FISCAL SNAPSHOT

MILEAP ADMINISTERED STATE FINANCIAL AID OVERVIEW

Date: March 2026 **Analysts: Perry Zielak and Noel Benson**

Summary

The Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP) administers state financial aid programs through the MI Student Aid, in the Office of Higher Education. While financial aid *administration* funding is appropriated in MiLEAP, financial aid *program* funding is appropriated in different budgets. This Snapshot provides an overview of financial aid programs administered by MiLEAP, funding sources and amounts, and the purpose of each financial aid program. Additional financial aid program information can be found at the MI Student Aid website.

Michigan Achievement Scholarships

- **Program Appropriation Location:** Higher Education
- **FY 2025-26 Appropriation:** $300.0 million Gross ($100.0 million GF/GP)
- **Purpose:** Provides a combination of first-dollar (applied before other financial aid) and last-dollar (applied after other financial aid) awards to 2023 or later high school graduates with financial need at independent colleges and public universities (up to $5,500 per year). Students attending community colleges or tribal schools receive Community College Guarantee: last-dollar scholarship covering up to in-district tuition and fees. Pell-eligible community college students receive an additional award of $1,000 per year.

Tuition Incentive Program

- **Program Appropriation Location:** Higher Education
- **FY 2025-26 Appropriation:** $122.3 million GF/GP
- **Purpose:** Provides last-dollar tuition assistance towards an associate degree or certificate program for students who were Medicaid-eligible for 24 months in a 36-month period and complete high school, and scholarships ($500 per semester, $2,000 lifetime maximum) for participants continuing toward a baccalaureate.

Michigan Reconnect

- **Program Appropriation Location:** Higher Education
- **FY 2025-26 Appropriation:** $42.0 million GF/GP
- **Purpose:** Provides last-dollar scholarships awarded to students aged 25 or older (temporarily expanded to include 21–24 year-olds) to complete an associate degree or skills-based certificate.

Tuition Grant Program

- **Program Appropriation Location:** Higher Education
- **FY 2025-26 Appropriation:** $50.0 million GF/GP one-time funding (with Competitive Scholarships)
- **Purpose:** Provides need-based awards to students attending independent colleges. FY 2025-26 awards of $3,000, with total awards at individual universities capped at $5.0 million. New students are not eligible for awards due to the Michigan Achievement Scholarship. Budget provides one-time funding paired with Michigan Competitive Scholarships that has work project authorization until FY 2028-29.

Michigan Competitive Scholarships

- **Program Appropriation Location:** Higher Education
- **FY 2025-26 Appropriation:** $50.0 million GF/GP one-time funding (with Tuition Grants)
- **Purpose:** Provides awards to students with qualifying SAT score and financial need. FY 2025-26 award is $1,500. 2024 PA 233 amended program to phase out awards due to the Michigan Achievement Scholarship. One-time funding has work project authorization until FY 2028-29.

North American Indian Tuition Waiver Program

- **Program Appropriation Location:** Higher Education and Community Colleges
- **FY 2025-26 Appropriation:** $14.5 million GF/GP (Higher Education), $1.4 million School Aid Fund (Community Colleges)
- **Purpose:** Waives tuition costs for eligible Native American students attending a Michigan community college, public university, or tribal college.

MI GEAR UP

- **Program Appropriation Location:** Higher Education
- **FY 2025-26 Appropriation:** $3.2 million Federal
- **Purpose:** Provides federally funded awards targeted to students in urban school districts who have been nominated and have completed the MI GEAR UP program. Awards may be up to $2,000 for two years with a $4,000 lifetime maximum.

Children of Veterans and Officer's Survivor Tuition Grant Programs

- **Program Appropriation Location:** Higher Education
- **FY 2025-26 Appropriation:** $2.0 million GF/GP
- **Purpose:** Provides grants to children of deceased or disabled veterans and children and surviving spouses of police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty. Veteran tuition grant awards are up to $2,800 per year for four years; Officer's Survivor program is a last-dollar waived tuition grant.

Dual Enrollment

- **Program Appropriation Location:** MiLEAP
- **FY 2025-26 Appropriation:** $3.5 million GF/GP one-time funding
- **Purpose:** Allows current non-public high school students to take college courses while enrolled in high school that counts as college credits and towards high school graduation requirements. Public school student funding is administered through local districts and the School Aid budget.

Fostering Futures Scholarship

- **Program Appropriation Location:** Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- **FY 2025-26 Appropriation:** $750,000 Gross ($150,000 GF/GP)
- **Purpose:** Provides need-based grants to students who have been or currently are in foster care during or after age 13. Awards are up to a maximum of $3,000 per year and cover tuition, fees, room and board, and books. Appropriation can be supplemented by charitable donations.

MI Future Educator Fellowship

- **Program Appropriation Location:** School Aid
- **FY 2025-26 Appropriation:** $25.0 million Gross ($5.0 million GF/GP)
- **Purpose:** Provides a fellowship to offset tuition costs for students pursuing initial teacher certification and who agree to work in a Michigan public school for 3-5 years.

MI Future Educator Stipend

- **Program Appropriation Location:** School Aid
- **FY 2025-26 Appropriation:** $50.0 million restricted
- **Purpose:** Provides pay for students during student teaching semester for up to $9,600 per semester.