STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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November 1, 2018

Representative Frank R. Kotowski, Chairman
Health and Human Service Oversight Committee
Room 302, State House
Concord, NH 03301

Representative Kimberly Rice, Chairman
Children and Family Law Committee
Room 206, Legislative Office Building
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Report on the RSA 188-D: 43, Tuition Waiver Program for Foster and Adopted Children

Dear Senator Bradley and Representative Rice,

As you may recall, SB 168 (2007) (Chapter Laws 2007, 366:1) established a tuition waiver program for foster and adopted children. That legislation requires the Department to report annually to the Health and Human Services Oversight Committee and to the Children and Family Law Committee on the status of the program. Accordingly, please accept the following as the Division's report on the current status of the program:

The University System of New Hampshire (USNH) and the Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) continued to manage the Tuition Waiver program. The application process for this academic year started in January of 2018 with the application being posted on the DCYF website and the websites of participating schools. The New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) Center for College Planning continued to be a resource for foster care youth, caregivers and DCYF who had questions about how to navigate the college admissions, application and financial aid process. NHHEAF met with youth and caregivers upon request, provided quarterly presentations to youth at SYSC and provided a college focused workshop at the annual DCYF youth summit.

There were forty-two applicants for the tuition waiver program this year. By comparison there were fifty-three applicants in 2017 and forty-four in 2016. The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Twenty waiver slots, ten for the CCSNH schools and ten for the USNH schools were awarded. Three of the youth who received a waiver dropped out before the year started and another one opted for the military instead. This led to four slots becoming available which were then filled by four other applicants. Additional reasons that applicants did not receive a waiver included: 1) They were determined as not having made satisfactory progress by the college they had previously attended; 2) They were unable to attend full time or 3) The lack of additional waiver slots as the program is capped at twenty per year.

DCYF and the USNH and Community College system have continued to maintain regular contact in support of the tuition waiver program. This included DCYF providing input and feedback regarding the USNH draft policy governing the tuition waiver program at their respective institutions. In January of this year the USNH policy was finalized and a copy of that policy is attached with this report. The USNH has started recording educational outcomes of waiver recipients that attended their institutions. The chart below consists of the thirty five tuition waiver recipients that attended a USNH schools since 2012 which was the first year that waiver applicants started giving written permission for their educational outcomes to be obtained. Sixty-six percent of those waiver recipients have either graduated or continued to work towards graduation.

Graduated	14	40%
No longer enrolled/ did not graduate	12	34%
Still enrolled	6	17%
Newly enrolled	3	9%
Total	**35**	**100%**

On October 12th of this year DCYF met with representatives of the USNH and CCSNH and asked if each system would be willing to add five additional tuition waiver slots. The idea behind adding additional slots, which was first advocated by the New Hampshire Foster Parent Association, would be to increase the number of youth that could benefit from the program. Both the USNH and the CCSNH have subsequently indicated that they are in support of adding these additional waiver slots. The result of that would mean the potential availability of thirty waiver slots (fifteen for each system) up from the twenty available in the current legislation. DCYF is aware that adding additional waiver slots will need to go through the legislative process.

DCYF also asked that each system create a process in collaboration with DCYF that connects waiver recipients with existing on campus supports and resources. The rationale being that greater utilization of these supports and services could contribute to increased academic success by waiver recipients. Lastly, DCYF expressed an interest in obtaining data from the CCSNH regarding tuition waiver recipients that have attended CCSNH schools.

A complete breakdown of the applicants and recipients of the Tuition Waiver Program for Foster and Adopted Children Program is available on pages 3-6 of this document.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any additional questions you may have regarding the status or implementation of this program.

Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Ribsam, Jr.
Director

Cc Representative Mary Stewart Guile
Beth Dorian, Community College System of NH
Kara-Lee Bean, University System of NH

Number of Students who applied for Waiver	Number of Students who received and used the Waiver	Number of students who did not receive the Waiver	Reasons for students to not receive the Waiver
2008 Spring Semester			
11	4	7	♦ 3 were no longer enrolled in college ♦ 2 had sufficient financial assistance from grants or scholarships ♦ 2 did not complete the Federal Financial Application for Student Assistance (FAFSA) as required by the Postsecondary Education Commission.
2008-2009 Fall/Spring Semesters			
34	13 (3 for Spring '09 Semester only.)	21	♦ 7 were no longer enrolled in college ♦ 9 had sufficient financial assistance from grants or scholarships ♦ 2 did not complete the Federal Financial Application for Student Assistance (FASFA)* ♦ 2 missed the deadline for completing the application ♦ 1 was already 23 at the time of application
2009-2010 Fall/Spring Semesters			
56	20	36	While a complete breakdown regarding those who did not receive the waiver is unavailable the majority of non-recipients were determined by the college to which they applied, to be missing required financial documentation.
2010-2011 Fall/Spring Semesters			
53	20*	33	The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Other reasons for a youth not to receive the waiver included being able to access adequate financial resources from other sources, opting not to attend college or not attend a NH state school or being determined by the college to which they applied, to be missing required financial documentation. *Two students dropped out of college after the semester started. These waiver slots will be filled for the spring of 2011 through an application process currently underway.

Number of Students who applied for Waiver	Number of Students who received and used the Waiver	Number of students who did not receive the Waiver	Reasons for students to not receive the Waiver
2011-2012 Fall/Spring Semesters			
38	20*	18	The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Other reasons for a youth not to receive the waiver included being able to access adequate financial resources from other sources or opting not to attend college or not attend a NH state school. *One student is scheduled to graduate in December of this year. This will create a waiver slot for the Spring semester that will be awarded to one of the 18 youth who had applied but did not receive a waiver.
2012-2013 Fall/Spring Semesters			
35	20*	15	The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Other reasons for a youth not to receive the waiver included being able to access adequate financial resources from other sources or opting not to attend college or not attend a NH state school. *One student is scheduled to graduate in December of this year and another student has dropped out. This has created two waiver slots for the Spring semester that will be awarded to one of the 15 youth who had applied but did not receive a waiver.
2013-2014 Fall/Spring Semesters			
38	20*	18	The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Other reasons for a youth not to receive the waiver included being able to access adequate financial resources from other sources or opting not to attend college or not attend a NH state school. *Three waiver recipients did not utilize the waiver either because they decided not to attend college or were not full time students, which is a requirement. The three slots were filled by selecting new recipients from a pool of alternate candidates.

Number of Students who applied for Waiver	Number of Students who received and used the Waiver	Number of students who did not receive the Waiver	Reasons for students to not receive the Waiver
2014-2015 Fall/Spring Semesters			
40	20*	20	The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Other reasons for a youth not to receive the waiver included being able to access adequate financial resources from other sources or opting not to attend college or not attend a NH state school. *Three waiver recipients did not utilize the waiver either because they decided not to attend college or were not full time students, which is a requirement. The three open slots were subsequently filled by other applicants.
2015-2016 Fall/Spring Semesters			
43	20*	23	The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Other reasons for a youth not to receive the waiver included being able to access adequate financial resources from other sources or opting not to attend college or not attend a NH state school. *Five waiver recipients did not utilize the waiver either because they decided not to attend college or were not full time students, which is a requirement. The five open slots were subsequently filled by other applicants.
2016-2017 Fall/Spring Semesters			
44	22*	22	The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Other reasons for a youth not to receive the waiver included being able to access adequate financial resources from other sources or opting not to attend college or not attend a NH state school. *Four students are splitting two waiver slots. This is due to one student graduating early and another student opting not to start college until the spring semester.

Number of Students who applied for Waiver	Number of Students who received and used the Waiver	Number of students who did not receive the Waiver	Reasons for students to not receive the Waiver
2017-2018 Fall/Spring Semesters			
53	21*	32	The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Other reasons for a youth not to receive the waiver included being able to access adequate financial resources from other sources, opting not to attend college or not attend a NH state school and the lack of additional waiver slots as the program is capped at 20 per year. *One student awarded the waiver choose not to attend school so that slot was filled by another student.
2018-2019 Fall/Spring Semesters			
42	20*	32	The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Other reasons for a youth not to receive the waiver included opting not to attend college or not attend a NH state school, being unable to attend full time, having been determined as not having made satisfactory academic progress by the college they previously attended and the lack of additional waiver slots as the program is capped at 20 per year. *Three students awarded the waiver dropped out of school and a fourth opted to enter the military instead. These open slots were subsequently filled by four other students.

Tuition Waiver Program outcomes for students attending schools in the Community College System of NH since 2012

Graduated/Certificate	5	9%
No longer enrolled/ did not graduate	34	66%
Still enrolled	13	25%
Total	**52**	**100%**