

STATE OF NEW YORK

9980

IN ASSEMBLY

May 1, 2024

Introduced by M. of A. KELLES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing the advanced initiative in mental health careers program

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 6457 to read as follows:

§ 6457. Advanced initiative in mental health careers program. 1. General requirements. The commissioner shall award grants to degree-granting institutions in New York state or to consortia of such institutions to be used for the purpose of increasing access by underrepresented or disadvantaged students to post-baccalaureate academic programs that have been registered by the commissioner and that prepare students for licensure in mental health professions and employment in mental health fields.

2. Graduate programs. (a) (i) Advanced initiative in mental health careers program moneys may be used for recruitment, academic enrichment, career planning, supplemental financial assistance, review for licensing examinations, program administration, and other activities which the commissioner may deem appropriate. To be eligible for advanced initiative in mental health careers program support, a student must be a resident of New York state, or meet the requirements of subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, and must be either economically disadvantaged or from a currently underrepresented group in the licensed mental health professions. The department shall review workforce data periodically to determine current levels of representation in the licensed mental health professions. Eligible students must be in good academic standing, enrolled full time in an approved graduate or doctoral level program, as defined by the regents.

(ii) An applicant who is not a legal resident of New York state, but who is a United States citizen, a permanent lawful resident, an individual who is granted U or T non-immigrant status pursuant to the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, a person granted

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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temporary protected status pursuant to the Federal Immigration Act of 1990, an individual of a class of refugees paroled by the attorney general of the United States under his or her parole authority pertaining to the admission of noncitizens to the United States, or an applicant without lawful immigration status shall be eligible for an award at the graduate level of study provided that the student:

(1) attended a registered approved New York state high school for two or more years, graduated from a registered New York state high school and applied for attendance at the institution of higher education for graduate study for which an award is sought within ten years of receiving a New York state high school diploma; or

(2) attended an approved New York state program for a state high school equivalency diploma, received a state high school equivalency diploma and applied for attendance at the institution of higher education for graduate study for which an award is sought within ten years of receiving a state high school equivalency diploma; or

(3) is otherwise eligible for the payment of tuition and fees at a rate no greater than that imposed for resident students of the state university of New York, the city university of New York or community colleges as prescribed in subparagraph eight of paragraph h of subdivision two of section three hundred fifty-five or paragraph (a) of subdivision seven of section sixty-two hundred six of this chapter. Provided, further, that a student without lawful immigration status shall also be required to file an affidavit with such institution of higher education stating that the student has filed an application to legalize his or her immigration status, or will file such an application as soon as he or she is eligible to do so.

(b) Applications for funding shall be made by eligible institutions in accordance with requirements established by the commissioner. Grants shall be awarded based on criteria established by the commissioner. Priority consideration shall be given to institutions with demonstrated success in operating other programs authorized by this article.

(c) Preference in admission to this program shall be given to students who graduated from a baccalaureate program located in New York state.

3. Reporting requirements. Institutions participating in the advanced initiative in mental health careers program shall submit to the commissioner such reports or other information as he or she shall require. The commissioner shall prepare for the regents an annual report of the activities of institutions which receive state funds pursuant to this section concerning, but not limited to, the effectiveness of the programs, the number of students served, and future plans.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment, and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.