



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

Whereas, New York State recognizes that higher education furthers the intellectual, creative, and innovative development of students which, in turn, strengthens our state and our nation, and benefits our whole society; and

Whereas, everyone in New York State deserves the opportunity of a higher education through which they can earn a post-secondary degree that allows them to achieve personal goals and meaningful employment; and

Whereas, potential students and current attendees of higher education institutions should be aware and informed of the various resources of financial aid available to them, including federal PELL grants, the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), the Excelsior Scholarship, and other valuable scholarships and loan forgiveness programs; and

Whereas, each year, financial aid programs provide assistance to aspiring students of all socioeconomic backgrounds and help forge paths to higher education for hundreds of thousands of underserved New York State students who might not otherwise attend; and

Whereas, the process of completing financial aid applications is a critical step in securing college funding, and New York State is committed to increasing awareness and understanding of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or the DREAM Act application for undocumented or non-citizen students, and the New York State Application for TAP; and

Whereas, the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) helps ensure that college is accessible and affordable for students in every region of the state, and provides resources, guidance, and support for college financial planning; and

Whereas, additional information and assistance with financial aid is available to students through public and private sector partners that advocate for higher education opportunities—the City University of New York (CUNY), the State University of New York (SUNY), the New York State Education Department, the Commission on Independent Colleges & Universities, and the Association of Private Colleges—all of which make valuable resources of support available to students, both on-campus and online; and

Whereas, New York State's generous investments in student financial aid support more than two dozen grant, scholarship, and loan forgiveness programs, and has helped over 176,000 New York State residents attend SUNY and CUNY tuition-free in Academic Year 2023-24, including Excelsior and other combined awards, with 52% at SUNY state-operated campuses and 67% at CUNY senior colleges; in the same academic year, more than 65,000 students at private universities, colleges, and business schools received TAP awards; and

Whereas, teaching financial aid awareness is a collaborative effort that involves schools, communities, and organizations partnering to provide students with the tools they need to achieve educational success, and New Yorkers join in the observance of Financial Aid Awareness Month to support the higher education of all students and to remind them that financial assistance is available in helping them seek invaluable educational and professional opportunities;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as

## FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this seventh day  
of April in the year two thousand twenty-five.

*Kathy Hochul*  
Governor

*Karen Persichilli Keogh*

Secretary to the Governor  
Karen Persichilli Keogh