



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, New York State recognizes that higher education furthers the intellectual, personal, emotional, and social development of students which, in turn, strengthens 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, the Dream Act application, 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; in the 2024-2025 academic year, HESC administered \$935 million in state financial aid, supporting over 294,000 students across New York, up from \$873 million the previous year; 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**, 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 to help them seek invaluable educational and professional opportunities;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 2026 as

## FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.

**G i v e n** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this first day  
of April in the year two thousand twenty-six.

Secretary to the Governor  
Karen Persichilli Keogh



Governor