

By Mr. Lambert of Fall River, petition of Edward M. Lambert, Jr., and Christopher J. Hodgkins relative to the establishment of a community scholarship foundation demonstration project within the Higher Education Coordinating Council. Education, Arts and Humanities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Four.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO A COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of the community scholarship
2 foundation demonstration project is to provide one-time two
3 thousand dollar state-funded matching awards as an incentive to
4 Massachusetts community scholarship foundations to raise
5 money and award scholarships to community residents who wish
6 to pursue higher education. The community scholarship
7 foundation demonstration project encourages community
8 organizations to generate local dollars to complement efforts
9 funded by the state.

1 SECTION 2. As used in this act the following words shall,
2 unless the context requires otherwise, have the following
3 meanings:

4 "Council", the higher education coordinating council.

5 "Community scholarship foundation", a nonprofit,
6 community-based organization recognized as tax exempt under
7 section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, formed
8 in part or in full for the purpose of providing higher education
9 scholarships for local residents.

10 "Institution", a degree-granting college or university in this state
11 that is certified as an eligible institution for student aid programs

12 under Title IV Part B, of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as
13 amended, but only for undergraduate programs.

14 “Matching award”, the state-appropriated funding for one-time
15 two thousand dollar grants available to selected eligible
16 community scholarship foundations that raise at least two
17 thousand dollars for student scholarships.

1 SECTION 3. The higher education coordinating council is
2 charged with the administration of community scholarship
3 foundation demonstration projects designed to prepare and assist
4 persons to obtain a higher education in this state.

5 The community scholarship foundation matching award is a
6 one-time two thousand dollar grant based on available funding.

7 To be eligible to apply for a matching award, a community
8 organization must meet the following conditions:

9 (i) Establish a community scholarship foundation demonstra-
10 tion project and, after June 30, 1992, raise at least two thousand
11 dollars for student scholarships;

12 (ii) Obtain and maintain tax exempt status under section 501-
13 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for the fund
14 supporting the student scholarship demonstration project;

15 (iii) Award student scholarships without regard to age, sex,
16 marital status, race, creed, color, religion, national origin or the
17 presence of any mental, sensory or physical disability; and

18 (iv) Have not previously received a matching award from the
19 demonstration project authorized by this act.

1 SECTION 4. Community organizations that meet eligibility
2 criteria under section three of this act shall be considered for
3 selection after they complete an application for the matching
4 award on a form provided by the higher education coordinating
5 council. Said organizations shall be selected for a matching award,
6 during the community scholarship foundation demonstration
7 project period, in the following priority order:

8 1. Organizations that after June 30, 1992, begin a demonstra-
9 tion project, establish a nonprofit, community scholarship
10 foundation recognized as tax exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of
11 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and raise two thousand
12 dollars to be used for student scholarships.

13 2. Organizations that have had prior scholarship programs but
14 reorganize after June 30, 1992, to meet the eligibility criteria of
15 the demonstration project and raise two thousand dollars to be
16 used for student scholarships.

17 3. Organizations that had scholarship programs and met the
18 eligibility criteria of the demonstration project prior to June 30,
19 1992, and raise an additional two thousand dollars for student
20 scholarships after June 30, 1992.

21 4. Organizations that:

22 a. Solicit broad-based community support in their fund-raising
23 activities and are representative of the community in their
24 structure;

25 b. Conduct fund-raising activities with volunteers and not with
26 paid or contracted fund-raisers; and

27 c. Have a primary focus of awarding scholarships to
28 Massachusetts residents attending Massachusetts institutions of
29 higher education.

30 The higher education coordinating council shall disburse
31 matching awards of two thousand dollars to the selected
32 community scholarship foundations.

1 SECTION 5. Community organizations shall submit, on a
2 form provided by the higher education coordinating council
3 reports of scholarships awarded from their two thousand dollar
4 contribution and the two thousand dollar matching award.
5 Reporting information shall include, but is not limited to, the
6 names and addresses of the recipients, scholarship amounts and
7 the institution the recipient plans to attend.

1 SECTION 6. The community scholarship foundation demon-
2 stration project period shall end June 30, 1994.

1 SECTION 7. In addition to and not in lieu of any other
2 appropriation, there is appropriated to the higher education
3 coordinating council for the two year period ending June 30, 1994,
4 out of the General Fund, the amount of \$100,000 for the purpose
5 of carrying out the provisions of this act.

