

## Needs Based Financial Assistance for Students

Jurisdiction: Manitoba

Contact: Ian Pratt

Level: Post Secondary

Theme: Government or board policies

### Description of Practice:

Manitoba offers an ACCESS Bursary program that provides non-repayable bursaries to selected students in the ACCESS programs (see separate template on ACCESS programs prepared by Susan Dean. Students' financial needs are assessed. Any financial need in excess of Canada Student Loan (CSL) and Canada Study Grants (CSG) is provided in non-repayable ACCESS Bursaries. The budget for ACCESS Bursaries in 2006/07 is \$2.5M.

### Background:

Historically, all ACCESS students in the program received bursaries for all their assessed financial needs (there was no loan component, i.e. CSL in their funding). The federal government's financial cuts in the early 1990's resulted in limiting the number of bursaries available and the introduction of a loan component (CSL). Since 2000, the Manitoba Government has increased expenditures in ACCESS Bursaries in order to make more funding available and to address the needs of students qualifying with high financial need (i.e. single parents).

### Development:

The ACCESS Programs select students who are to receive the ACCESS Bursary. These selected students have their financial need determined by Manitoba Student Aid.

### Evidence:

There have been numerous graduates of ACCESS programs who received ACCESS Bursaries who went on to successful professional careers. Without the ACCESS Bursary it is doubtful these students would have succeeded.

The success of ACCESS students in thriving careers promotes post-secondary education within the community.

### Adaptability

The ACCESS Bursary program has weathered severe federal financial cuts and although it now has a loan component (and is not available to all ACCESS students) it is still a key component to the success of many ACCESS students.

### Further information:

Ian Pratt

Policy Analyst

Manitoba Student Aid

[ipratt@gov.mb.ca](mailto:ipratt@gov.mb.ca) or (204) 945-6306