

AM Edward Ra

QUESTION #1: Child Welfare Worker scholarship and loan forgiveness program budgets were each only budgeted \$50K, no change since last year. How many applications have you received, and how many awards have been made? Recruitment and retention issue in the field.

ANSWER #1: The New York State Child Welfare Worker Loan Forgiveness Program provides student loan forgiveness awards for the purpose of attracting workers to be employed in NYS child welfare agencies. Recipients can receive awards up to \$10,000 per year for up to 5 years, not to exceed the total amount of the recipient's student loan debt.

Below is a chart showing data that is available in the 2022-2023 HESC Annual Report and which are based on anticipated payments for the 2022-23 academic year: <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/annual-reports-financial-statements.html>

Academic Year	Recipients	Dollars (\$M)
2018-19	267	\$1.684
2019-20	183	\$1.146
2020-21	266	\$1.683
2021-22	184	\$1.165
est. 2022-23	184	\$1.165

QUESTION #2: Excelsior and ETA awards - \$136M budgeted for Excelsior represents a decrease. Is this based on enrollment decrease? How many students are receiving ETA?

ANSWER #2: The \$136M estimated for Excelsior realigns the appropriation with anticipated actual awards for the program. It is not a reflection of an enrollment decrease.

Per the Annual Report Data, ETA is projected to have 2,702 recipients in AY 2022-23 and 2,535 recipients in AY 2023-24. There are fewer schools participating in the ETA Program.

AM Harvey Epstein

QUESTION #1: How many TAP applicants were denied last year? and what were the reasons?

ANSWER #1: The chart below shows data for all TAP applicants and then narrows it down to only freshman TAP applicants. This provides a clearer view of how many applicants are eligible right out of high school.

	TAP	Percent Recipients vs Applicants
Fall Semester AY 2022-23		
Total applicants	365,661	
Recipients	211,297	58%
Denials	154,364	42%
Tuition Assistance Program <u>Freshman</u> Applicants for Fall AY 2022-23		
Completed TAP Application --->	81,764	
Received TAP award	55,140	67%
Eligible but did not register at any NYS college	7,754	9%
Denials	18,870	23%
Denial Reasons		
Income exceeds eligibility ceiling	16,061	
	2,809	
Applicant was not NY resident, or college not eligible, or student not matriculated		
Total Denials	18,870	

QUESTION #2: How many Excelsior applicants were denied? And what were the reasons?

ANSWER #2: With the Excelsior program, there are program eligibility requirements for new applicants; then once the contract is signed by the student, HESC verifies payment eligibility as the student needs to stay on track to graduation.

	Excelsior	Percent Recipients vs Applicants
Excelsior Scholarship <u>Freshman</u> Applicants for AY 2022-23		
Started Excelsior Application --->	22,976	
Did not complete application	-1,683	
Withdrew application	-449	
Evaluated for Eligibility	20,844	
Eligibility Determinations		
Eligible (signed contract)	16,344	78%
Eligible but declined to sign contract (ineligible)	2,746	13%
Ineligible (did not meet program requirements)	1,754	8%
Total	20,844	
Reasons for Not Meeting Program Requirements		
Applicant income above \$125k AGI	1,317	
Misc (mostly not NY resident)	437	
Total	1,754	

AM Helene Weinstein

QUESTION #1: Requesting data on Child welfare worker scholarship and loan forgiveness programs. Stated that there is only a small dollar amount and would like to see it increased.

ANSWER #1: The New York State Child Welfare Worker Loan Forgiveness Program provides student loan forgiveness awards for the purpose of attracting workers to be employed in NYS child welfare agencies. Recipients can receive awards up to \$10,000 per year for up to 5 years, not to exceed the total amount of the recipient's student loan debt.

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Senator Lea Webb

QUESTION #1: Provide follow up information on the Nursing Faculty Loan Forgiveness Program.

ANSWER #1: The Nursing Faculty Loan Forgiveness Program (NFLF), also known as Patricia K. McGee Loan Forgiveness Program, is a competitive loan forgiveness program. Education law limits funding amounts to the amount appropriated; and is therefore based on availability of funds. NFLF is offered to increase the number of nursing faculty members and adjunct clinical faculty teaching in the field of nursing in NYS. Awards are made annually to licensed registered nurses holding graduate degrees and who have taught in the field of nursing.

The program was initiated in 2005. The program is open to returning students first and then new applicants, depending on funding availability. HESC does not require returning students to re-apply, but the applicant must confirm their eligibility by completing a HESC-issued questionnaire; applicants also must submit a payment document to confirm the loan amount. New students must apply and, if eligible, will receive an award AFTER the returning students' applications are funded.

There have been no new applicants for the McGee Loan Forgiveness Program since AY 2020-21 due to the pause on student loan repayment. This program will open for applications in 2024.

Here are the applications for the McGee Scholarship Program:

McGee Scholarship Program	
Academic Year	# of Applications
2023-24	125
2022-23	95
2021-22	67
2020-21	73
2019-20	83