



COLORADO

Department of Higher Education

Priority: R-4
Additional Funding for the Dependent Tuition
Assistance Program

Cost and FTE

- The Department is requesting an increase of \$252,000 General Fund to meet the statutory requirements of the Dependent Tuition Assistance Program in FY 2014-15. This increase would bring the total funding for the program to \$672,000 General Fund.

Current Program

- The Dependent Tuition Assistance Program is for the dependents of deceased or permanently disabled national guardsmen, law enforcement officers, or firefighters. Under this program, the State pays tuition and room and board costs for qualified dependents who pursue an undergraduate education leading to a first baccalaureate degree or certificate of completion.

Problem or Opportunity

- The caseload/costs for the Dependent Tuition Assistance Program continue to outpace available funding. Spending increases have been driven by several factors including increased student caseload, changes in eligibility status, tuition increases and, most importantly, increased cost of residence living at institutions. Room and board costs fluctuate significantly as well as the number of students that choose to live on-campus.

Consequences of Problem

- Without an increase to fully fund this program, the Department will likely continue to over-expend its appropriation. Given statutory requirements, the Department sees no logical way to restrict or reduce funding for qualified participants. All qualified costs must be funded.

Proposed Solution

- The increase in funding for the Dependent Tuition Assistance program will provide funding to cover statutorily mandated costs for participating qualified dependents.

Schedule 13
Funding Request for the 2014-15 Budget Cycle

Department: Department of Higher Education
Request Title: Additional Funding for the Dependent Tuition Assistance Program
Priority Number: R-4

Dept. Approval by: Julia Ramsey 10/24/13
 Date

OSPB Approval by: [Signature] 10/24/13
 Date

- Decision Item FY 2014-15
- Base Reduction Item FY 2014-15
- Supplemental FY 2013-14
- Budget Amendment FY 2014-15

Line Item Information		FY 2013-14		FY 2014-15		FY 2015-16
		1	2	3	4	5
	Fund	Appropriation FY 2013-14	Supplemental Request FY 2013-14	Base Request FY 2014-15	Funding Change Request FY 2014-15	Continuation Amount FY 2015-16
Total of All Line Items	Total	420,000	-	420,000	252,000	252,000
	FTE	-	-	-	-	-
	GF	420,000	-	420,000	252,000	252,000
	GFE	-	-	-	-	-
	CF	-	-	-	-	-
	RF	-	-	-	-	-
	FF	-	-	-	-	-
(3) Colorado Commission on Higher Education Financial Aid, (C) Special Purpose - Veterans' / Law Enforcement / POW Tuition Assistance	Total	420,000	-	420,000	252,000	252,000
	FTE	-	-	-	-	-
	GF	420,000	-	420,000	252,000	252,000
	GFE	-	-	-	-	-
	CF	-	-	-	-	-
	RF	-	-	-	-	-
	FF	-	-	-	-	-

Letternote Text Revision Required? Yes: No: If yes, describe the Letternote Text Revision:

Cash or Federal Fund Name and COFRS Fund Number: N/A
 Reappropriated Funds Source, by Department and Line Item Name: N/A
 Approval by OIT? Yes: No: Not Required:
 Schedule 13s from Affected Departments: N/A
 Other Information: N/A



COLORADO

Department of Higher Education

FY 2014-15 Funding Request | November 1, 2013

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Joseph A. Garcia
Lieutenant Governor

Department Priority: R-4

Request Detail: Additional Funding for the Dependent Tuition Assistance Program

Summary of Incremental Funding Change for FY 2014-15	Total Funds	General Fund
Additional Funding for the Dependent Tuition Assistance program	\$252,000	\$252,000

An increase of \$252,000 General Fund is necessary to fund program costs for qualified participants in the Dependent Tuition Assistance Program in FY 2014-15 and thereafter.

The Dependent Tuition Assistance Program (DTAP) is for the dependents of deceased or permanently disabled national guardsmen, law enforcement officers, or firefighters (Section 23-3.3-205 C.R.S.). A dependent is defined as a natural child born or conceived, adopted or for whom formal adoption procedures were started before the period of time either of said child's parents served or was permanently disabled or killed while acting to preserve the public peace, health, and safety in the capacity of police officer, sheriff, or other law enforcement officer or firefighter. The Dependent Tuition Assistance Program statute requires that the State pay tuition and room and board for any qualified dependent.

Currently there are 66 students enrolled in the program for the 2013 fall semester. This represents the largest DTAP student population to-date. In FY 2013-14, the Department requested and received an additional \$55,078 General Fund to address many years of historical over-expenditures for the program. This funding request was a conservative estimate and, because of increased use of the program and higher costs, this funding level will not be adequate to fully cover the cost of the program.

Eligibility for the Dependent Tuition Assistance Program

Qualified dependents are eligible to pursue an undergraduate education leading to a first baccalaureate degree or a certificate of completion. Students must start school before the age of 22, attend school full-time, and maintain a cumulative minimum 2.5 GPA to continue receiving benefits. Incoming freshmen have one year to achieve a cumulative minimum 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale after enrolling in and attending an institution of higher education. Benefits will not be paid beyond eight academic semesters, however, students have up to six years from date of enrollment to complete their degree or receive a certificate of completion.

In practice, the eligibility has required that the qualifying parent provide the following 1) a Fire and Police Pension Association (FPPA) award letter stating that they were granted a Permanent Occupational Disability, and the Findings and Determination of On-Duty Disability Status form, 2) a FPPA Physician's

Statement of Disability Forms including their medical narratives, and a summary certifying to the nature of the permanent disability and that the person meets the definition of disability, or a copy of the death certificate if deceased. 3) a letter from a commanding officer certifying (if available) to the time and circumstances of the event resulting in permanent disability or death, and that when the event occurred, the police officer or fireman was under the direction and control of the governmental entity and not privately employed on a part-time or full-time basis by another party.

After these requirements have been satisfied a dependent must also meet the following requirements in order to be eligible to receive Dependents Tuition Assistance. A student must be a dependent currently classified under their parent(s) domicile as defined for tuition classification purposes in Colorado. Proof for this requirement is a signed parent(s) last Federal Income Tax return filed prior to the student entering school or a dependency affidavit if student is between the ages of 20 and 21. Also, a student must apply for FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to comply with the Section 23-3.3-205 C.R.S., which states that benefits under this section shall be allowed only to those qualified dependents who are not eligible for educational benefits provided by the federal government.

Benefits for Students in the Dependents Tuition Assistance Program

Educational benefits provided to students vary depending on the type of school a student attends. Students attending a public in-state institution of higher education receive free tuition, and if the institution has on-campus living, the room and board (half of double-occupancy) is also included. Students attending private in-state institutions of higher education receive the average cost of undergraduate instruction calculated for a full-time equivalent student at a comparable public in-state institution for the previous year. Students attending an out-of-state 4-year institution of higher education receive tuition assistance only. Tuition benefits cannot exceed the average cost of undergraduate instruction calculated for a full-time equivalent student at a comparable Colorado state institution for the previous year.

Proposed Solution:

The increase of \$252,000 General Fund will fully fund current estimates for the Dependent Tuition Assistance Program in compliance with Colorado statute. Funding the Dependent Tuition Assistance Program aligns with the Department of Higher Education mission to improve the quality of, ensure the affordability of, and promote access to, postsecondary education. Additionally, the Department has a mission to serve as an advocate for the student and institutions of postsecondary education. This program and also helps further this mission.

Assumptions and Calculations:

The following assumptions were used to estimate the requested expenditure increase:

- FY 2014-15 is estimated by taking the FY 2012-13 average cost per student, multiplying this by 9% as a proxy for increases to tuition and room and board. This amount is then multiplied by the anticipated number of participants.
- Since the student enrollment and costs for the Program cannot be accurately anticipated at an exact dollar amount, the request is formulated to round the appropriation to a reasonable, flexible, and

whole dollar amount in full acknowledgement that actual expenditures could vary from this amount in either direction based on student choices, enrollment, and cost of attendance.

Historical DTAP Appropriations and Expenditures				
Fiscal Year	Total Students	Long Bill Appropriation	Total Annual Expenditures	Average Cost Per Student
2008-09	49	\$364,922	\$427,331	\$8,721
2009-10	40	\$364,922	\$379,625	\$9,491
2010-11	37	\$364,922	\$387,936	\$10,485
2011-12	41	\$364,922	\$447,121	\$10,905
2012-13	52.5	\$364,922	\$489,700	\$9,328
2013-14 Est.	59	\$420,000	\$599,859	\$10,167