



# TEXAS CAREER OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

## Fact Sheet

### **Program Purpose**

The purpose of this program is to help ensure a qualified workforce to meet the needs of this state by reducing financial barriers to postsecondary career education and training for economically disadvantaged Texans by providing grants to eligible students attending an eligible career school or college.

### **Eligibility**

To receive an initial award through the TCOG Program, a student must:

- Be a resident of Texas;
- Show financial need;
- Be required to pay more tuition and required fees than the amount charged at a public technical institution;
- Be charged not less than the regular tuition and required fees paid by other students enrolled at the institution the person attends;
- Be enrolled at least ½ time\* in a qualified education program at a participating eligible institution;
- Meet the school's financial aid academic progress requirements;
- Register for Selective Service, or be exempt;
- Not be in default on a federal or state student loan; and not owe a refund on a grant received under the federal Pell Grant Program or the federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG) program.

"Half-time" is determined as any of the following:

- At least 6 semester hours or 6 quarter hours per academic term in an eligible program using a semester, trimester, or quarter system;
- At least 12 semester hours or 18 quarter hours per academic year for an program using credit hours but not using a semester, trimester, or quarter system, or the prorated equivalent for a program of less than one academic year;
- At least 12 clock hours per week for an educational program using clock hours;
- A series of courses or seminars equaling at least 6 semester or quarter hours over a maximum of 18 weeks;
- For a program that measures credit hours and uses nonstandard terms, the number of weeks of instruction in the term divided by the number of weeks of instruction in the academic year, multiplied by the number of credit hours in the academic year.

### **Priority Applicants**

Priority consideration will be given to eligible "Covered Persons" who meet the following requirements (in addition to those identified above):

- Veterans who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and were discharged or released from the service under condition other than dishonorable.



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- Spouses of any of the following individuals:
  - Any veteran who died of a service-connected disability;
  - Any member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who, at the time of application, has been so listed for more than 90 days: 1) is missing in action, 2) was captured in the line of duty by a hostile force, or c) forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power;
  - Any veteran who has a total disability due to a service-connected disability; or
  - Any veteran who died as a result of a service-connected disability.

### **Eligible Institutions**

To be eligible to participate in the TCOG Program, a career school or college must be identified by the Texas Workforce Commission as meeting the requirements set out in the Texas Labor Code, Title 4, Chapter 305, Section 305.002(3). Beginning with spring 2010, an institution must be approved as eligible by the Texas Workforce Commission by June 1 in order for qualified students enrolled in that institution to be eligible to receive grants in the following state fiscal year.

### **Award Amounts**

The amount of a TCOG Program award may not exceed the least of:

- the maximum grant specified by the Texas Legislature,
- the applicant's financial need;
- the amount by which the tuition and required fees at the eligible institution exceeds the average amount of tuition and required fees that would be charged at a public technical institute; or
- an amount equal to 50 percent of the average state appropriation in the preceding the biennium in which the grant is made for a full-time student or the equivalent at a public technical institute.

The student's award amount shall be calculated based on the following schedule:

- Full-time - 100% of the maximum award;
- at least three-quarters – 75% of the maximum award;
- at least half-time - 50% of the maximum award;

### **Application Process**

Applicants should contact their career school or college's financial aid office for information on applying for a grant through the TCOG program.

### **Additional Information**

Contact the Grants & Special Programs Office at 512/427-6340 (Austin area) or 800/242-3062 (outside Austin)

Texas Labor Code, Title 4, Chapter 305, Subchapters A and B. This subchapter establishes procedures to administer the two subchapters as prescribed in the Texas Labor Code, Sections 305.001 through 305.029.