

# Educational Opportunity Program

## Eligibility Information

The New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund/Program (EOF/EOP) provides financial assistance and support services (e.g. counseling, tutoring, and developmental course work) to students from educationally and economically disadvantaged backgrounds who attend institutions of higher education in the State of New Jersey. Undergraduate grants range from \$200 annually to \$2,750 annually depending on the type of institution and financial need. These grants are renewable based upon continued eligibility.

Forty-one of New Jersey's community colleges and public and private four-year colleges and universities participate in EOF/EOP. However, the actual number of available spaces at each college or university is limited. Because EOF/EOP is a campus-based program, each campus is responsible for student recruitment, selection, program services, and its own specific criteria for EOF/EOP admission and program participation.



### Academic Year 2022-2023 Gross Income must fall within the criteria shown:

Applicants with a Household Size of:	Gross Income Not to Exceed
1	\$25,760
2	\$34,840
3	\$43,920
4	\$53,000
5	\$62,080
6	\$71,160
7	\$80,240
8	\$89,320
***	Add \$9,080 for each additional family member

## Undergraduate Eligibility:

- Must demonstrate an economically and educationally disadvantaged background
- Must be a New Jersey resident for 12 consecutive months prior to receiving the award
- Must apply and be accepted to a participating New Jersey college or university,
- Must meet the academic criteria as set by the institution of choice
- Must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)





## History of the Educational Opportunity Fund/Program

In November 1967, in the aftermath of the previous summer's riots in Newark, New Jersey's newly-appointed Chancellor of Higher Education, Ralph A. Dungan, directed a memorandum to the presidents of all of the state's institutions of higher education. In it, he outlined a proposed program of special assistance to young men and women from economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. The presidents' response was immediate, widespread, and overwhelmingly favorable. Enthusiasm was particularly marked at those institutions that were participating in the federally supported Upward Bound Program, which sought to help high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds prepare for entry into college.

The following February, the Select Commission on Civil Disorders (the Lilly Commission, established in response to the events in Newark) made its report to Governor Richard Hughes, who subsequently submitted his Moral Recommitment message to the New Jersey State Legislature. The message called for the establishment of a broad range of programs to address the basic conditions the Commission had cited as contributing to the summer's unrest. Among those programs was the Educational Opportunity Fund/Program, established by legislation sponsored by then - freshman legislator Thomas Kean.

EOP set the pace for many initiatives which today are widely incorporated into college life. Among the many powerful strategies implemented by EOP are precollege articulation, basic skills testing and remediation, systematic retention efforts, peer counseling and peer tutoring, academic support courses, multicultural curricula and human relations programming, student leadership development, and outcomes-based program evaluation.

EOP has also been a leader and a linchpin in the higher education system's effort to increase diversity. While participation is not limited to minority students, EOP sponsors more than one-third of the African American and Latino students at the state colleges and New Jersey's independent institutions, and over one-quarter of the African American and Latino students enrolled at New Jersey colleges and universities participate in EOP. The program enrolls about 12.5% of the first-time, full-time New Jersey freshmen who enter the state's colleges and universities each fall.