

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Ordinance No. O2024-0007

Sponsored by: Councilmember Simon Co-sponsored by: Councilmembers Miller, Conwell and Turner	An Ordinance amending 804.01(C) of the Cuyahoga County Code to modify the scholarship provisions of Component Two of the Educational Assistance Program; and declaring the necessity that this Ordinance become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, Section 3.09(11) of the Charter of Cuyahoga County vests the Council with power “[t]o 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 post-secondary education, including vocational education and job training and retraining... and for the conditions for eligibility for participation in the program by individuals and educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 the Council established the Educational Assistance Fund as now codified in Chapter 710 of the Cuyahoga County Code, and Educational Assistance Programs as now codified in Chapter 804 of the Cuyahoga County Code; and

WHEREAS, Section 804.01(C) of the Cuyahoga County Code governs Component Two of the Educational Assistance Program for Post-Secondary College or University Scholarship Program; and which further designates College Now Greater Cleveland as program administrator; and

WHEREAS, Section 804.01(C)(2) of the Cuyahoga County Code caps the individual one year renewable scholarship for eligible students to an initial maximum of \$1,750.00; and

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2024, representatives from College Now Greater Cleveland appeared before the Council’s Education, Environment & Sustainability Committee and requested that the maximum individual one year renewable scholarship be increased to \$2,000 per student beginning in 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Council now desires to raise the maximum individual one year renewable scholarship to \$2,000 per student beginning in 2024 and to provide this maximum may be increased via Resolution of Council in future years; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that this Ordinance become immediately effective in order that critical service provided by Cuyahoga County can continue and to provide for the usual, daily operation of a County entity.

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

SECTION 1. 804.01(C) of the Cuyahoga County Code is hereby amended to read as follows (additions are underlined, deletions are stricken):

C. Component Two – Post-Secondary College or University Scholarship Program

1. Component Two of the Cuyahoga County Educational Assistance Program provides financial assistance for Cuyahoga County residents seeking a postsecondary college or university degree at institutions located within the State of Ohio.

2. Individual one (1) year renewable scholarships will be awarded up to ~~an initial maximum of \$1,750.00~~ **a maximum of \$2,000.00 or other maximum amount specified for a particular student cohort by Council Resolution.** If allocated and awarded funds are unexpended due to the ineligibility of a scholarship recipient, the administrator of the Program may use such funds to supplement the next amount of budgeted funds annually designated by County Council for Component Two.

3. The County Council shall annually designate an amount of the budgeted funds for Component Two.

4. Initial Eligibility. Cuyahoga County residents who satisfy all of the following criteria are eligible for Component One scholarships:

- a. They are a graduating high school senior attending one of the high schools served by College Now; and
- b. They have not otherwise been awarded College Now funding; and
- c. They complete the College Now scholarship application; and
- d. They plan to attend a two or four-year college or university; and
- e. They have a GPA of at least 2.5; and

- f. They achieve either a score of 18 or higher on the ACT, or a score of 860 or higher on the critical reading and math test of the SAT; and
- g. They meet College Now's income criteria (Pell eligibility).

5. Eligibility for Scholarship Renewal. The Program administrator shall determine when scholarships are eligible for renewal.

6. The Program will be administered by College Now Greater Cleveland, a nonprofit organization providing comprehensive college-access services. The County shall determine annually the administrative fee for program administration. The Program administrator has all of the following responsibilities:

- a. Select scholarship recipients based on the criteria provided in this section; and
- b. Verify continuing eligibility as scholarship recipients progress through their degree program; and
- c. Administer all award payments with postsecondary education institutions; and
- d. Provide all retention services, including mentoring, for all scholarship recipients; and
- e. Report to the Cuyahoga County Council on an annual basis on 1) the number and monetary amount of scholarships awarded, 2) the geographic distribution of the awardees (city of residence and high school attended), 3) a list of postsecondary institutions attended by the scholarship recipients, 4) retention and graduation rates of scholarship recipients, and 5) any highlights or problems of which the Council should be aware.

SECTION 2. It is necessary that this Ordinance become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health, or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Ordinance receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter. Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SECTION 3. 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 Ms. Simon, seconded by Ms. Turner, the foregoing Ordinance was duly enacted.

Yeas: Conwell, Turner, Stephens, Simon, Kelly, Miller, Sweeney, Byrne Gallagher and Jones

Nays: None

Signed by: 
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County Council President 8/7/2024
Date

Signed by: 
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County Executive 8/7/2024
Date


Clerk of Council 08/01/2024
Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: June 18, 2024
Committee(s) Assigned: Education, Environment & Sustainability

Additional Sponsorship Requested on the Floor: June 18, 2024

Additional Sponsorship Requested in Committee: July 10, 2024

Additional Sponsorship Requested: July 16, 2024

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