

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Ordinance No. O2012-0007

<p>Sponsored by: Councilmembers Rogers, Miller, Connally, Conwell, Gallagher, Brady, Germana, Jones, Simon and County Executive FitzGerald</p>	<p>An Ordinance establishing and providing for the administration of a Cuyahoga County Educational Assistance Program for County residents for the purposes of increasing the number of skilled workers into the County's workforce, encouraging completion of college degrees among County residents and enhancing economic development opportunities for the region; and declaring the necessity that this Ordinance become immediately effective.</p>
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WHEREAS, Article III, Section 3.09 (11) of the Cuyahoga County Charter authorizes the County Council to “establish and provide for the administration of a program to provide scholarships, loans, grants and other forms of financial assistance for the residents of the County that will enable them to participate in postsecondary education, including vocational education and job training and retraining;” and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has proposed to set aside and this Council has appropriated \$6,000,000 in the 2012-2013 General Fund Budget in anticipation of the creation of a County-wide educational assistance program; and

WHEREAS, a more educated workforce, connected to employers in need of trained workers, contributes to the economic vitality of a region; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Educational Assistance Program shall strive to meet the principal objectives of expanding the economic base in the county through assisting in the development of a more educated workforce; and,

WHEREAS, Council desires to initiate the Cuyahoga County Educational Assistance Program by focusing on the vocational education, job training and retraining aspects of the program; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland/Cuyahoga Workforce Development Department, through its Employment Connections Center, offer eligible county residents vocational, training and job retraining opportunities that focus on in-demand occupations and match skilled workers with employers; and

WHEREAS, Council may add additional components to the Cuyahoga County Educational Assistance Program to meet the needs of Cuyahoga County and to fulfill Charter purposes; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary that this Ordinance become immediately effective in order that eligible county residents may access the vocational, job training and retraining opportunities offered through the Cuyahoga County Scholarship Program as soon as is practicable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. There is hereby established the Cuyahoga County Educational Assistance Program.

SECTION 2. County Council hereby authorizes the Fiscal Officer to immediately establish a separate Cuyahoga County Educational Assistance Fund for the purpose of depositing all revenue and other funds intended to be used for the Cuyahoga County Educational Assistance Program.

SECTION 3. The Cuyahoga County Educational Assistance Program shall be administered as provided in the attached Exhibit A.

SECTION 4. It is necessary that this Ordinance become immediately effective in order that eligible county residents may access the vocational, job training and retraining opportunities offered through the Cuyahoga County Educational Assistance Program as soon as is practicable. Provided that this Ordinance receives the affirmative vote of eight members of Council, this Ordinance shall become immediately effective upon the signature of the County Executive.

SECTION 5. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Ms. Conwell, the foregoing Ordinance was duly enacted.

Yeas: Conwell, Jones, Rogers, Simon, Greenspan, Miller, Brady, Germana, Gallagher, Schron and Connally

Nays: None

County Council President

Date

County Executive

Date

Deputy Clerk of Council

Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: March 13, 2012
Committee(s) Assigned: Environment & Sustainability

Additional Sponsorship Requested: March 13, 2012

Second Reading: June 26, 2012

Additional Sponsorship Requested on the Floor: July 10, 2012

Motion to correct omission of amendment approved in Committee: July 10, 2012

Journal CC007
July 10, 2012

Cuyahoga County Educational Assistance Program

2012

Charter Mandate

Article III, Section 3.09 – Powers and Duties of the Council

(11) To establish and provide for the administration of a program to provide scholarships, loans, grants and other forms of financial assistance for residents of the County that will enable them to participate in postsecondary education, including vocational education and job training and retraining; for the funding of the program from money determined to be saved by the operation of the County government under this Charter and from other funds of the County, including gifts, grants and donations received for such purpose; and for the conditions for eligibility for participation in the program by individuals and educational institutions.

Component 1 - Job Training/Re-Training Program

Overview

Component 1 of the Cuyahoga County Educational Assistance Program (CCEAP) provides financial assistance for Cuyahoga County residents seeking a postsecondary degree and/or program certification that will lead to gainful employment or career advancement. This program will follow the same criteria for eligibility and qualified educational and training programs that are employed by Employment Connection, however the Council program will not disqualify applicants based on income. Applicants will be eligible for scholarships ranging up to \$5000.00.

This component of the program will be administered by Employment Connection. Council will designate \$500,000.00 of the budgeted funds for this component of the program for the remainder of the 2012 calendar year.

Terms and Conditions

Eligibility

Open to all Cuyahoga County residents who satisfy the following criteria:

- He/she enrolls in a degree or certification program in a field designated as “in demand” by the City of Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Workforce Investment Board; OR
 - He/she enrolls in a degree or certification program in a non-demand field that has a commitment from an employer to hire or promote; OR
 - He/she is within twelve (12) credit hours of completion of an associate’s, bachelor’s or master’s degree in any field at an approved post-secondary institution. OR
 - He/she enrolls in a class to satisfy continuing educational credit obligations associated with professional licensing.
- County residents that are veterans of the armed services are encouraged to participate in this program.

Educational Program Providers

Public or private post-secondary educational providers are eligible to participate in this program provided they are:

- Approved by Employment Connection
- Accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (The Higher Learning Commission) or registered with the Ohio State Board of Career Colleges and Schools

Administration

- This program will be administered by Employment Connection
- Employment Connection will provide a policy and procedures manual to the County Council prior to the implementation of Component 1 of the CCEAP;
- County Council shall be notified of all future changes, additions or subtractions to the aforementioned policy and procedures manual;
- Performance monitoring of the educational program providers will be conducted by Employment Connection staff on an on-going basis. Educational program providers will be judged on several factors including, but not limited to, training program completion rate and training-related job placements or advancements.
- Employment Connection will create application and other relevant materials for review by the County Council prior to implementation of Component 1 of the CCEAP
- Employment Connection will accept, review and make recommendations of approval of scholarships
- Employment Connections will provide quarterly updates to the County Council informing of 1) the number and amounts of scholarships awarded, 2) the geographic distribution of the awardees, 3) the distribution of income levels of the awardees, 4) the fields, degrees or certifications being pursued by the awardees, 5) the number of new job placements or career advancements among awardees during the time period, 6) a listing of participating employers, and 7) any problems or significant accomplishments about which the Council should be made aware.
- The appropriate authority for Cuyahoga County shall negotiate the terms by which Employment Connection will be compensated for the administration of Component 1 of the CCEAP.

Restrictions

- When applicable, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). He/she must demonstrate unmet financial aid after all federal, state, institutional and other grant and scholarship aid has been applied to the cost of attendance. County dollars will be awarded as "last dollars in" to reduce remaining unmet financial need.
- Scholarship awardees must complete their program, degree or certification within 18 months of receiving an award from Component 1 of the CCEAP;
- Employment Connection may give priority to awarding scholarships based on financial need;
- Employment Connection reserves the right to recoup funds from a CCEAP awardee who fails to complete his/her intended program, degree or certification within the stated time period.