SUNY

HIGH NEEDS PROGRAM

The State University of New York
SUNY HIGH NEEDS PROGRAM

SUNY High Needs is a competitive grant program that funds academic programs that connect directly to specific workforce needs of New York State. The High Needs Program began in 2006-2007 with funding from the NYS Legislature to increase enrollment in engineering and medical fields – academic programs that are expensive to start-up, operate, and expand. In 2008-2009, state appropriations for High Needs expanded to include nursing and hence, community colleges. In 2012, SUNY System Administration announced High Needs would be converted to a competitive grant beginning with the 2013-2014 funding cycle, and the request for proposals would be subject to the Strategic Enrollment Planning Process to align academic programs whose graduates would fill jobs in high demand in New York State. In academic years 2013 and 2014, High Needs areas include: Agriculture/Agricultural Business, Biomedical/Biotechnical, Engineering, Finance, Healthcare, Information Technology, Public Health, and Renewable/Clean Energy.
PROPOSALS RECEIVED VS. PROJECTS FUNDED

HIGH NEEDS FUNDED PROJECT AREAS

2013

- Biomedical/Biotechnical: 16%
- Engineering/Engineering Tech: 23%
- Finance: 15%
- Healthcare: 31%

2014

- Information Technology: 36%
- Public Health: 4%
- Agriculture/Ag Business: 5%
- Renewable/Clean Energy: 21%
- Biomedical/Biotechnical: 16%
- Engineering/Engineering Tech: 10%
- Finance: 8%
- Healthcare: 1%
HIGH NEEDS ENROLLMENT IMPACT, 2013 PROJECTS

GRANT SUPPORT FOR 2013 HIGH NEEDS PERSONNEL

- New Faculty Hired: 53
- New Staff Hired: 27
- Students Hired: 17
- Existing Faculty: 79

NUMBER OF HIGH NEEDS PROGRAMS
- 1
- 2-4
- 5-7
- High Needs Programs Under Development
HIGH NEEDS IMPACT

Since 2013, High Needs funding has supported the development of 27 new academic programs, and the expansion of 42 existing programs at 37 SUNY campuses. As a result of the High Needs funding, 2,085 students are currently being prepared to support the growing workforce demands of New York State’s economy; thousands more will be enrolled as the new programs begin accepting enrollments.

Prior to 2013, almost $28 million was distributed to 28 SUNY campuses. In 2013, 64 High Needs projects were awarded $6,981,370. In 2014, the number of total projects increased to 73, of which 50 were continuation of projects that began in 2013, and 23 were new projects. Of the $6,292,985 in total 2014 funding, $1,904,903 was allocated to the 23 new projects and $5,076,447 to the 50 continuation projects.

The areas of High Needs funding reflect both where most of the workforce demand for graduates is and will be across New York State, and where the highest annual job openings tend to concentrate. High Needs projects are educating students in programs like cybersecurity, sustainable energy, nurse practitioner, chemical dependency counseling, and online electric engineering in the fields of Information Technology, Renewable/Clean Energy, Healthcare, and Engineering.

Through the development of these new and expanded programs, the High Needs funding initiative directly supported the hiring of 53 new faculty, 27 staff (other than faculty), and 17 student workers in 2013-14 alone. In addition, 79 of existing faculty have been supported to work on high needs projects as well.
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