

“In this day and time you can’t do it all yourself, you have to form alliances to put the pieces together.”



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2013-14 Budget



The State budget for 2013-14 was signed by Governor Snyder on June 18, 2013. Funding for the Michigan Competitive Scholarship (MCS), Michigan Tuition Grant (MTG), and Police Officer’s and Fire Fighter’s Survivors Tuition Grant (STG), received level funding; however, two programs—Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) and Children of Veterans Tuition Grant (CVTG) received a slight increase. GEAR UP programs are federally funded and have level funding.

Program	FY13	FY14
MCS	\$18,361,700	18,361,700
MTG	\$31,664,700	31,664,700
TIP	\$43,800,000	47,000,000
CVTG and STG	\$1,200,000	1,400,000
GEAR UP (2)	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000
TOTAL	\$98,226,400	\$101,626,400

SSG PROGRAMS

SSG administers seven programs for the 2013-14 academic year to help students go to college.

The following programs are available for Michigan students:

- Michigan Competitive Scholarship (MCS)
- Michigan Tuition Grant (MTG)
- Tuition Incentive Program (TIP)
- Children of Veterans Tuition Grant (CVTG)
- Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivor Tuition Grant (STG)
- GEAR UP Michigan! and GEAR UP College Day

For more information on these programs, visit our Web site at www.michigan.gov/ssg.



Coordinator of Outreach Activities

SSG welcomes Shannon Price as the new Coordinator of Outreach Activities. In this role Shannon will be responsible for the administration of SSG outreach and college access activities including promoting financial literacy and financial aid programs/information to students, families, and counselors, as well as SSG partners.

Shannon comes to SSG from Baker College of Jackson where she served as the Director of Student Services. She has a bachelor's degree from Ferris State University and a master's degree from Baker College. Shannon may be reached at 517-335-4884 or prices4@michigan.gov.



High School Counselor Webinar Series

There have been two Webinars recorded leading up to the 2013 High School Counselor Webcast. They are **Financial Literacy: The Basics** and **Assisting Youth with Special Circumstances**. The latter of the two was a four-part Webinar that covered *unaccompanied, homeless, foster, and undocumented youth*. Each topic explained the college access programs and resources available to youth with special circumstances. Questions from attendees were addressed during the hour long event.

The next two sessions to be recorded this summer will be **An Overview: EduGuide, MCAN, and MET/ MESP**, as well as **Student Loans – Changes You Need to Know**. These sessions will not be interactive. They will be recorded and posted on our Web site for reference at www.michigan.gov/ssg under *News and Highlights* and under the *Planning for College* tab.

As a reminder, the 2013 High School Counselor Webcast is scheduled for **Thursday, October 24, 2013**.

An archive of the Webinar series is available on our Web site under *Planning for College/Financial Literacy/ Webinars or Interactive Resources*. For questions regarding these Webinars, please contact Patty Hill at 517-373-6051 or hillp@michigan.gov.



PROGRAM UPDATES

Due to decreased student enrollment, the annual award amount for the MCS and MTG programs will be increased for the 2013-14 academic year.

- MCS - \$630
- MTG - \$1524
- TIP - \$86 per credit hour (Independent rate)

In order to maintain the integrity and financial solvency of the State programs, SSG is responsible to ensure that all programs are administered correctly in compliance with state law and regulations.



SSG Newsletter for High School Counselors

If you are sharing your newsletter with your community's high school counselors, that's great. However, we do have a newsletter that we deliver on a quarterly basis through email specifically targeted to high school counselors.

If you know of a high school counselor who would like to be added to our mailing list, please have them email Stacy Cardwell at cardwells@michigan.gov.



MI College Goal

Survey Results

During the 2013 MI College Goal (MICG) event students were asked to complete a survey. EduGuide requested the surveys be compiled by the Survey Research Center at IUPUI, School of Liberal Arts, Indiana University - Purdue University, Indianapolis. The following is a summary of main findings.

An overwhelming majority of respondents believe the events are worth the effort of attending (95%). A very strong majority (94%) also report being satisfied or very satisfied with the assistance offered at MICG events. A smaller majority (77%) of respondents report that MICG increased their likelihood of attending college or vocational school in the next year, but this is a fairly low percentage when compared to other states. Perhaps most importantly, results indicate that the vast majority of respondents completed (87%) or started and saved (12%) the FAFSA, and a very small percentage decided not to start filling it out.

The target audience (53.6%) includes first generation students, underrepresented minority students, and/or low-income students (families earning less than \$20,000 per year), compared to the non-target audience (46.4%).

The most common source for information about the events is high schools, including guidance counselors and teachers. Sources of information vary according to whether the respondent was part of the target audience. Target audience members were more likely than others to hear about events from the community, colleges, mailings, and through word of mouth. Members of the non-target audience were particularly susceptible to electronic media and media generally, with roughly 1/5 hearing about the event through each of these mediums.

Students with Criminal Convictions

Incarcerated students

Individuals who are currently incarcerated have limited eligibility for federal student aid. An individual incarcerated in a federal or state institution is ineligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant or federal student loans. Although an individual incarcerated in a federal or state prison is eligible to receive a Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) and Federal Work-Study (FWS), he or she is unlikely to receive either FSEOG or FWS due to the FSEOG award priority, which is that the grant must be given to those students who also will receive a Federal Pell Grant, and due to the logistical difficulties of performing an FWS job while incarcerated. Those incarcerated in institutions other than federal or state institutions are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, FSEOG, and FWS, but not for federal student loans. Also, it is unlikely that incarcerated individuals in institutions other than federal or state institutions will receive FSEOG or FWS due to school funding limitations and to the logistical difficulties of performing an FWS job while incarcerated. It is important to note that, upon release, most eligibility limitations will be removed. However, if the incarceration was for a drug-related offense or if the individual is subject to an involuntary civil commitment

for a sexual offense, financial aid eligibility may be limited. In addition, an individual may apply for aid in anticipation of being released so that aid is processed in time to start school.

Convictions that continue to affect eligibility for federal student aid after release

A student convicted for the possession or sale of illegal drugs may have eligibility suspended if the offense occurred while the student was receiving federal student aid (grants, loans, or work-study). When an individual completes the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), they will be asked whether they had a drug conviction for an offense that occurred while they were receiving federal student aid. If the answer is yes, they will be provided a special worksheet to help them determine whether the conviction affects their eligibility for federal student aid.

If an individual has been convicted of a forcible or nonforcible sexual offense, and they are subject to an involuntary civil commitment upon completion of a period of incarceration for that offense, they are ineligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant.

Criminal Convictions Impact on State Aid

MCS/MTG

- Incarcerated students are not eligible for award consideration. This includes persons assigned full time or part time to correctional facilities, community correction centers, residential homes, half-way houses, or under home detention. Those on electronic monitors are likewise ineligible.

CVTG

- Students with a felony conviction involving an assault, physical injury, or death are not eligible for an award.
- Incarcerated students are not eligible for award consideration. This includes persons assigned full time or part time to correctional facilities, community correction centers, residential homes, half-way houses, or under home detention. Those on electronic monitors are likewise ineligible.

GEAR UP

- Incarcerated students are not eligible for award consideration. This includes persons assigned full time or part time to correctional facilities, community correction centers, residential homes, half-way houses, or under home detention. Those on electronic monitors are likewise ineligible.

TIP

- Incarcerated students are not eligible to receive consideration in the program. (Does not include detention of a juvenile in a state or privately-operated juvenile detention facility.)
- Student eligibility for this program is not affected by the conviction for illegal drugs.

STG

- No criminal convictions restrictions.

Financial Literacy



SSG is becoming more involved with *financial literacy*, particularly for high school students and first-and second-year college students. SSG will be working with multiple partners, including new ones:

- Michigan JumpStart Coalition
- Inceptia
- National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE)

Recently SSG put together a financial literacy reality game called *Collegiate Reality* at the request of another SSG partner, the King-Chavez-Parks (KCP) Initiative of the Michigan Workforce Development Agency. The goal of the KCP Initiative is to increase the number of Michigan's most educationally disadvantaged citizens who have the opportunity to complete college degrees and experience career success as active participants in a knowledge-based global society and economy. The KCP Initiative has rolled out this new financial literacy activity with their Michigan GEAR UP partners.

Collegiate Reality takes the students on a journey embarking on the next phase of their adult life . . . college. During this activity, they will have to imagine juggling classes, projects, professors, and finances. Budgeting is something they will have to do for the rest of their life. This exercise helps them learn how to budget while in college.

Approximately 75% of Americans live financially month to month. Students who have learned how to budget before college can save themselves a lot of heartache and money! With rising college costs and the high levels of student loan and student credit card debt, many students carry lingering debt that impacts their life after college. Students who are "money smart" fair better with retention, productivity, and wellness!

For more information, contact SSG at 1-888-447-2687.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Upcoming Events—July thru September 2013

- 7/14-17/13 - National GEAR UP Conference, San Francisco, CA
- 7/14-17/13 - National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) Conference, Las Vegas, NV
- 7/30/13 - Mini-Webinars — MCAN, EduGuide, MET/MESP, and Student Loans—Changes You Need to Know

*Enjoy
Your
Summer!*



- 9/4/13 - Office closed - Labor Day Holiday
- 9/16-18/13 - National College Access Conference, Nashville, TN
- 10/6-9/13 - Midwest Association of Financial Aid Administrators (MASFAA) Conference, Indianapolis, IN
- 10/24/13 - High School Counselor Webcast

To be added to the list:

If any other staff members or colleagues would like to receive a copy of our newsletter, please contact:

Stacy Cardwell

cardwells@michigan.gov

517-373-6074

If you missed a copy of our newsletter, do not worry. They are archived on our Web site at:

[www.michigan.gov/ssg/
About SSG/Newsletters](http://www.michigan.gov/ssg/AboutSSG/Newsletters)

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