

(G) (1) ~~THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE FUNDS IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE COMMISSION AND THE DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROGRAM FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.~~

(2) TO THE EXTENT THAT FUNDS ARE PROVIDED, THE STATE SHALL PROVIDE 50 PERCENT OF THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND ONE-ON-ONE MENTORING COMPONENTS OF THE PROGRAM, EXCEPT THAT IN A COUNTY THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF A "QUALIFIED DISTRESSED COUNTY" UNDER ARTICLE 83A, § 5-1501(A)(8) OF THE CODE THE STATE SHALL PROVIDE 75 PERCENT OF THE COSTS.

(H) THE COMMISSION AND THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

18-304.

(a) (1) [The Administration] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 18-307 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE OFFICE shall determine the amount of each Educational Excellence Award based on the financial need of the applicant.

(2) In determining the amount of financial need, the [Administration] OFFICE shall consider regional cost-of-living differences.

(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an Educational Excellence Award may be awarded in \$100 increments and the award for a single year may not be less than \$400 or more than \$3,000.

(2) (i) All applicants who fulfill the requirements established in § 18-303(b) and (c) of this subtitle shall receive a Guaranteed Access Grant.

(ii) The amount of a Guaranteed Access Grant shall be equal to 100 percent of the student's financial need as determined by the [State Scholarship Administration] OFFICE, not to exceed the equivalent annual expenses of a full-time resident undergraduate at the University of Maryland, College Park.

18-305.

(a) An Educational Excellence Award may be used:

(1) At a degree granting institution of higher education, an eligible institution with an associate degree program that provides transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate program, or a hospital diploma school for training registered nurses if the curriculum is approved by the Commission; and

(2) For educational expenses as defined by the Commission, including:

(i) Tuition and fees; and

(ii) Room and board.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, an Educational Excellence Award may be used at a school in another state if: