



Helping Students Cross the Finish Line

Finish Line Grants: Building an Educated and Skilled Workforce

Too often, financial emergencies like unexpected healthcare costs, childcare expenses, or car breakdowns prevent community college students from completing their coursework and training. Finish Line Grants will help students reach that milestone when facing unforeseen challenges. Up to \$7 million of federal funds will be available for Finish Line Grants in the 2018-19 school year. Finish Line Grants can be used for course materials, housing, medical needs, dependent care, or other financial emergencies that students face through no fault of their own.

Who Is Eligible for Finish Line Grants?

Students enrolled in community colleges across North Carolina are eligible. Students must be in good academic standing and have completed 75 percent of their degree or credential.

How Will Grants Be Awarded and Distributed?

Every community college in North Carolina may participate in the Finish Line Grants program but is not required to do so. Community colleges and workforce development boards will collaborate to apply for funding and will establish a joint process for reviewing funding requests from students. Funds will not be distributed directly to students. For example, if a student applies for a Finish Line Grant to pay for a car repair, the approved payment will go to the auto repair shop.

What Is the Maximum Grant Amount?

The maximum grant per student per semester is \$1,000. The local community college and workforce development board will decide whether students will be eligible for grants in more than one semester.

How Do Students Apply for a Finish Line Grant?

Students can contact their community colleges' financial aid offices or NCWorks Career Centers, which are part of workforce development boards. Each local partnership between a community college and workforce development board will determine the specific process for applying for a Finish Line Grant.

Why Does This Program Only Apply to Community College Students?

Governor Cooper's budget proposed \$20 million to make Finish Line Grants available for University of North Carolina and private college and university students, in addition to community college students. Since the General Assembly failed to fund the Finish Line Grants program, Governor Cooper has leveraged up to \$7 million of federal funds from the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* that will specifically target community college students.

What Is the Source of Funding for Finish Line Grants? Is This a Recurring Program?

Up to \$7 million of federal funds from the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* will be available for Finish Line Grants in the 2018-19 school year. Governor Cooper's most recent budget proposed recurring funding to make the Finish Line Grants program ongoing, including funding for students in four-year college and university programs. Future funding is contingent upon availability.