STATE OF NEW YORK

4884

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 13, 2025

Introduced by Sen. GOUNARDES -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing an emergency aid grant matching 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 669-i to read as follows:

§ 669-i. Emergency aid grant matching program. 1. Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Emergency aid grant" shall mean a grant provided to a student attending an institution of higher education in New York state and determined to be eligible for such grant by such institution, who due to unexpected or unforeseen events requires financial assistance for expenses which may include, but are not limited to, groceries, clothing, housing, course materials, technology, transportation, medical expenses, and child care. An emergency aid grant shall not be used to pay outstanding tuition or fees or in the repayment of student loans.

(b) "Emergency aid grant matching program" shall mean the program established by the corporation pursuant to subdivision two of this section to provide matching funds to campuses of the state university of New York and the city university of New York for the provision of emergency aid grants to eligible students.

(c) "Campus emergency aid grant program" shall mean any program at a campus of the state university of New York or the city university of New York that provides emergency aid grants to eligible students.

2. (a) The corporation, when monies have been appropriated by the legislature or are otherwise available therefor, shall establish an emergency aid grant matching program to match emergency aid grants provided by campuses of the state university of New York and the city university of New York.

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

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(b) The corporation may provide matching grants of up to twelve hundred fifty dollars per student and up to sixty-two thousand five hundred dollars in total matching grants per campus per academic year; provided, however, that campuses funding emergency aid grants at a rate of more than twelve hundred and fifty dollars per student may be eligible for the maximum matching grant per student pursuant to this section. In addition to eligible uses for an emergency aid grant pursuant to paragraph (a) of subdivision one of this section, the corporation shall be authorized to stipulate additional eligible uses for such grant, as such corporation deems appropriate.

(c) Campuses may apply for emergency aid grants pursuant to this section to match funds provided by an existing campus emergency aid grant program; provided, however, such campus emergency aid grant program meets or is modified to meet the requirements established by the corporation to receive such matching funds, or after the creation of a campus emergency aid grant program that meets the requirements established by the corporation to receive such matching funds. Campuses applying for grants pursuant to this section may establish requirements for students to be eligible to receive emergency aid grants through a campus emergency aid grant program; provided, however, that such requirements do not conflict with the requirements established by the corporation to receive matching funds.

3. The corporation shall establish an application process for the emergency aid grant matching program established pursuant to subdivision two of this section and may establish requirements, as such corporation deems necessary for campuses of the state university of New York and the city university of New York to access matching funds pursuant to such emergency aid grant matching program; provided, however, that:

(a) emergency aid grants shall not be used to reimburse any outstanding tuition or fees owed to the state university of New York or the city university of New York;

(b) emergency aid grants shall not be treated as income for the purposes of calculating financial aid offers or awards or when determining any expected student and/or family contribution; and

(c) campuses demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the corporation, that in addition to or as a component of a campus emergency aid grant program, such campus has sufficient resources and services available to support students experiencing financial distress as a result of unexpected or unforeseen events.

4. (a) Each campus of the state university of New York and the city university of New York receiving matching funds pursuant to the emergency aid grant matching program established pursuant to subdivision two of this section shall compile and submit an annual report to the corporation which shall include:

(i) the number of students receiving funds through such campus emergency aid grant program;

(ii) the average dollar amount provided to each student pursuant to such emergency aid grant matching program; and

(iii) the percentage of students who received emergency aid funds during the previous academic year and are still enrolled or have successfully completed such students' degree program at the state university of New York or city university of New York.

(b) No later than ninety days after the corporation receives such information from participating campuses as required pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision, the corporation shall compile such infor-

mation and any other information as such corporation deems necessary and publish an annual report on the corporation's website.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to the academic year next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.