

# THE ISSUE

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## Helping Low-Income Ohioans Succeed

Did you know that there are more than 37,000 low-income Ohioans currently attending college? These individuals are taking courses and gaining new skills and knowledge so that they will be able to better support themselves and enjoy a higher quality of living.

Low-income Ohioans face many barriers that can make completing education beyond high school difficult. In addition to the need for tuition assistance, everyday living expenses make it difficult for these students to attend class regularly and be successful. These students often need support to pay for child care, transportation, books, supplies, or direct tutoring.



### What is TEAP?

The Regents' **TANF Educational Awards Program** (TEAP), a collaboration between the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Board of Regents, is designed to encourage TANF-eligible students to succeed in higher education by helping them persist and increase their level of education attainment. TANF is an acronym for the federal program called Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. The TANF program provides cash assistance and work opportunities to needy families as authorized under the Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act of 1996. Eligible students can use their awards to help pay for tuition and costs not covered by other grant programs. The award can pay for technology fees, books, tutoring, counseling, course supplies, and computer and internet access.

Success in college will enhance employability skills and raise the likelihood of job retention, promotion and advancement to higher-paying jobs. Success will increase these individuals' levels of self-sufficiency and decrease their dependence on government benefits.

### Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for TEAP, a student must be: a) enrolled in an undergraduate program during the 2006-2007 academic year; b) a United States citizen; c) an Ohio



resident (as defined by the Board of Regents), and d) enrolled at a public or private, not-for-profit Ohio institution of higher education which has elected to participate in TEAP program. Students must also meet TANF income and family requirements, but are not required to be receiving TANF cash assistance. Individuals currently serving a term of imprisonment or (qualified) aliens are not eligible for the program.

In addition to being TANF eligible, the student must have shown a level of commitment to education and persistence by having successfully completed at least 15 credit hours of college level work with an accredited institution of higher education.



## Are Additional Services Available to TEAP Students?

In addition to the educational awards, campuses may elect to provide students with a range of other services including: coaching, career and academic counseling, and employability skills review. By using an employability skills assessment tool, campus counselors may be able to help TEAP students create an individual educational/employment action plan to help guide them toward success. These optional services are designed to assist the student to succeed at college-level work. Although the TEAP program will help pay for these services, not all campuses may be able to provide them to students.

For More Information on the TEAP Program contact:

Dee Delaney  
State TEAP Coordinator  
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or 614-752-9531

## How Do Eligible Students Apply for TEAP?

First, students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. This form will be reviewed by campus financial aid personnel. Each college campus participating in the program will designate a TANF coordinator, who will inform eligible students of the availability of the incentive awards and assist them in completing additional forms to meet the program's verification and data collection requirements. Generally, eligible students will be able to receive one-third of the total award after the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the academic term, and the remainder of the award after successful completion of the coursework.

## How Much Will Students Receive?

The table to the right shows the amount of the awards that will be granted to students upon successful completion of college-level coursework at participating campuses. Because this is the first year of the program, and because many of the steps needed to satisfy state and federal TANF guidelines are new to college financial aid personnel, students may not receive these awards immediately.



Student Status	Semester Payments and Total Award	Quarter Payments and Total Award
<b>Full Time</b>		
1st Term	\$600	\$400
2nd Term	\$600	\$400
3rd Term	N/A	\$400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>
<b>Part Time</b>		
1st Term	\$300	\$200
2nd Term	\$300	\$200
3rd Term	N/A	\$200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$600</b>	<b>\$600</b>

## Conclusion

The Board of Regents and the Department of Jobs and Family Services believe the new TANF Educational Awards Program (TEAP) will enhance the educational opportunities of many low-income Ohioans and will result in a positive impact on students, communities, and the state of Ohio. Education will enable low-income individuals to obtain better-paying jobs, raise the likelihood that they will be able to keep their jobs, receive promotions, and contribute to a company's bottom-line profitability.

Data is being collected to track the number of students who complete courses, the amount of college credit work accomplished, and the cumulative grade point average of students at the beginning and end of the academic year. Eventually, the Regents hope to collect long-range data that will show how these students do in the job market. The Board of Regents has requested that this program be extended beyond its one-year pilot period and will be able to implement a long-term strategy to help grow Ohio's economy.

## For More Information Contact

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