

Memo

To: Oneida Higher Education Grant Recipients

From: Misty Herzog, Higher Education Manager

Date: July 21, 2026

Re: Online Funding Change

As of Fall 2026/27 semester, the Higher Education Department will no longer be using the generic online budget for students taking classes totally online for their term(s).

What is this?

Each College/Tech School/University has a yearly standard cost of attendance. This usually includes tuition/fees, books, room & board, miscellaneous/ personal and transportation. These costs are different at each school.

Many years ago, some online schools were inflating their figures for recruitment purposes, so the online budget was created to ensure that all online students were treated the same when it came to the indirect costs of room & board, miscellaneous and transportation. The Higher Education Department implemented a process that standardized room and board to \$550 per month, miscellaneous/personal to \$125 per month and transportation to \$75 per month for all students attending classes totally online for the semester/term.

What has changed?

The online delivery system has now become a popular option at most schools across the country, a huge number offering totally online programs/degrees, and the online budget no longer serves a purpose.

What does this mean?

As of Fall 2026/27 the online budget will be discontinued, and all students will have their award package reviewed based on each school's standard cost of attendance.

Caution:

Some students will notice that their award may increase from last year. The increase may also bring some students to the yearly award maximums (\$20,000 for Vocational/ Undergrad, \$25,000 for Grad and \$30,000 for Doctoral) quicker leaving no funding left for summer and in some cases later terms if the school runs on a quarter system. It will be very important to look at your award letter and let the Higher Education Department know if your school is on a different term system than your award letter shows.

Please contact our office with any questions at (920) 869-4033 or highered@oneidanation.org