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Hagerstown Community College  
Student Financial Assistance Report (SFAR)  
Academic Year 2023-2024  
February 2025

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## Introduction

This report is a summary of financial assistance for HCC credit and non-credit students. Credit student financial assistance consists of Federal grants and loans, State grants, HCC Foundation scholarships, community and institutional scholarships, campus employment, third-party billing, tuition discounting, and miscellaneous sources. WSCE non-credit financial assistance consists of HCC Foundation Scholarships and State funding.

The list below includes the key offices that are responsible for data submission:

### **Student Financial Aid Office**

The Student Financial Aid Office is a student services office that provides services to credit seeking students. The office provides individual counseling on all aspects of financial aid paperwork from start to finish, loan default services, and college financial literacy. Financial Aid is available through grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study.

### **Human Resources**

The Office of Human Resources is responsible for the full-cycle recruitment and hiring of employees; new hire orientation; compensation and benefits administration; human resources policy development, communication and interpretation; support staff development; performance management, compliant resolution and grievance proceedings; employee relations; employee training and professional development; and legal compliance with all federal, state and local regulations.

### **College Advancement**

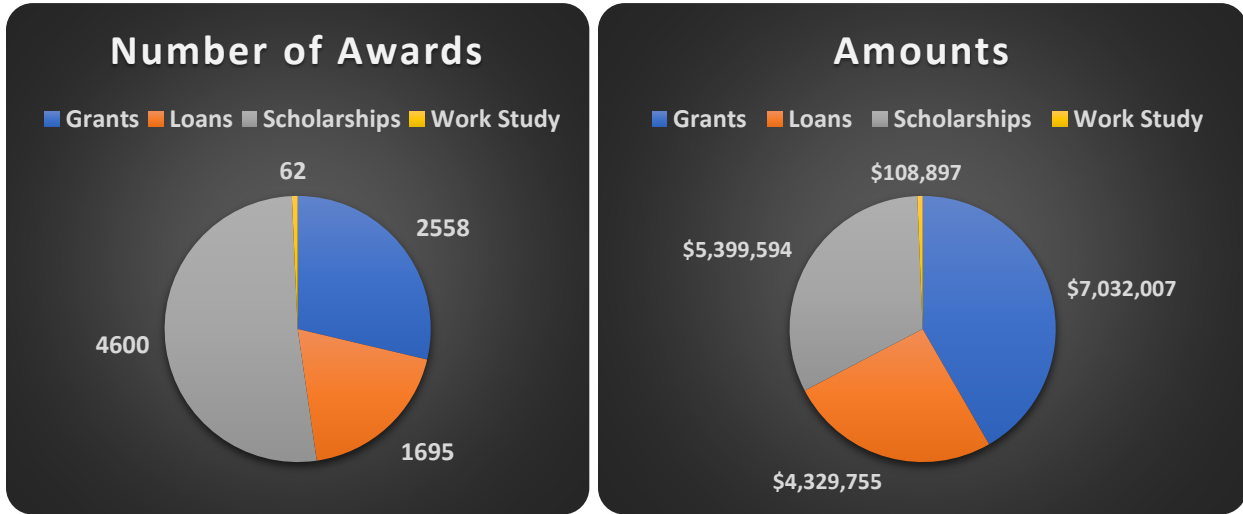
The Office of College Advancement (CA) plans and conducts fund raising activities of the College, researches and disseminates information regarding grant opportunities to primarily pursue student and athletic scholarships and other funding opportunities as they may arise, oversees the campus volunteer program, and coordinates and conducts activities of the HCC Foundation, Alumni Association, HCC Booster Leadership Group, the Campus Volunteer Corps, and Grants Development.

### **Finance**

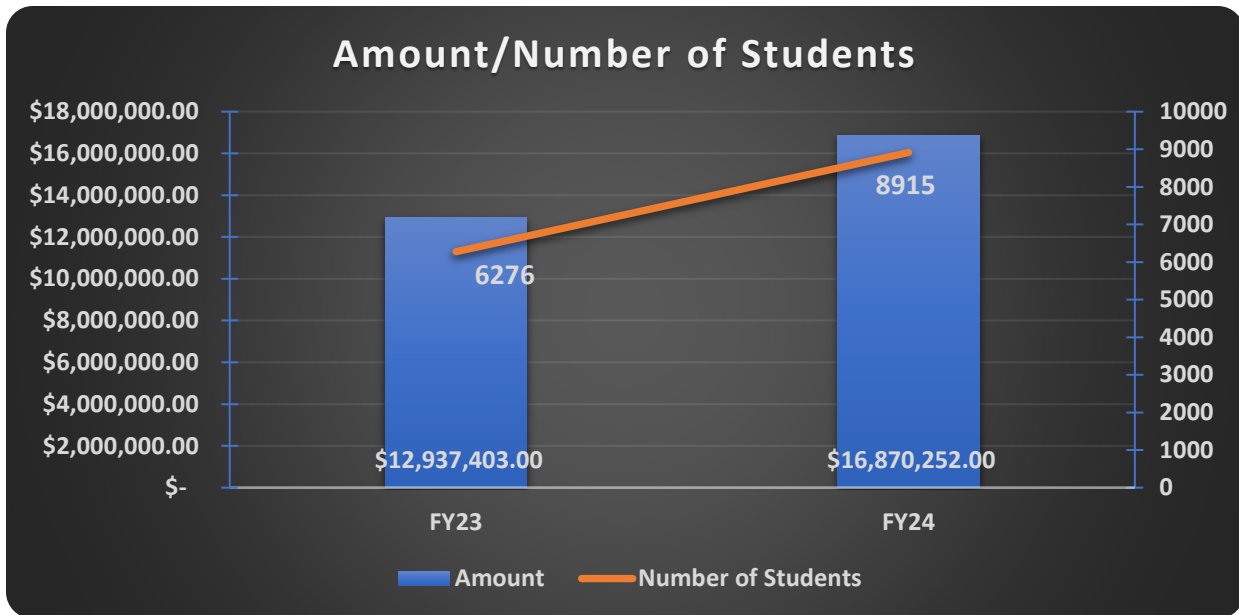
The Finance and Accounting Office oversees the College's business and financial affairs, as well as grants accounting. Primary functions include: general ledger maintenance, accounts payable, accounts receivable, cashing, and cash/investment management.

## Student Financial Aid

In 2023-2024, Hagerstown Community College provided \$16.8 million in student financial support through the use of Federal Aid, State Aid, Institutional Aid, and Private Sources. The charts below detail the specific amount of aid provided to students (2023-2024):



The amount of financial support for students increased compared to last year as seen below:

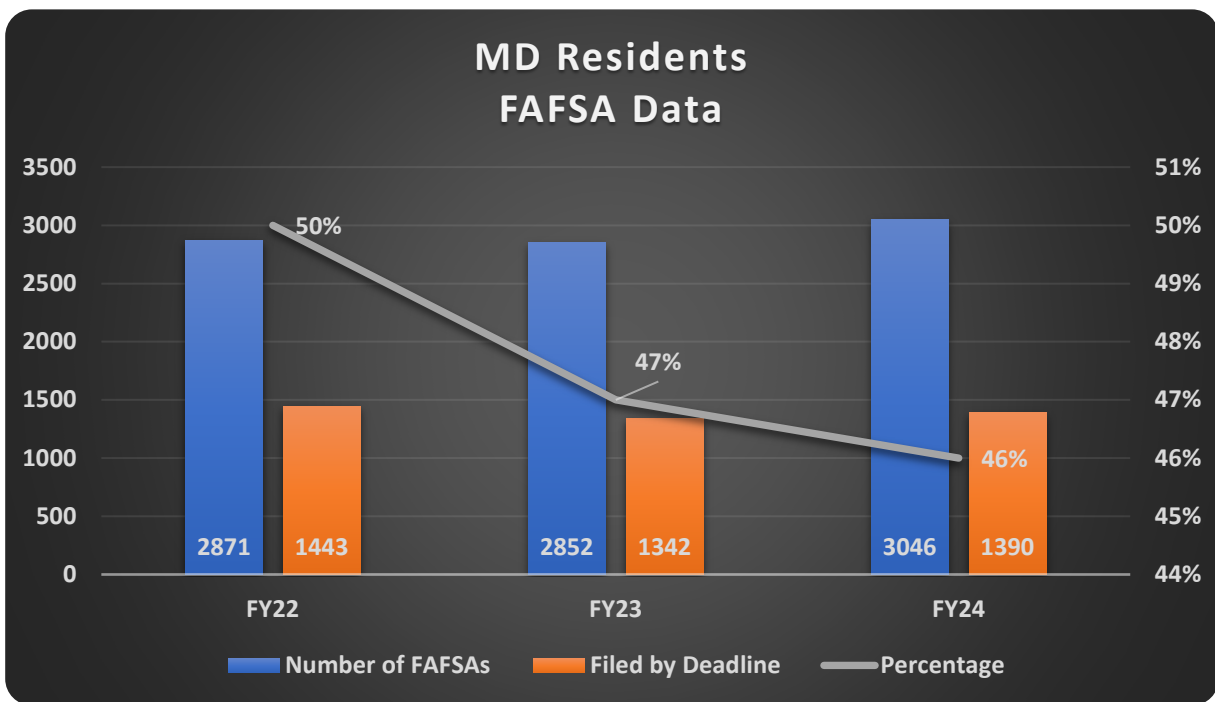


\*Note: Did not include FY22 due to having HEERF funding\*

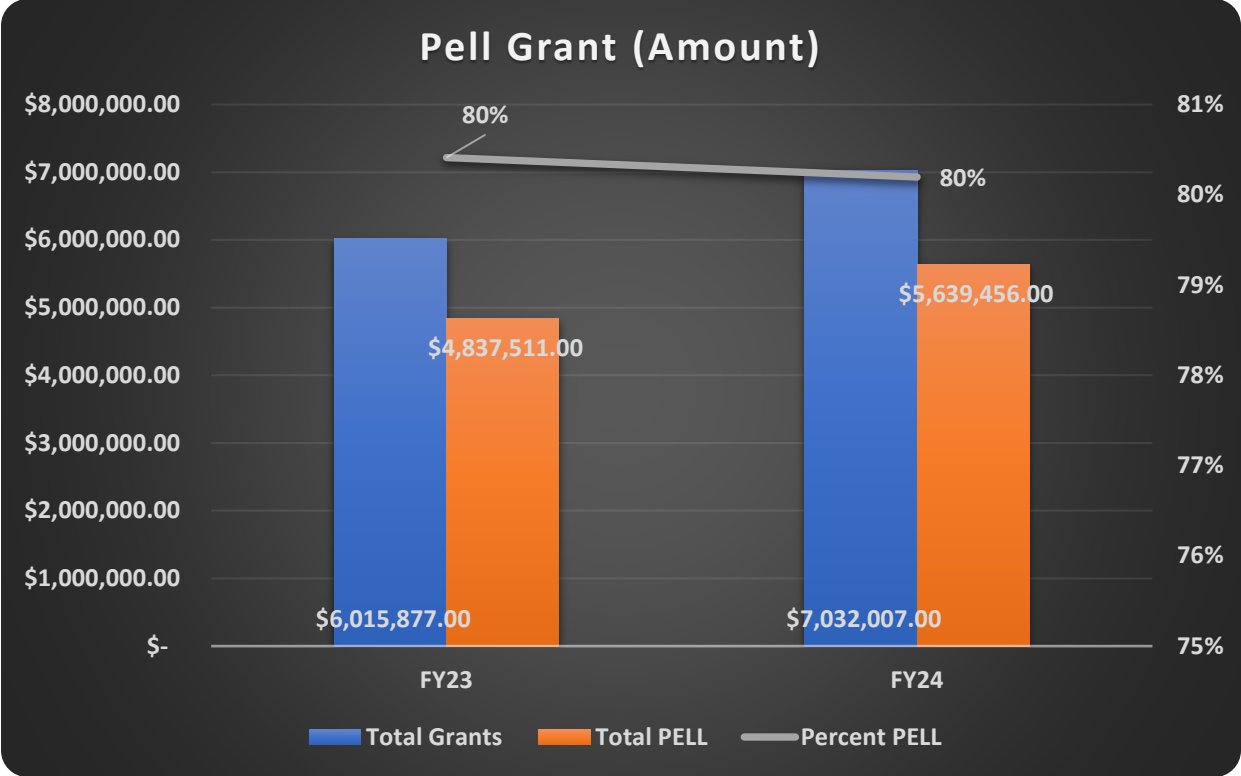
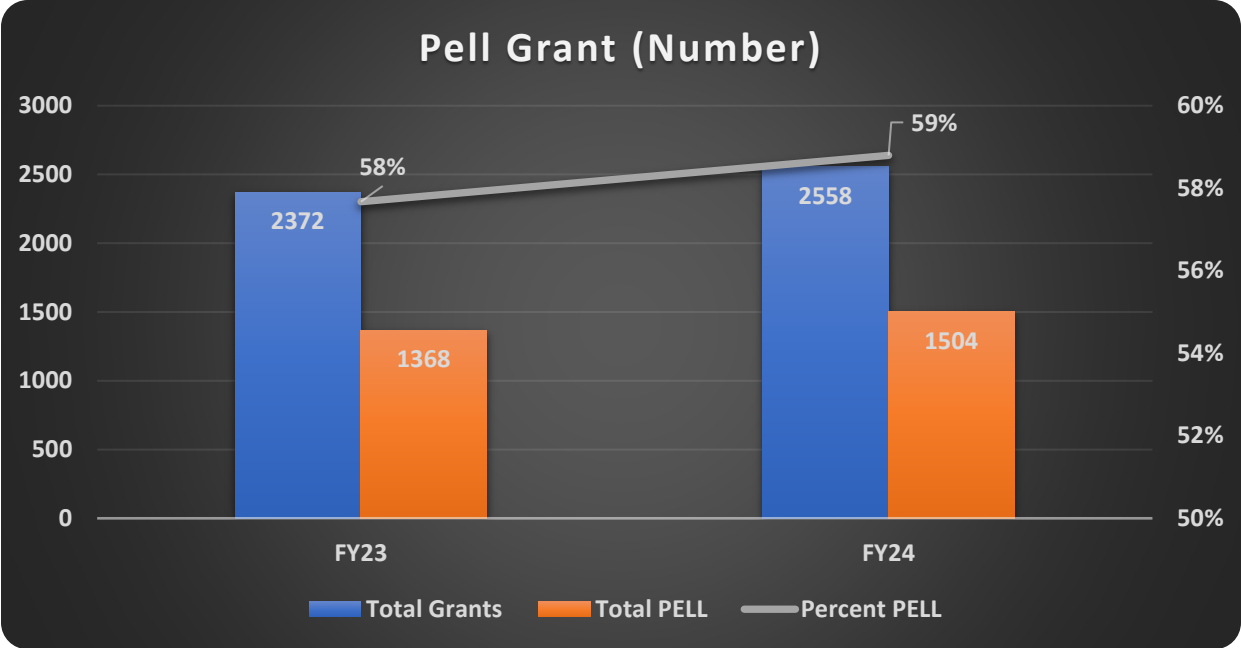
For FY24, the following amounts were including in the \$16,870,252:

EC Charges to LEAs (Tuition, Fees)	\$ 3,062,904.00
EC Discounts	\$ 968,469.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,031,373.00</b>

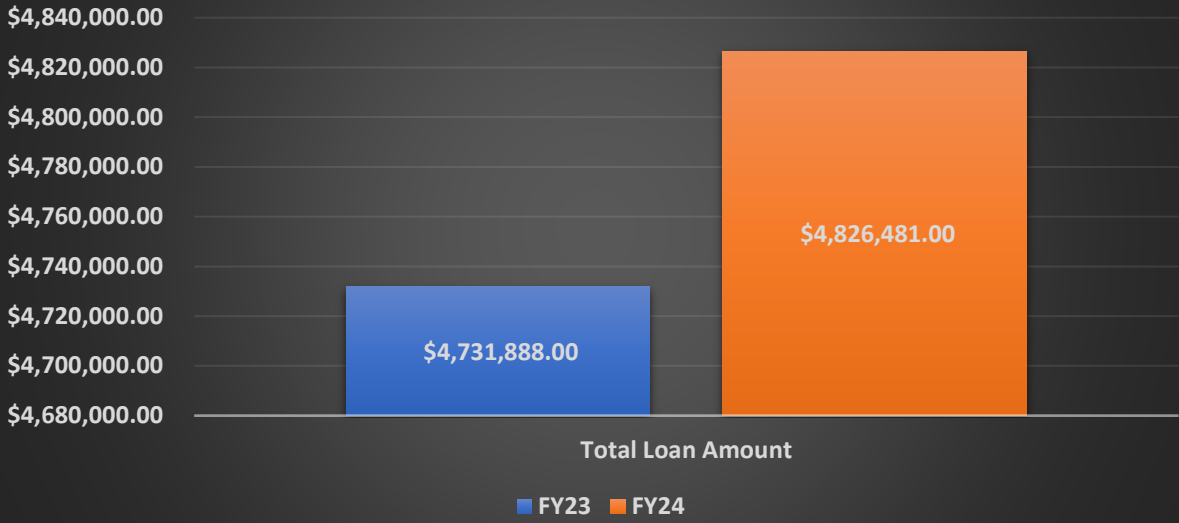
One number that SFAO, as well as Admissions, would like to increase is the number of FAFSA submitted by students who are Maryland residents. We are hoping that there will be an increase in Maryland residents that file by the deadline due to State aid eligibility and MD Promise. The chart below shows the last three years of FAFSA data for Maryland residents:



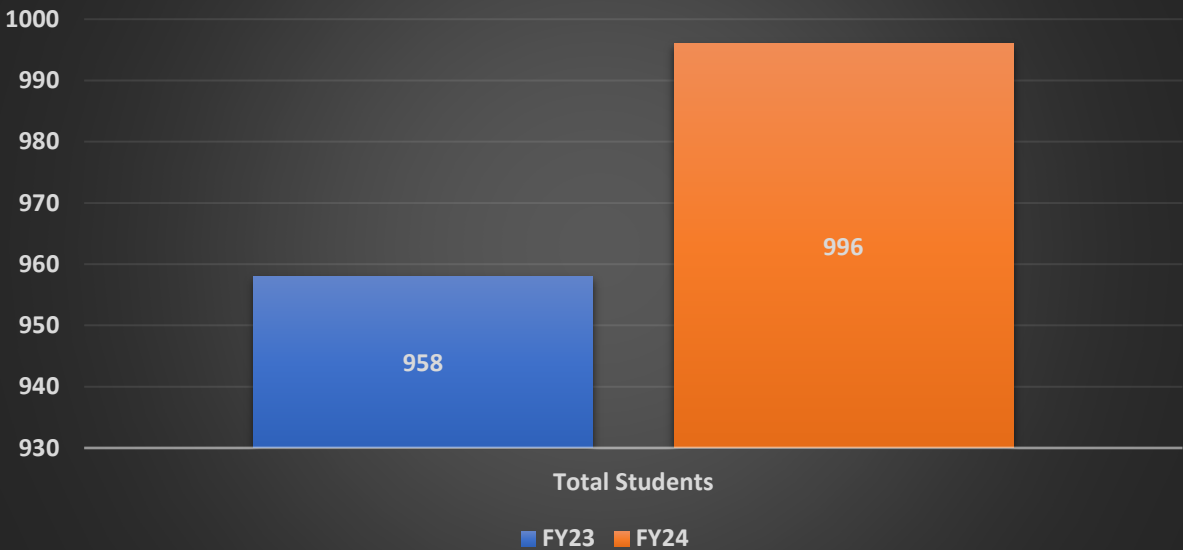
If the number of students who file the FAFSA increases, it should, in theory, increase our students receiving financial aid. Based on our current FAFSA submissions for FY22 and FY23, the chart below shows our overall Pell grant population and student loan debt. Ideally, with the change from the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to the Student Aid Index (SAI) for FY25, we may see a change in the Pell and loan numbers.



### Total Loan Amount



### Total Students w/loans



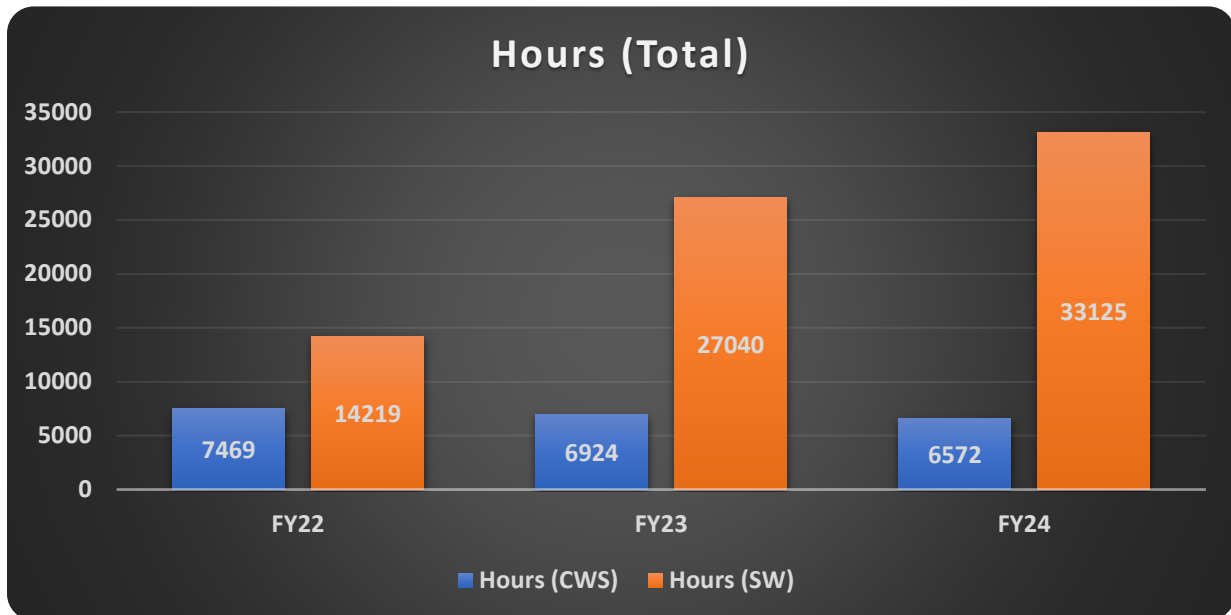
## Student Workers

Financial assistance for Hagerstown Community College students may come in the form of on-campus employment. Both students and the College benefit from hiring student workers. Employed students receive financial assistance in the form of wages earned and the college benefits from an extended work force.

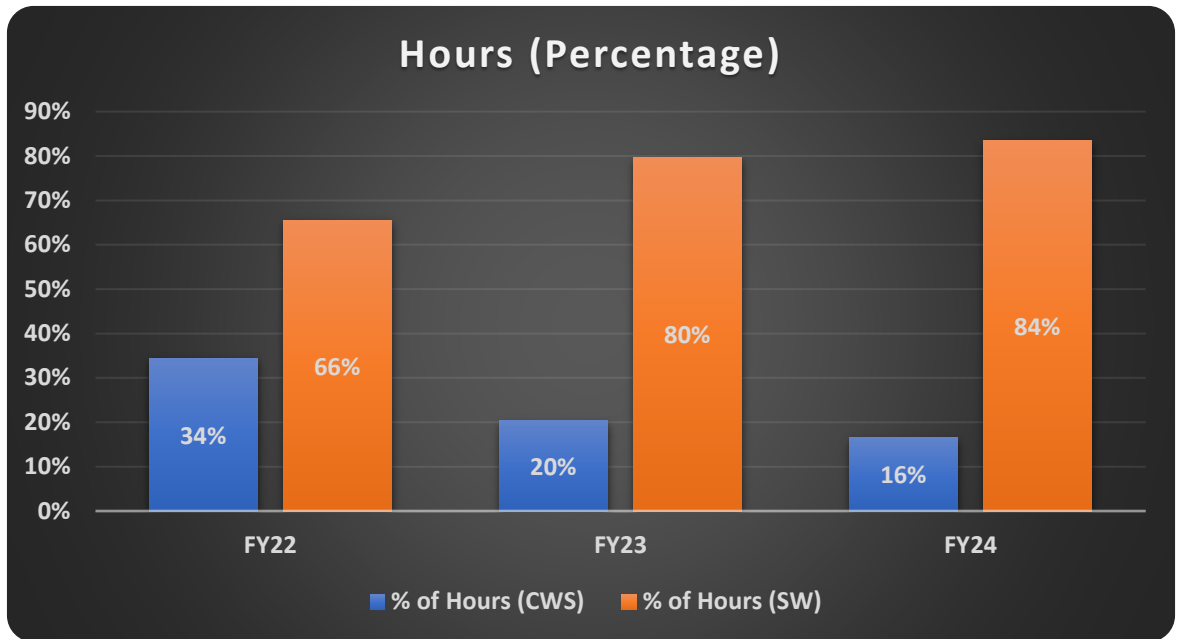
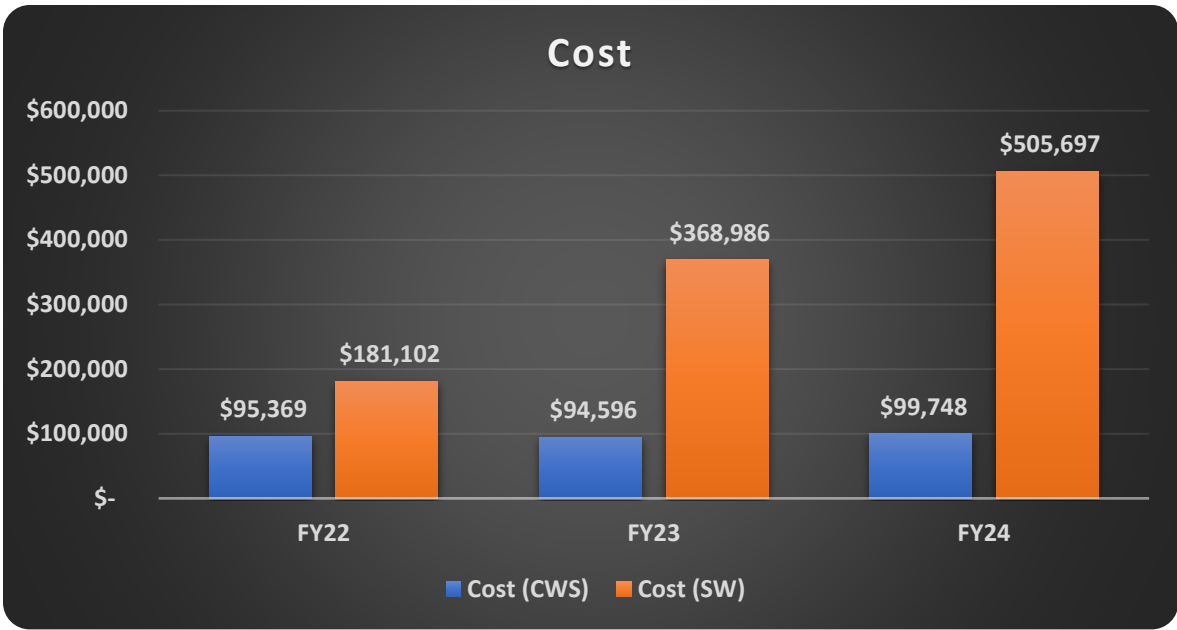
There are two main categories of student employees: College Work-Study (CWS) and Student Workers. Eligible students receive work-study funds as part of their need-based financial aid award package awarded primarily through the federal government. Student Workers are funded by the College institutional budget. Among FY24 cost for student workers across HCC (\$605,444.37), 16.48% was reimbursed through the Federal College Work Study program (\$99,747.69.)

FY24 represents the eighteenth year of allocating student workers through a centralized process based on institutional priorities. Student worker hours are requested during the unit planning process.

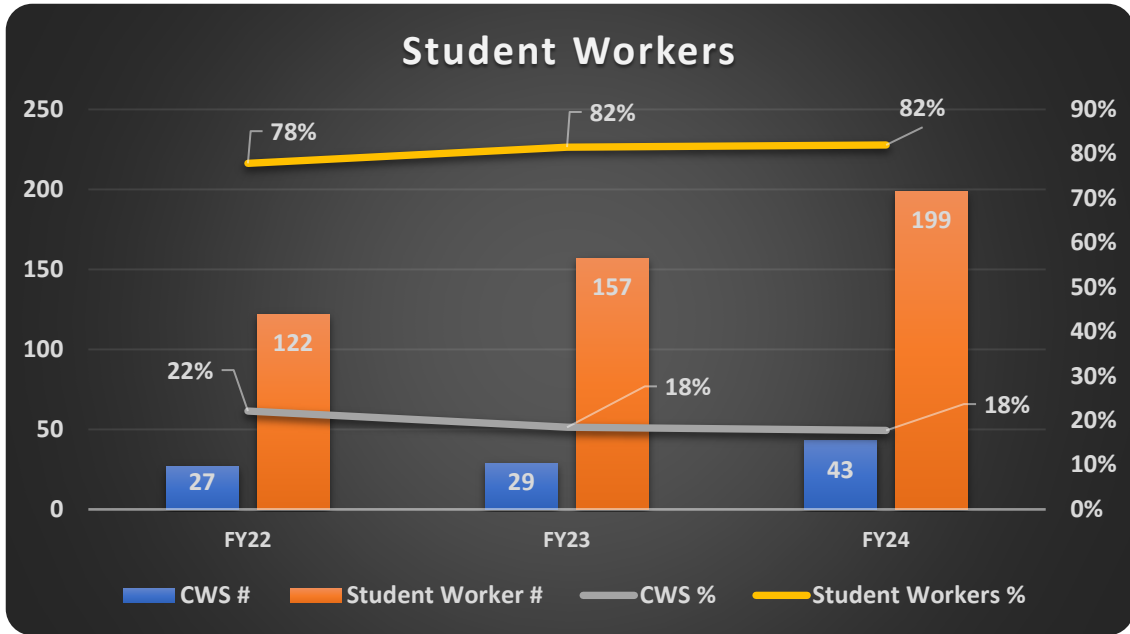
The following charts illustrate the growth from FY22 to FY24:







The following chart illustrates the number of CWS students in FY24 compared to FY22 and FY23.

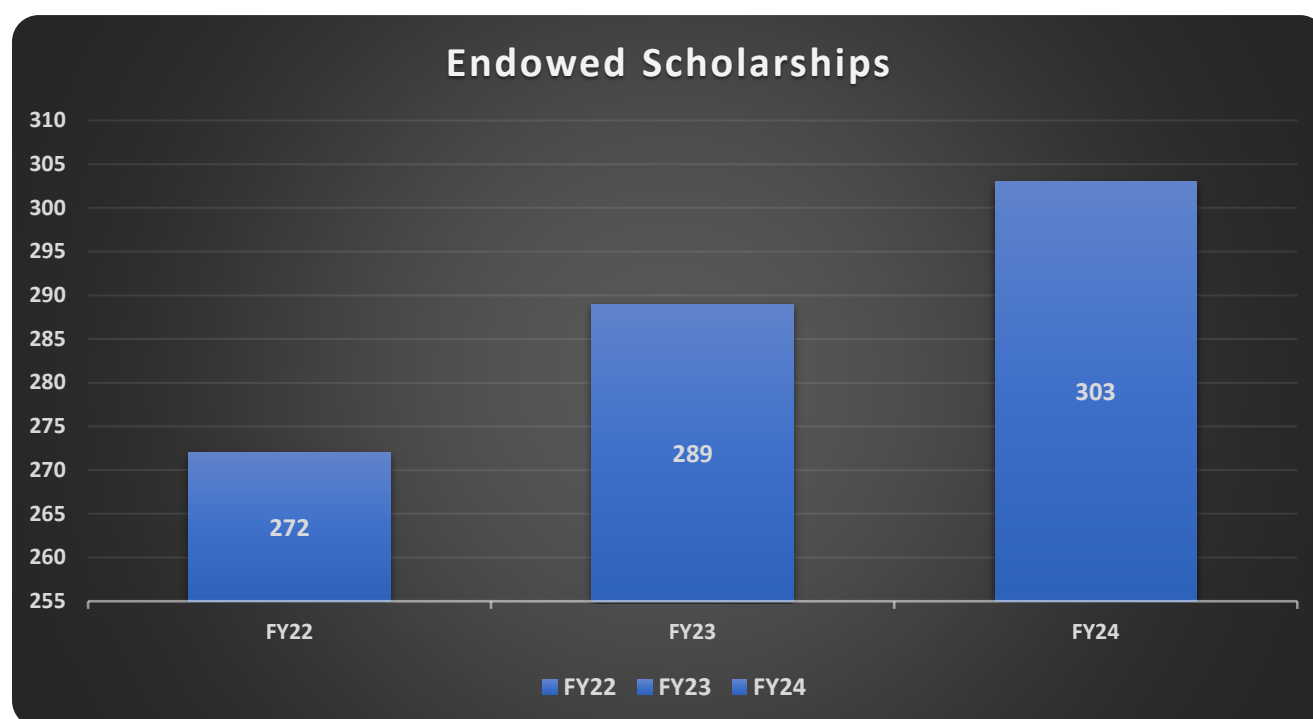


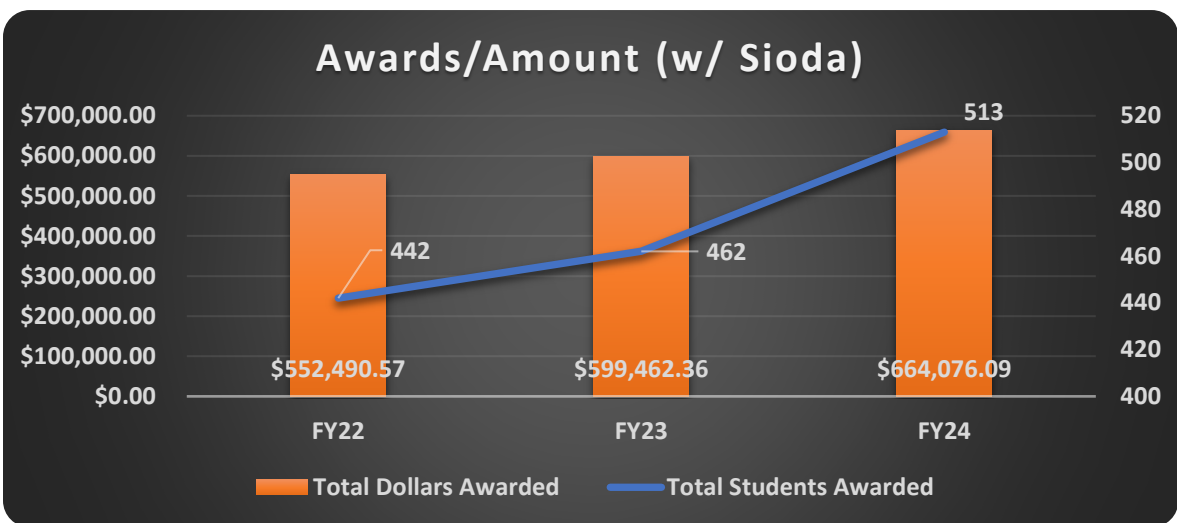
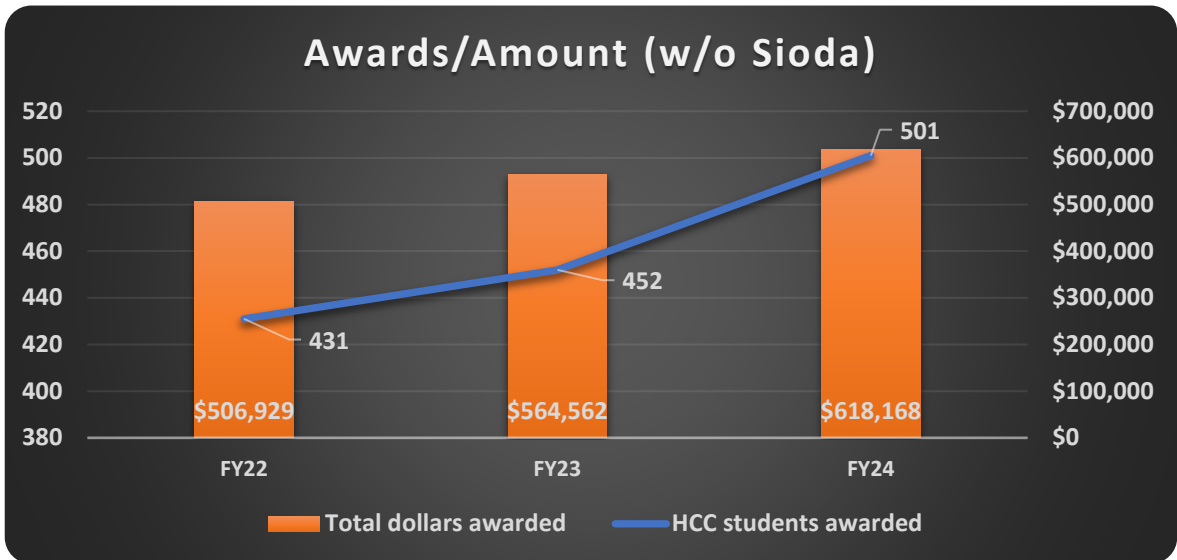
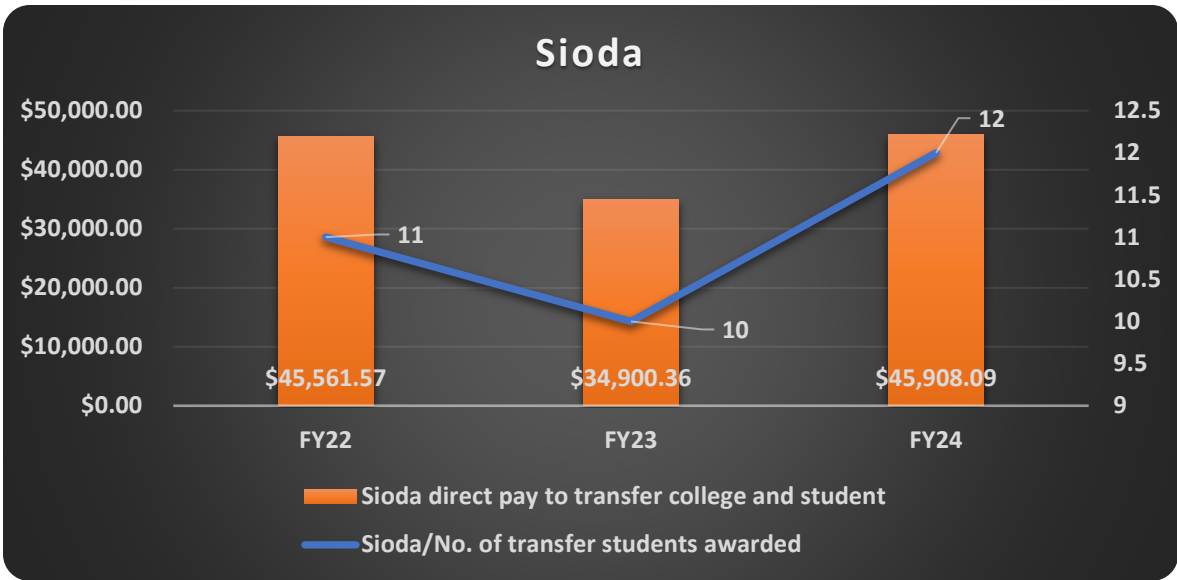
In conclusion, the student worker system appears to be working well and meeting student and institutional needs. As we look at the FY24 figures compared to FY22 and FY23, note that HCC is continuing to build our Student Workforce back from the reduction of hours during COVID-19 in FY21.

## Foundation Scholarships

The HCC Foundation awards financial assistance to students enrolled in credit or workforce development programs. Foundation Scholarship awards include Foundation General (Students enrolled for less than six (6) credit hours, do not receive financial assistance from the Foundation); Named; Faculty/Foundation Scholarship for Academic Excellence (“Merit”); Booster Club; the Career Program Achievers (CPA) Program (formerly JTSR) (\$9,000/annually); Adult Literacy Services (ALS) (\$9,000 annually); Discretionary (\$7,500/annually to the Director of Student Financial Aid to be used at their discretion to assist students with a financial need), and Phi Theta Kappa (\$10,000 annually). Please note that the data below includes Sioda Scholarship funding; a portion of these scholarship dollars goes to HCC alumni studying at four-year colleges and graduate programs.

The HCC Foundation continues to offer scholarships for students enrolled in the Early College Access Program (formerly ESSENCE) as well as the Early College Degree Program (formerly Middle College). The Foundation’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary “Gem for Generations” scholarship campaign was incredibly successful. With the completion of many new scholarship pledges, the number of endowed scholarships has continued to increase annually. Specifically, from FY22 to FY24, the number has grown from 272 to 303.





## Sponsor Billing, Tuition Discounting, Waivers

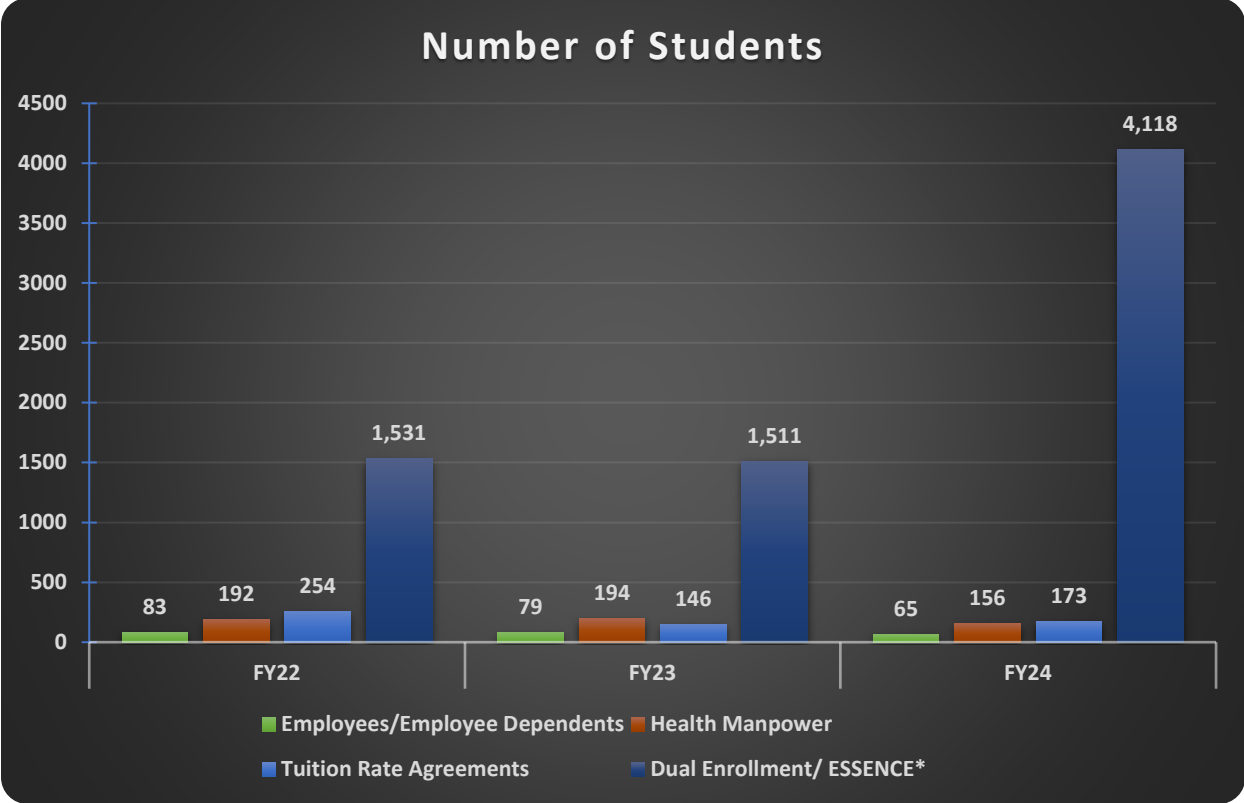
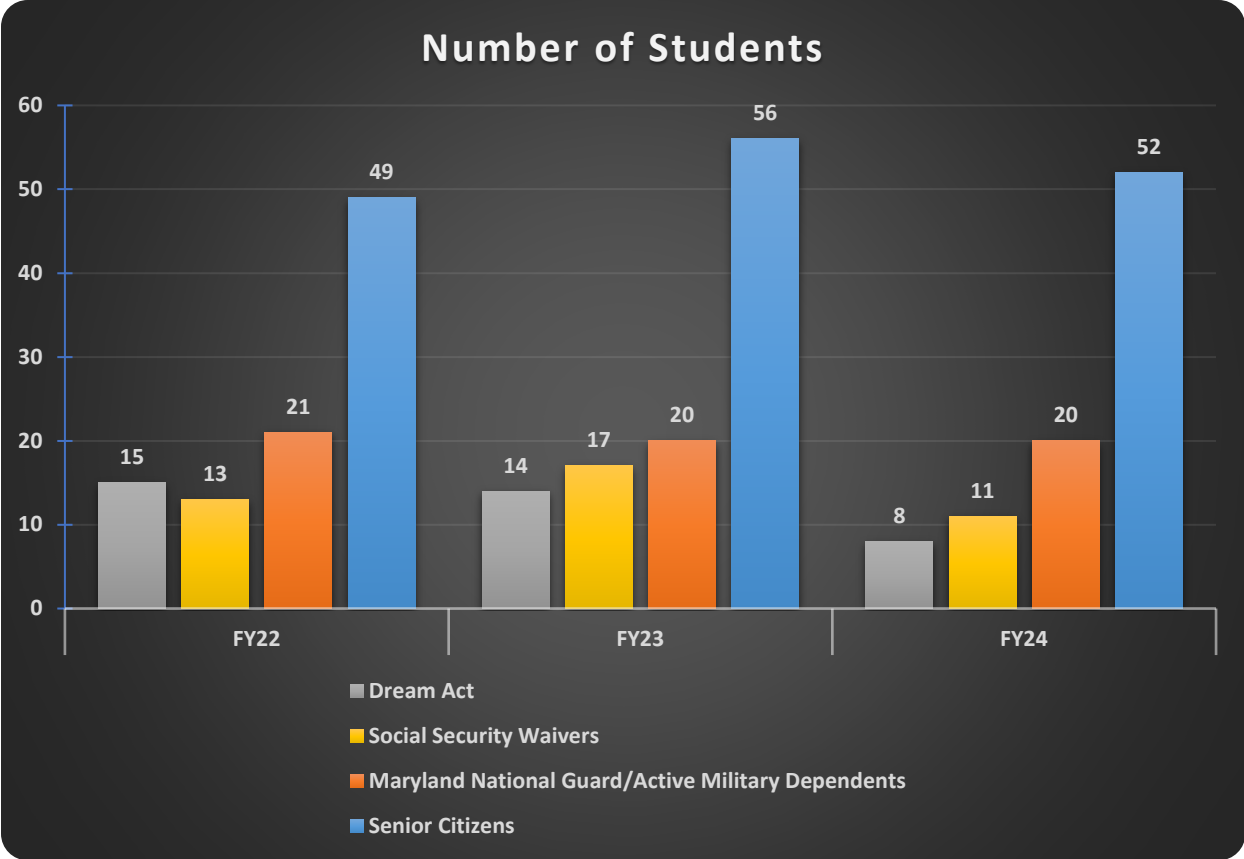
Sponsor billings, tuition discounts, and waivers account for a substantial portion of student financial support. Sponsor billings are those in which someone other than the student is financially responsible. This includes Tuition Rate Agreements (TRA) in which Out-of-County and Out-of-State students who work for in-county employers are charged at the In-County rate; some of these bills are paid by employers as part of their employee tuition reimbursement programs. Other third parties include Veterans Affairs, Vocational Rehabilitation, Workforce Investment Act, National Guard, and other military branches.

As a result of the College and Career Readiness and Completion Act of 2013 – Senate Bill 740, HCC and Washington County Public Schools (WCPS) developed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in which HCC has acted as the billing agent for WCPS ESSENCE students and HCC was allowed to keep the reduced tuition and fees received from these students/parents. While HCC continues to operate the ESSENCE program (renamed in 2022-2023 to “Early College”) in conjunction with SB 740 provisions, the 2022-2023 implementation of Maryland Blueprint resulted in WCPS’ full funding of ESSENCE/Early College classes, more than doubling the tuition discounting for ESSENCE/Early College students from \$424,363 to \$907,797. This figure ballooned to \$3,729,841 in FY24. It was not until the Fall 2022 semester that it was realized that WCPS would pay 100% tuition costs of WCPS ESSENCE/ Early College students (students remained responsible for fees). During the Spring 2023 semester, WCPS paid 100% of their student tuition and fee costs. Since “who should pay” for ESSENCE/Early College tuition and fees remained unclear across the state in 2022-2023, the roll-out of this specific tuition discount was slow. This tuition discount amount will substantially increase in 2023-2024 given the full implementation and marketing of Maryland Blueprint in the months leading up to the Fall 2023 semester. WCPS is also now paying course material costs. The 25% discount for ESSENCE/Early College students has remained stable.

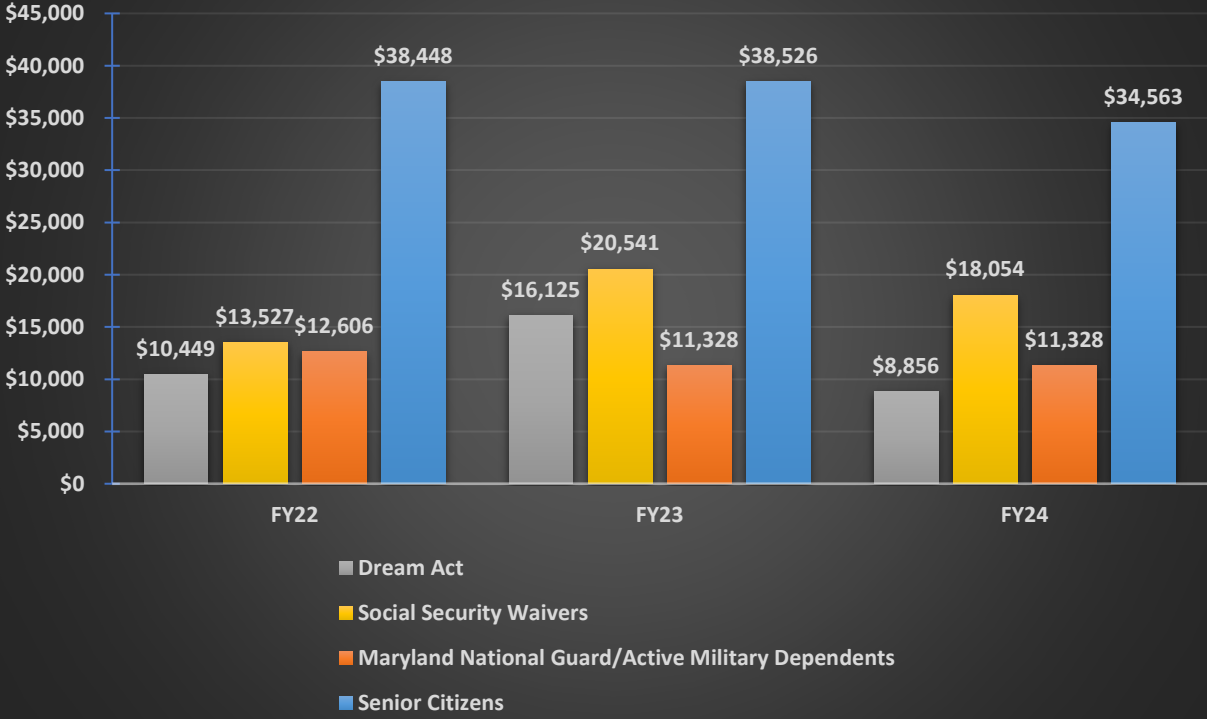
The Neighbor State Rate (NSR) continues to be a significant financial benefit to students and is helpful in attracting students from neighboring states. In addition to the information on the following chart, 1,509 students benefitted from the NSR in FY 24 resulting in \$221,200 in discounted tuition.

The data on the following charts summarize the number of students benefitting from sponsor billing, tuition discounting, and waiver programs currently in place at HCC. The number of students may include duplicates since many students take courses in multiple semesters. From fiscal year 2022 to 2024 it is demonstrated that the number of students receiving tuition discounts increased approximately 113% while the dollar amount of discounts increased by approximately 335%. The implementation of the Maryland Blueprint contributed to the significant increase.

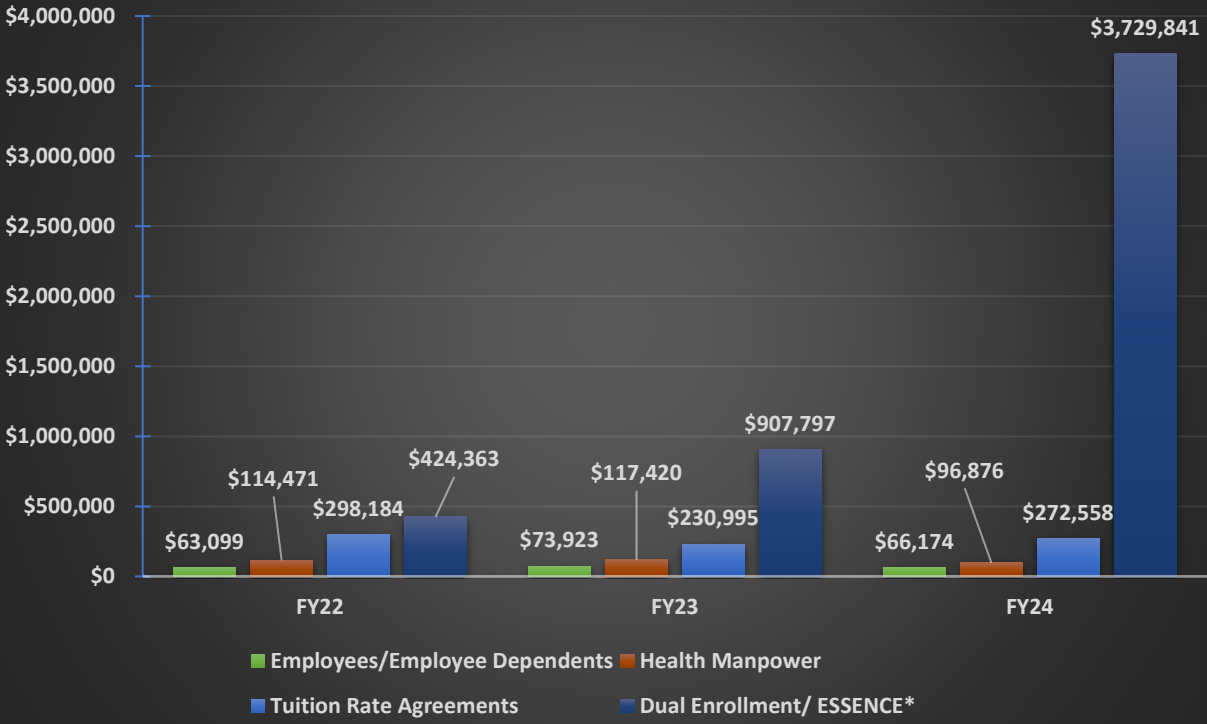
The charts below show the total number of students with discounts and the total amount of discounts (there are multiple charts due to number of discounts):



### Amounts

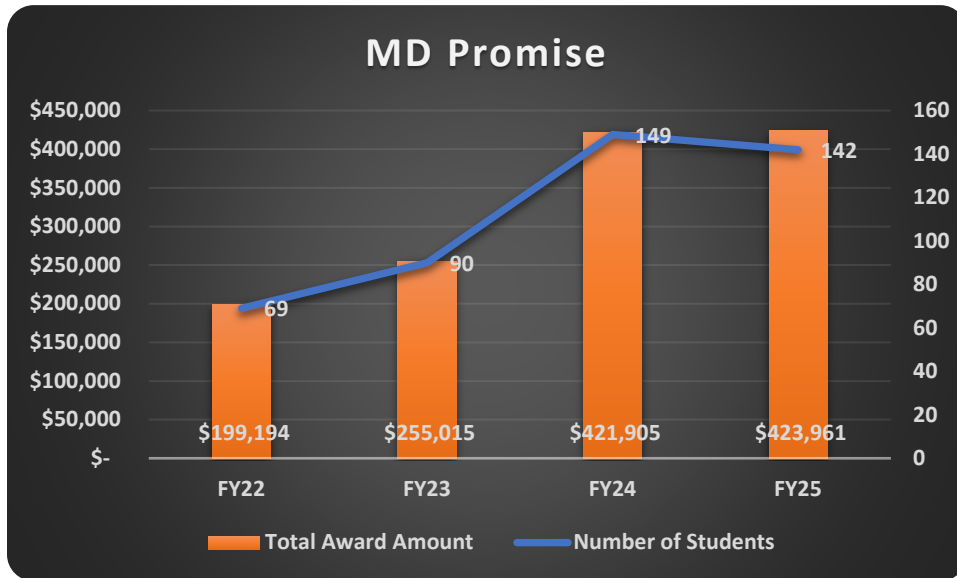


### Amounts



\*The tuition discount amounts include amounts billed to Washington County Public Schools, the SB 740 discount amount, the Maryland Part-Time Grant used for Early College, and the College’s opportunity fund scholarships to these students.

## Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship



HCC continues to do extensive outreach to students who could be potentially eligible for Maryland Promise. The outreach begins in January (reminder to file FAFSA by March 1) and continues to enrollment (must be enrolled for 12 or more credits). Despite institutional efforts, MHEC oversight of this program and the strict March 1<sup>st</sup> FAFSA deadline continue to pose challenges. Although this was a challenge for the past years, the state-wide decentralization of the Maryland Promise program will begin with aid for 2024-2025. It is anticipated that HCC will receive an individual allocation of state-wide Promise dollars to award to eligible HCC students. This move will allow HCC the opportunity to directly communicate with, award and notify students earlier of the Promise award and it is anticipated that more eligible students will follow through on the application process.

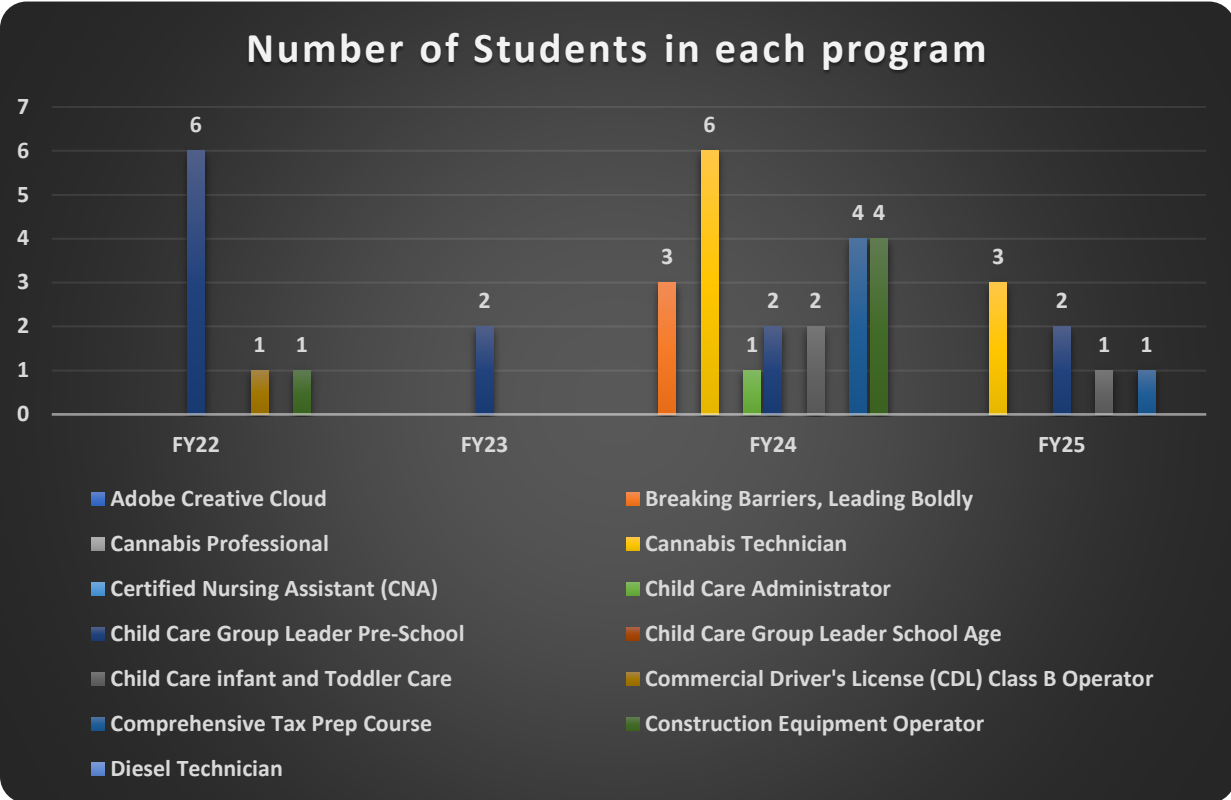
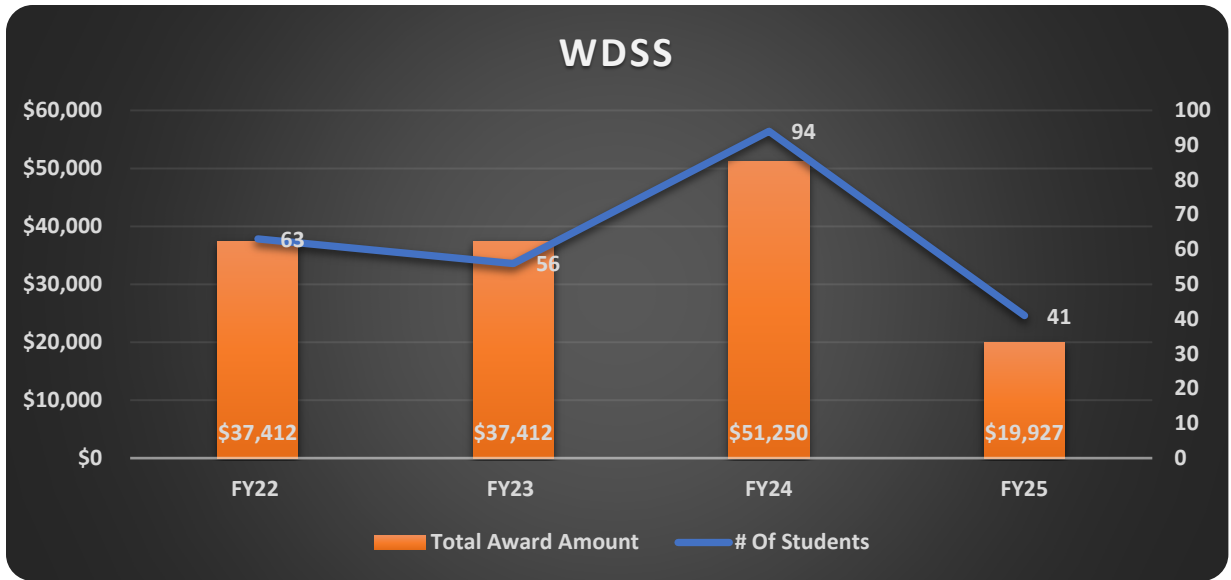


## Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship (WDSS)

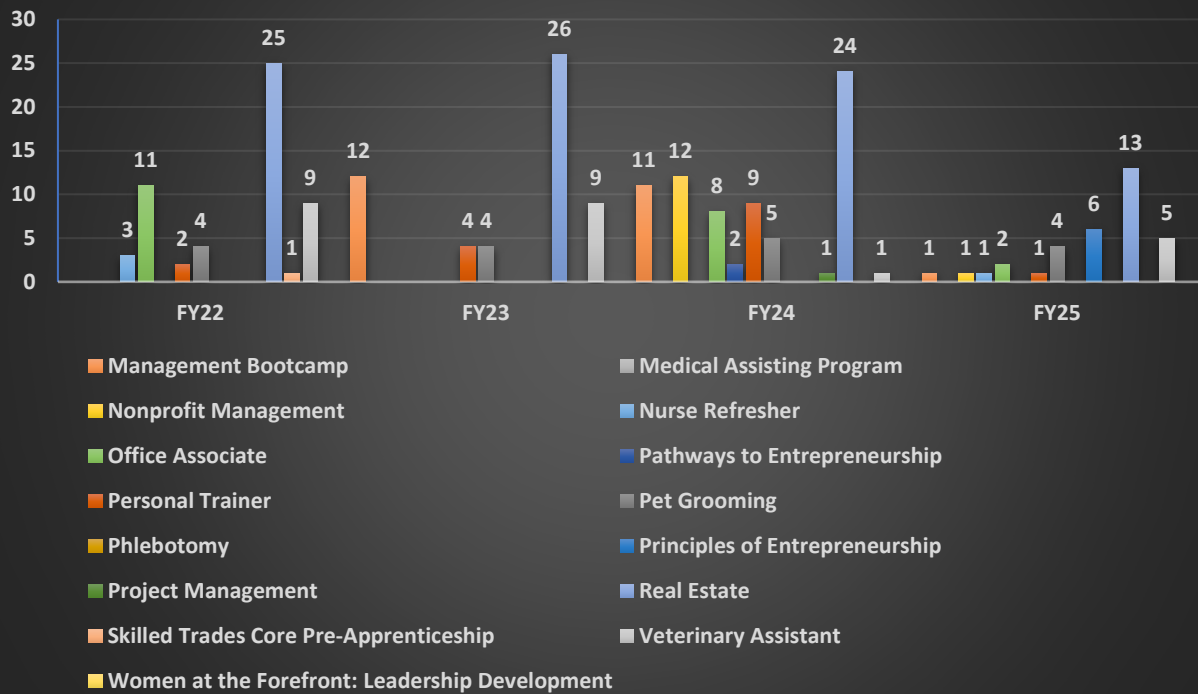
The Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship began in the 2018-2019 academic year. This scholarship is specifically for students enrolled in a Workforce Solutions and Continuing Education program. The following are WDSS approved programs:

Adobe Creative Cloud
Breaking Barriers, Leading Boldly
Cannabis Professional
Cannabis Technician
Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
Child Care Group Leader Pre-School
Child Care Group Leader School Age
Child Care infant and Toddler Care
Child Care Administrator
Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Class B Operator
Comprehensive Tax Prep Course
Diesel Technician
Management Bootcamp
Medical Assisting Program
Nonprofit Management
Nurse Refresher
Office Associate
Personal Trainer
Pet Grooming
Phlebotomy
Principles of Entrepreneurship
Project Management
Real Estate
Skilled Trades Core Pre-Apprenticeship
Veterinary Assistant
Women at the Forefront: Leadership Development

The scholarship amounts awarded to students have changed from year to year depending on the total allotment from MHEC and the number of approved programs. The data below details the number of students in each program as well as the total scholarship amount awarded to students. *Note: For WSCE programs noted in this report, each Fiscal Year includes the fall, winter, spring and summer sessions (CEFA, CEWI, CESP, CESU).*



## Number of Students in each program



As the chart above shows, the total number of students supported by WDSS will continue to fluctuate each year. Different variables impact the number of students. One of the main reasons is that there are multiple programs approved for WDSS and WSCE continues to evaluate and submit programs for approval to MHEC to support more students.

## Summary

This report has historically recognized various financial assistance resources provided to credit students. As we work through the Strategic Plan for HCC, Student Financial Assistance has grown to include both credit and non-credit students. The college has an exciting time coming for both WSCE and credit students. We have brought the BARR institute to campus, which opens up WSCE to offer PELL grants and loans. Furthermore, HCC plans to submit approval to start offering classes at local correctional facilities. Both of these initiatives should provide more resources for students. Unfortunately, it will be a few years until we can determine the impact on the figures in the report.

Fortunately, given potential changes to Maryland Promise, full implementation of Maryland's Blueprint for the Future, the substantial increase in the HCC Foundation's endowed scholarships, and continued growth in financial support programs for non-credit Workforce Solutions & Continuing Education students, the future of student financial assistance programs at HCC is strong. There are a few challenges that may impact future of student assistance including the new Federal Administration, the continued decentralization of state programs, and the potential increase in tuition. As we make it through these challenges, there may be more that arise; however, we have a strong team at HCC to overcome and continue providing support for our students.