

March 12, 2025

The Honorable Aaron Michlewitz  
Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means  
State House, Room 243  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Michael Rodrigues  
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State House, Room 212  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Michlewitz and Chair Rodrigues:

As directed by line item [7100-4003](#) of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024, I am pleased to submit to you a report of the methodology used to distribute funds as appropriated by the Legislature through the Hunger Free Campus Pilot Program at the Commonwealth's state universities, community colleges, University of Massachusetts undergraduate campuses, and independent minority serving institutions.

The Department of Higher Education is committed to increasing the retention and completion of underrepresented student populations, particularly students of color, those from low-income households, and/or first-generation students. These FY25 grant awards focus on maximizing student enrollment in federal nutrition benefit programs, promoting on-campus grocers that accept nutrition benefit program benefits, increasing access to available meal cards and meal swipe options where feasible, maximizing student access to on-campus or area food pantries in collaboration with regional food banks, and supporting other campus-designed projects to address college student food insecurity that are developed through task forces that include students with lived experience in food insecurity.

I believe that the grants made through this program will advance the work of the Department to help promote success and completion for our state's students with the most needs. If you have any questions about the Hunger Free Campus Pilot Program grant, please feel free to contact Alex Demou, Director of Legislative and Trustee Relations for the Department of Higher Education, at [ademou@dhe.mass.edu](mailto:ademou@dhe.mass.edu).

Sincerely,

Noe Ortega, PhD  
Commissioner, Department of Higher Education

## RFP Process:

The Department of Higher Education issued a request for proposals, which was posted on COMMBUYS, on October 22, 2024. The agency used a funding formula based on the number of Pell-eligible students enrolled at each institution to determine the maximum budget each institution could request; colleges and universities with a greater percentage of Pell-eligible students receive a larger relative proportion of the pot.

Institutions had until November 6, 2024, to respond to the bid. Each response is reviewed to ensure that proposed budgets are aligned with the intent of the Hunger Free Campus Pilot Program line item. Subject to the receipt, review, and approval of proposals pursuant to the RFP process, the DHE anticipates issuing 31 awards across the 15 community colleges, nine state universities, four University of Massachusetts undergraduate campuses, and three minority serving institutions. Institutions were estimated to receive the ISA in December.

## ANTICIPATED AWARD AMOUNTS BY INSTITUTION\*

<b><i>Community Colleges</i></b>	<b><i>Funding</i></b>
Berkshire Community College	\$ 4,996.86
Bristol Community College	\$ 28,044.79
Bunker Hill Community College	\$ 35,748.44
Cape Cod Community College	\$ 7,927.88
Greenfield Community College	\$ 5,205.62
Holyoke Community College	\$ 12,864.94
MassBay Community College	\$ 11,286.55
Massasoit Community College	\$ 15,172.81
Middlesex Community College	\$ 17,912.07
Mt. Wachusett Community College	\$ 12,049.00
North Shore Community College	\$ 18,845.77
Northern Essex Community College	\$ 14,470.23
Quinsigamond Community College	\$ 25,563.18
Roxbury Community College	\$ 8,447.42
Springfield Technical Community College	\$ 18,580.58

<b><i>State University</i></b>	<b><i>Funding</i></b>
Bridgewater State University	\$ 26,355.09
Fitchburg State University	\$ 23,992.92
Framingham State University	\$ 16,793.41
Massachusetts College of Art and Design	\$ 4,360.59
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	\$ 3,989.07

Massachusetts Maritime Academy	\$ 1,849.89
Salem State University	\$ 20,592.11
Westfield State University	\$ 12,838.20
Worcester State University	\$ 15,718.95

<b><i>Minority Serving Institutions</i></b>	<b><i>Funding</i></b>
Urban College of Boston	\$ 2,198.32
Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology	\$ 2,643.85
Cambridge College	\$ 11,024.58

<b><i>University of Massachusetts Campuses</i></b>	<b><i>Funding</i></b>
UMass Amherst	\$ 37,533.48
UMass Boston	\$ 37,611.96
UMass Dartmouth	\$ 14,958.04
UMass Lowell	\$ 25,423.44

\*Awards are subject to the completion of the RFP process and confirming each institution's eligibility and compliance with RFP requirements.