



## Tuition Incentive Program Fact Sheet Academic Year 2015-16



### Description

The Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) encourages eligible Medicaid recipients to complete high school by providing tuition assistance for college. TIP provides assistance in two phases. Phase I is applied to standard in-district tuition and mandatory fees charged to eligible students enrolled in a credit-based or minimum one year certificate program or associate degree at a participating Michigan community college, public university, degree-granting independent college, federal tribally-controlled college, or Focus: HOPE. Phase II provides a maximum of \$2,000 total tuition assistance for credits earned in a four-year program at an in-state, degree-granting college or university. Award parameters are subject to legislative changes.

### Application

Students who have (or have had) Medicaid coverage<sup>1</sup> for 24 months within a 36-consecutive month period prior to high school completion will be identified by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as having met the Medicaid eligibility requirement. Student Scholarships and Grants (SSG) will only accept certification by DHHS for Medicaid benefits received while in Michigan. The 24 months of benefits out of a 36-consecutive month period may begin as early as age 9, though months of benefits will not be evaluated until at least the student's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday and continues to be evaluated until high school completion. After being identified as TIP eligible, SSG will send the student an application which must be completed over the phone or on paper and returned to SSG via postal mail. The application must be received by SSG **before** August 31 of the student's graduating year from high school or its recognized equivalent<sup>2</sup>. Students **must also graduate (or its equivalent) before** their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday to maintain TIP eligibility. SSG will send the student an "eligibility letter" during their senior year of high school. The student should present this letter to their college financial aid office upon enrollment to receive TIP payment. **The student is responsible for notifying SSG of any changes to address or college choice.**

NOTE: Identified students are encouraged to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) even though it is not required for TIP eligibility. By filing the FAFSA, students will be considered for other federal and state financial aid programs and, if eligible, may use those additional funds to cover other educational expenses such as books, supplies, transportation, or room and board. The FAFSA can be filed online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) or students can receive a paper form by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

### Eligibility

To use Phase I or Phase II a student must:

- Complete the application and return it to SSG no later than August 31 of the academic year in which the student graduates from high school or its recognized equivalent.
- Obtain a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent prior to age 20.
- Provide evidence of eligibility, i.e., submit a copy of the "eligibility letter" to the college financial aid office.
- Be a Michigan resident as determined by institutional criteria.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or approved refugee.
- Not be incarcerated (does not include detention of a juvenile in a State-operated or privately operated detention facility).
- Not be in default on Federal/State student loan.
- Be enrolled at least half-time in a certificate program or degree.
- Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards according to institutional policy.



<sup>1</sup> January 1, 2016, MICHild became a Medicaid program. MICHild benefits prior to January 1, 2016, cannot be counted as Medicaid coverage for TIP.

<sup>2</sup> A student has until August 31 of the academic year in which his/her class graduates.

## Tuition Incentive Program Fact Sheet (continued)

### **Program Limits, Phase I:**

Students must begin using TIP by enrolling at a participating college (see page 3) within four years of high school graduation. Eligibility ends six years from the date of high school graduation or its recognized equivalent, effective with the class of 2010. Future awards are subject to available and approved funding.

Phase I covers the cost of tuition at the standard in-district rate at participating Michigan community colleges (see page 3). For persons not residing in a community college district, the out-of-district rate may be authorized. Tuition at the lower level resident rate is covered at **participating** Michigan public universities. The amount that can be received at participating degree-granting independent colleges, federal tribally-controlled colleges, or Focus: HOPE is \$99<sup>3</sup> per credit hour.

Mandatory fees cannot exceed \$250 per semester or term. Mandatory fees must be specified in the college's course catalog as mandatory for all students as a condition of enrollment. TIP benefits cannot exceed 80 semester or 120 terms credits (24 semester or 36 term credits per academic year).

Not all colleges and universities offer associate degree programs (see page 3). If the college or university does not offer such programs, students will not receive TIP assistance until they reach 56 credit hours.

### **Program Limits, Phase II:**

Phase II provides standard in-district tuition and mandatory fee assistance not to exceed \$500 per semester or \$400 per term up to a maximum of \$2,000 for credits earned in a four-year program at a Michigan degree-granting college or university. Phase II must be completed within 30 months of completion of Phase I requirements. Students can receive Phase II benefits without having received Phase I benefits. To receive Phase II benefits, the student must demonstrate the eligibility criteria for Phase I and have one of the following:

- 56 transferable semester or 84 transferable term credits.
- A certificate (minimum of one year) or associate degree.

**Please note:** The Tuition Incentive Program is always considered 'last dollar' unless used in a *promise zone* or if the student is also receiving a Fostering Futures Scholarship (FFS).

### **For More Information**

Visit [www.michigan.gov/ssg](http://www.michigan.gov/ssg). Contact the Tuition Incentive Program, **Student Scholarships and Grants**, toll-free at 1-888-4-GRANTS (1-888-447-2687), e-mail [ssg@michigan.gov](mailto:ssg@michigan.gov), or fax 517-241-5835. P.O. Box 30462, Lansing, MI 48909-7962.

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<sup>3</sup> Amount is based on the standard in-district tuition rate at participating Michigan community colleges.

## Tuition Incentive Program Fact Sheet (continued)

### Participating Institutions

See the list below and note which institutions are Phase II ONLY prior to enrollment.

<b><i>Phase I ONLY</i></b>	Alpena Community College Bay de Noc Community College Bay Mills Community College Delta College Glen Oaks Community College Gogebic Community College Grand Rapids Community College Henry Ford College Jackson College Kalamazoo Valley Community College Kellogg Community College Kirtland Community College Lake Michigan College Lansing Community College Macomb Community College	Mid Michigan Community College Monroe County Community College Montcalm Community College Mott Community College Muskegon Community College North Central Michigan College Oakland Community College Saint Clair County Community College Schoolcraft College Southwestern Michigan College Washtenaw Community College Wayne County Community College West Shore Community College  Focus: HOPE Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College
<b><i>Phase II ONLY</i></b>	Albion College Alma College Andrews University Calvin College Central Michigan University College for Creative Studies Eastern Michigan University Grand Valley State University Hope College Kettering University Oakland University	Olivet College Robert B. Miller College Saginaw Valley State University University of Detroit Mercy University of Michigan - Ann Arbor University of Michigan - Dearborn University of Michigan - Flint Walsh College Wayne State University Western Michigan University
<b><i>Phase I and Phase II</i></b>	Adrian College Aquinas College Baker College Cleary University Compass College of Cinematic Arts Concordia University Cornerstone University Davenport University Ferris State University Finlandia University Grace Bible College Great Lakes Christian College Kuyper College Lake Superior State University Lawrence Technological University	Madonna University Marygrove College Michigan Jewish Institute Michigan State University ( <i>Student must be enrolled in a qualifying certificate program. See course catalog for available programs.</i> ) Michigan Technological University Northern Michigan University Northwestern Michigan College ( <i>Student must be enrolled in a qualifying bachelor program. See course catalog for available programs.</i> ) Northwood University Rochester College Sacred Heart Major Seminary ( <i>Will pay Phase I benefits only for Associate of Arts in Ministry [A.A.M.]</i> ) Siena Heights University Spring Arbor University
<b><u>Community Colleges</u></b>	<b>Eligible charges include standard in-district tuition and mandatory fees. For persons residing in an area that is not included in any community college district, the out-of-district tuition rate may be authorized. Some community colleges are authorized to offer bachelor's degrees. Contact your institution to see how this may impact your TIP eligibility.</b>	
<b><u>Public Universities</u></b>	<b>Eligible charges include lower level resident tuition and mandatory fees for the current year. Reminder: The student must be enrolled in a minimum one year-long certificate program or an associate degree program or to be eligible for TIP Phase I benefits.</b>	
<b><u>Independent, Colleges, and Universities</u></b>	<b>Eligible charges include mandatory fees for the current year and a per credit payment that does not exceed the average community college standard in-district per credit tuition rate. Reminder: The student must be enrolled in an associate degree program or a minimum one year-long certificate program to be eligible for TIP Phase I benefits.</b>	