



Quick Reference Guide

Participant Eligibility Criteria

Parental Status	Parent or caretaker relative of a minor child who is living in the household
Income	At or below 225% FPL for Family Unit size. FPL's are found here: https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines
Assets	\$10,000 or less in countable assets
Age	16 through 64
Residency	Maine Resident
Citizenship	U.S. Citizen or Qualifying Non-Citizen
TANF/PaS	No member of the family can be receiving a TANF or PaS benefit
Previous Education	Must lack a Marketable Bachelor's Degree
Enrollment Status	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Must be accepted to or already enrolled in a post-secondary education program that meets HOPE Program requirements below. 2. Less than half-time enrollment needs to be approved by the HOPE Program.
Satisfactory Progress	Must be making and maintain satisfactory progress in the training or education program
Maximum Enrollment	800 student limit. There is a waitlist for students who are denied because the program is full.

Program of Study Eligibility Criteria

Program Type	<p>Eligible program types include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Short-term occupational training programs 2. Certificate programs 3. Associate degree programs 4. Bachelor's degree programs
Institution	<p>The institution providing the program must meet the requirements below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Must be accredited, recognized by trade or industry associations as preparing individuals for their desired occupation, or endorsed by a group of employers to address a skill gap. 2. Private and for-profit institutions need HOPE Program approval 3. Out-of-state institutions need HOPE Program approval
Online Programs	Programs entirely online need HOPE Program approval
Remedial Programs	Remedial programs must be necessary for enrollment in the training or education program the student is pursuing
Adequate Job Outlook	<p>The program must be in a field or industry that will lead to a job with an adequate job outlook. Adequate job outlook refers to jobs with <u>an annual opening rate of 10% or more</u> or a <u>high-wage, in-demand job</u> as reported by the Center for Workforce Research and Information (CWRI). A student in a program that does not meet this requirement should contact HOPE to discuss their job because it may still qualify. To locate the CWRI Job Outlook list:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Follow this link: https://www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/ 2. Click the green "Job Outlook" button 3. Locate the "Annual Openings Rate" column or the "High-Wage, In-Demand" list

Support Services

Support Service	Limit	Period
Tuition and <i>Mandatory Fees</i> (Current)	\$6,000	Annual**
Tuition and <i>Mandatory Fees</i> (Prior)	\$1,500	Lifetime
Child Care	Office of Child and Family Services Market Rate Cap	Weekly*
Transportation	\$140	Weekly*
Books and Supplies Tools and Equipment	\$2,000	Annual**
Technology and Software	\$500	Lifetime
Internet	\$50	Monthly
Vehicle Inspection Vehicle Registration Vehicle Repair	\$1,000 Total	Annual**
Vehicle Insurance	\$600	Annual**
Corrective Eyewear	\$200	Annual**
Dental Care	\$2,000	Lifetime
Other Supports	\$500	Annual**

*The weekly period is Sunday to Saturday

**The annual period is January 1st to December 31st

NOTES:

- Maximum amounts are not guaranteed to be approved. Based on unmet need, HOPE approves the least expensive support that is accessible and of acceptable quality
- Before any support can be paid, enrollment and satisfactory progress need to be verified
- Proof of appropriate use of funds is always required.

HOPE Program Contact Information

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Prepared by the Maine Department of Health
and Human Services-Office for Family
Independence

Revised 6/27/23