Lori A. Shibinette
Commissioner

Joseph E. Ribsam, Jr.
Director

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

129 PLEASANT STREET, CONCORD, NH 03301-3857
603-271-4451 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 4451
Fax: 603-271-4729 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964 www.dhhs.nh.gov

November 12, 2021

Representative Mark Pearson, Chairman
Health and Human Service Oversight Committee
Room 302, State House
Concord, NH 03301

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

Re: 2021 Annual Report on the RSA 187-A: 20-b, Tuition Waiver Program for Foster and Adopted Children

Dear Committee Members:

In 2007, through Senate Bill 168 (Chapter Laws 2007, 366:1) the tuition waiver program for foster and adopted children was established. This program is administered through the Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). As part of the program, DCYF is required to report on the status of the program annually to the Health and Human Services Oversight Committee and to the Children and Family Law Committee. Accordingly, please accept the following as DCYF's report on the 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 on behalf of the schools. The application process for this academic year started in October of 2021. The application is posted on both DCYF website and the websites of participating schools. The New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) Center for College Planning continues to be a resource for foster care youth, caregivers and DCYF who have questions about navigating the college admissions process including applications, and financial aid. NHHEAF met with youth and caregivers to provide support upon request.

For the 2021-22 academic year, there were forty-eight certified applicants for the tuition waiver program this year. By comparison there were forty-six in 2020 and thirty-seven in 2019. Fifteen waiver slots were awarded to the USNH and fifteen to the CCSNH. Two youth awarded to attend a CCSNH school opted not to attend college and had their slots filled by two other applicants.

DCYF and the USNH and Community College system have continued to maintain regular contact in support of the tuition waiver program. This has included both systems recording educational outcomes of waiver recipients that attended their institutions.

The chart below consists of the sixty-one tuition waiver recipients that attended a USNH school from 2012, the first year waiver applicants started giving written permission for their educational outcomes to be obtained, through the Fall of 2021. Sixty-one percent of waiver recipients have either graduated or continue to work towards graduation.

USNH

Graduated	20	33%
No longer enrolled/ did not graduate	24	39%
Still enrolled	12	20%
Newly enrolled	5	8%
Total	**61**	**100%**

The chart below consists of the eighty-five waiver recipients that attended a CCSNH school from 2012 through the Fall of 2021. Thirty-five percent of waiver recipients have either graduated or continue to work towards graduation.

CCSNH

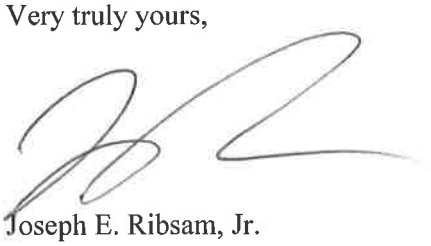
Graduated/Certificate	9	11%
No longer enrolled/ did not graduate	46	54%
Still enrolled	30	35%
Total	**85**	**100%**

DCYF has continued to explore ways to increase academic achievement among waiver recipients in order to raise graduation rates. DCYF has continued to meet with representatives from both college systems to explore ways to solidify the connection of DCYF youth to campus supports and resources. This included a survey of the CCSNH schools about their process when an applicant indicates on their FAFSA that they were in foster care at age 13 or older or that they are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. There has also been discussion around establishing a SPOC or single point of contact at each institution to act as the go to person for this population. Currently, River Valley Community College is the only college that has this position. DCYF recently hired a youth engagement specialist. This staff person will be an ongoing connection to waiver recipients as they navigate the college experience. They will also lead the coordination of efforts to improve overall outcomes for those participating in the tuition waiver program.

A complete breakdown of the applicants and recipients of the Tuition Waiver Program for Foster and Adopted Children Program is attached.

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.

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Cc Beth Dorian, Community College System of NH
Kara-Lee Bean, University System of NH

2021 Tuition Waiver Program Status Report

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 why students did 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 why students did 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 why students did 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 why students did 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*	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 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.
2019-2020 Fall/Spring Semesters			
37	30*	7	All applicants that attended a NH State school were able to receive a waiver slot due to the increase from twenty to thirty slots. The seven students who did not receive a waiver opted not to go to college or did not enroll full time which is a requirement. *Four students awarded the waiver dropped out of school, one opted to attend a private online school instead and one opted not to attend college.

Number of Students	Number of Students who	Number of students who	Reasons why students did not receive the Waiver

who applied for Waiver	received and used the Waiver	did not receive the Waiver	
2020-2021 Fall/Spring Semesters			
46	30*	16	The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Other reasons for applicants not receiving a waiver included opting not to attend college or not to attend a NH state school, having been determined as not making satisfactory academic progress, and the waiver slots being capped at 30 per year. *One applicant awarded the waiver opted not to attend school and that slot was filled by another applicant.
2021-2022 Fall/Spring Semesters			
48	30*	16	The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Other reasons for applicants not receiving a waiver included opting not to attend college or not to attend a NH state school, having sufficient resources through participation in the HOPE Extended Foster Care Program and/or receiving federal funds, determined as not making satisfactory academic progress, and the waiver slots being capped at 30 per year. *Two applicants awarded the waiver opted not to attend school and those slots were filled by two other applicants.