

**American Rescue Plan (ARP) State
Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF)
Request Form**

Please complete this form in accordance with
the process instructions.

Agency/Point of Contact: Office of Higher Education

Title of Request: Workforce Stabilization Technical Change

Date: 11/17/2021

Request Amount: \$ 1,500,000

Expenditure Time Period: 8/15/2021 to 6/30/2023

Brief Summary of Request: (Summary must be complete on this page with supporting information attached)

This last dollar financial aid program, that was approved by the LCRC in August, provides a tuition-free opportunity to attend a Minnesota public or tribal college or university to over 20,000 students who have been most impacted by COVID-19. These grants, which will be administered by the Office of Higher Education and awarded through partner colleges, will allow eligible Minnesota residents who have not yet earned a bachelor's degree and who are in an approved program access to the education and training needed to re-skill/re-launch their careers into one of Minnesota's high-need career areas.

These grants will benefit a wide range of Minnesotans from all regions of the state and our communities of color. This grant is an effective, equity-centered strategy to increase the prosperity and economic vitality for Minnesotans statewide, especially Minnesotans of color. Implementation of this program has already begun, with first students receiving awards in spring 2022.

This specific request is a technical change that moves the funds to administer the program out of the existing appropriation into a separate appropriation to make tracking the federal funds for the purposes of auditing easier across time. The amount of the funds being used to administer the program is not changing under this request. The total administrative funds for the program remains at \$750k per year.

As a reminder, the annual administrative funds will be used to hire staff to administer the program (\$125k), fund the IT costs associated with adding the new program to our existing financial aid system and on-going maintenance and support (\$275k), funding for the University of Minnesota, Minnesota State, and the Tribal Colleges to offset some of their administrative costs in assisting with the program and to support local community efforts (\$200k), and funding to advertise and communicate the program to students, their families, and workers (\$150k). Enrollments are down across Minnesota's postsecondary system, and Minnesota State has been hit especially hard. This program could play a meaningful role in incentivizing students to return to pursue their postsecondary credentials and address some of Minnesota's critical workforce shortages.

Dennis W. Olson Digitally signed by Dennis W. Olson
Date: 2021.11.17 19:48:22 -06'00'

Department Head Signature

11/17/2021

Date