



Governor Cooper is working to make North Carolina a Top 10 Educated state by 2025. That includes increasing the number of North Carolinians with a higher education degree from 38% to 55%. Governor Cooper and other North Carolina leaders are also committed to the goal of ensuring that 2 million working-age North Carolinians have a degree or credential beyond high school by 2030. His NC GROW plan helps meet both goals.

In his most recent budget, Governor Cooper proposes \$45 million for NC GROW (Getting Ready for Opportunities in the Workforce), a new scholarship and financial aid program to help people get community college degrees and training necessary to enter high-demand, high-wage jobs.

NC GROW offers two types of assistance to students: scholarships for students pursuing degrees at community colleges, and aid for community college students seeking shorter-term job credentials. NC GROW is a key part of [NC Job Ready](#), Governor Cooper's initiative to prepare North Carolinians for the jobs of today and tomorrow and connect employers with the skilled workers they need to grow and succeed.

### **What is the NC GROW Scholarship Program?**

The NC GROW Scholarship program invests \$30 million in scholarships to cover tuition and selected fees for North Carolina community college students enrolled in curriculum programs leading to degrees in fields with employer demand and competitive wages. This is a "last-dollar" scholarship, meaning funds will cover financial need remaining after state and federal aid has been utilized. The program will be administered by the State Board of Community Colleges and the State Education Assistance Authority and will launch in the 2020-21 academic year.

### **What is the NC GROW Aid for Students Seeking Industry Credentials Program?**

The NC GROW Aid for Students Seeking Industry Credentials program invests \$15 million over two years for financial aid up to \$1,000 per community college student to pursue non-credit, short-term workforce credentials in high-demand fields. The program will be administered by the State Board of Community College and begins the Spring Semester of the 2019-2020 academic year.

### **Which Programs are Eligible for NC GROW?**

The State Board of Community Colleges will determine which programs are eligible for NC GROW in collaboration with the North Carolina Department of Commerce. High-demand fields such as Architecture and Construction, Information Technology, Health Sciences, Electrical Line Worker, and Manufacturing will be included.

### **How is NC GROW Funded?**

NC GROW is funded by receipts from the NC Job Ready Fund, sourced from restructuring unemployment insurance taxes to lower taxes paid by businesses while realizing new revenue to invest directly into worker training – the top need shared by businesses in North Carolina and across the globe.