Bay Mills Community College Compass College of Cinematic Arts Delta College Glen Oaks Community College Gogebic Community College Grand Rapids Community College Henry Ford College Jackson College Kalamazoo Valley Community College Kellogg Community College Kirtland Community College Lake Michigan College Lansing Community College Macomb Community College	Mid Michigan Community College Monroe County Community College Montcalm Community College Mott Community College Muskegon Community College North Central Michigan College Northwestern Michigan College Oakland Community College Saint Clair County Community College Schoolcraft College Southwestern Michigan College Washtenaw Community College Wayne County Community College West Shore Community College  Focus: HOPE Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College
<b><i>Phase II ONLY</i></b>	Albion College Alma College Andrews University Calvin College Central Michigan University College for Creative Studies Eastern Michigan University Grand Valley State University Hope College Kettering University Oakland University	Olivet College Robert B. Miller College Saginaw Valley State University University of Detroit Mercy University of Michigan - Ann Arbor University of Michigan - Dearborn University of Michigan - Flint Walsh College Wayne State University Western Michigan University
<b><i>Phase I and Phase II</i></b>	Adrian College Aquinas College Baker College Cleary University Concordia University Cornerstone University Davenport University Ferris State University Finlandia University Grace Bible College Great Lakes Christian College Kuyper College Lake Superior State University Lawrence Technological University Madonna University	Marygrove College Michigan Jewish Institute Michigan State University ( <i>Will pay Phase I benefits only for Institute of Agriculture Technology certificate programs.</i> ) Michigan Technological University Northern Michigan University Northwood University Rochester College Sacred Heart Major Seminary ( <i>will pay Phase I benefits only for Associate of Arts in Ministry [A.A.M.]</i> ) Siena Heights University Spring Arbor University
<b><u>Community Colleges</u></b>	<b>Eligible charges include current in-district tuition and mandatory fees. For persons residing in an area that is not included in any community college district, the out-of-district tuition rate may be authorized. Some community colleges are authorized to offer bachelor's degrees. Contact your institution to see how this may impact your TIP eligibility.</b>	
<b><u>Public Universities</u></b>	<b>Eligible charges include lower level resident tuition and mandatory fees for the current year. Reminder: The student must be enrolled in an associate degree program to be eligible for TIP Phase I benefits.</b>	
<b><u>Independent, Colleges and Universities</u></b>	<b>Eligible charges include mandatory fees for the current year and a per credit payment that does not exceed the average community college in-district per credit tuition rate. Reminder: The student must be enrolled in an associate degree program to be eligible for TIP Phase I benefits.</b>	