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Purpose

The Flint Promise Zone Authority (FPZA) submits this plan to officially launch the Flint Promise. Promise programs provide more to the community than increased access to higher education. The requirement that students both live and attend school within city limits increases the probability of resident retention and attracting new residents into the city. Additionally, Promise programs are another avenue to strengthening local school districts, increase graduation rates, and eventually improve the education levels of the local workforce.

Flint Promise seeks to improve access to post-secondary education by providing scholarships for eligible students in the program. Additionally, the program also exists to help students overcome the nonfinancial barriers to completing post-secondary education by offering support services to assist students on an individual basis at the end of their high school career, through the application process and throughout the entirety of their post-secondary matriculation.

Eligibility and Limitations

Flint Promise is a non-competitive, “last dollar” scholarship for students who both reside inside, and graduate from a high school within the city of Flint boundaries. The scholarship will be pro-rated based on the number of years the participant attended an eligible high school and lived in the city of Flint. *All other known and available scholarships, other funding, and restrictive grants for qualified educational expenses for postsecondary education provided by a federal, state, or local entity have been exhausted.* Scholarships can be used for qualified educational expenses, in support of the student completing associate’s and eventually bachelor’s degree programs. Recipients are eligible to apply for the scholarships up to age 24.

Pro-rated Eligibility	
Four years attendance	100%
Three years attendance	75%
Two years attendance	50%
GED Completion	30%
One year attendance	25%

To apply:

- Participants must reside inside the city of Flint at the time of their high school graduation or upon receipt of their GED
- Participants must be a graduate of, or have received a GED inside the city of Flint boundaries on or after 2018
- *Participants who receive their GED must do so through an Eligible School located inside the city of Flint boundaries and must also reside in the city of Flint*
- Eligible Schools¹
 - ✦ Accelerated Learning Academy
 - ✦ Flex High School
 - ✦ Flint Northwestern High School (2018)
 - ✦ Flint Southwestern Classical Academy
 - ✦ Gateway to College – Mott Community College
 - ✦ Genesee Early College

¹ Over time, changes to this list are expected as schools open or close.

- ✦ International Academy of Flint
 - ✦ Flint Job Corps
 - ✦ Michigan School for the Deaf
 - ✦ Mott Middle College High School
 - ✦ Mott Workforce Development
 - ✦ Powers Catholic High School
 - ✦ WAY Academy
- Participants must graduate from high school with a 1.8 GPA or higher
 - Participants are eligible to enroll in Flint Promise up to age 24
 - Participants must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
 - Participants must meet the admission requirements of the college or university they plan to attend.

Providing funding alone does not ensure students will finish college. In order to support participants in completing college, as a condition of the scholarship, Flint Promise recipients must also engage in college-success related activities. Students are expected to meet, every semester with their Success Coach, who provide direction to academic support resources and personal support throughout the student’s college career. Support services will also include:

- Frequent meetings that provide personal interaction, encouragement and support, offering a peer support group of caring adults
- Guidance to resources that can provide support for transportation, employment, childcare, tutoring, and other needs
- Bridging communication gaps between students and college staff, including instructors, advisors, financial aid and admissions staff

Recipients will be required to enroll for a minimum of 24 credits per academic year. College students who want to renew their Flint Promise scholarship must achieve Satisfactory Academic Progress as defined by their higher education institution. If less than 24 credits per academic year have been completed, students would be required to file an appeal, with the appeals decision determining eligibility for the subsequent year.

Eligible Institutions

A Flint Promise scholarship will be granted to students who meet the admission requirements and are accepted to one of the academic institutions listed below:

Academic Institution	Website Address
Mott Community College	www.mcc.edu
Kettering University	www.kettering.edu
University of Michigan - Flint	www.umflint.edu

Terms of Scholarship

A Flint Promise scholarship will allow students to attend Mott Community College for up to three years, or the time required to earn an associate degree, whichever is less, which also includes additional time for

students who may need developmental classes to reach college level placement in courses required to complete their associate degree. Students desiring to earn a four-year degree at either Kettering University or University of Michigan – Flint, will be granted up to six years, twelve semesters, or the time required to earn a bachelors degree, whichever is less. *Funding will not exceed the amount needed to obtain a bachelors degree under this timeframe set by the Flint Promise Zone Authority.*

College students who desire to renew their Flint Promise scholarship must complete their FAFSA annually, meet and maintain the eligibility requirements for Federal Student Aid, participate in college success related activities, and achieve Satisfactory Academic Progress, as defined by their higher education institution, consistent with requirements of the Pell grant.

Students who choose to transfer from Mott Community College to one of the eligible four-year institutions will be granted a total of six years or the time required to earn a bachelors degree, whichever is less.

After scholarship eligibility has been confirmed, and the student is enrolled at one of the participating colleges or universities, the student will be required to submit the following:

- High school transcript
- Applicant Statement
- Scholarship Recipient Agreement
- Photo Release

Continuation Throughout College

Each year, the student must maintain the following to remain eligible for Flint Promise:

- Achieve Satisfactory Academic Progress as required by the college of his/her choice
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Attend a minimum of two meetings with their assigned Success Coach, the preceding semester

If the student did not complete 24 credit hours in an academic year, they have the option to submit and appeal explaining their reason and request the extension of the third year for completion of their associate or bachelor’s degree. This is approved and agreed upon between the college they are attending and the Flint Promise Scholarship Appeals team

Extent of Benefits

Receipt of a Flint Promise scholarship includes the “last dollar” of qualified educational expenses. Last dollar requires students to draw all available scholarships, grants, or other funding before Flint Promise funds are awarded. Additional individual requirements of each college or university differ *and are listed below*. ~~Specific requirements can change, and are listed below.~~

Mott Community College

Benefits of students attending Mott Community College include the “last dollar” of tuition, class fees, supplies and books (as listed in the syllabi of registered courses).

University of Michigan-Flint

Benefits of students attending University of Michigan-Flint include the “last dollar” of tuition, class fees, supplies and books (as listed in the syllabi of registered courses).

Kettering University

Benefits of students attending Kettering University include the “last dollar” of tuition, class fees, supplies, and books (as listed in the syllabi of registered courses). Freshmen students at Kettering University are required to have a medical insurance policy through the school if they do not have a personal policy and are also required to reside in on-campus housing. Medical insurance and on-campus housing are not covered by Flint Promise scholarship and are the responsibility of the student.

Appeals Process

There are three potential scenarios where a student can appeal their denial. All appeals are presented to an appeals committee, that includes a representative of Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce staff, Community Foundation of Greater Flint staff, and one representative from a participating academic institution and/or community member. All appeals must be resolved within sixty (60) day of submission.

Student has grade point average (GPA) lower than 1.8 at graduation – 1.6 - 1.799 - Apply/Enroll Right after High School Graduation

1. Student will submit a meaningful written document that will include the following items:
 - a. Explanation of low GPA
 - b. What steps did the student take during high school to bring the GPA up?
 - c. What is the student’s plan to make sure that the GPA meets Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in college?
 - d. Why does the student believe he/she should have this request approved?
2. Appeal will be submitted to the Flint Promise Program Coordinator in written format.
3. The Flint Promise Program Coordinator will review the Appeal with the Education & Training Program Director for thoroughness and to confirm that all questions were answered.

Student has a grade point average (GPA) lower than 1.8 at graduation – 1.5 or Lower AND Student Applies/Enrolls One or More Years After High School Graduation up to the term limit of the Flint Promise Scholarship opportunity, which is age 24.

1. Same process listed above, **AND**
2. Student will be required to get two letters of recommendation from a person outside of their family that will support their ability to be successful in college. This recommendation could come from a Pastor, teacher, coach, counselor or non-family member employer.

Other – Could include homeschooling, two parent home address (one in City and one outside), request for re-entry if put on academic probation due to attendance or other success related requirements while enrolled at college.

1. Student will submit a meaningful written document that will include the following items:
 - a. Explanation of why they are submitting an appeal
 - i. If request is due to academic probation for any reason, student needs to explain what steps they have taken to correct the behavior and the plan they have in place to ensure that they will maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for the balance of their time in college.
 - b. Why does the student believe he/she should have this request approved?

2. Appeal will be submitted to the Flint Promise Program Coordinator in written format.
3. The Flint Promise Program Coordinator will review the Appeal with the Education & Training Program Director for thoroughness and to confirm that all questions were answered.
4. The Appeal will be forwarded to the Review Committee for approval or rejection.

Administration

Under the guidance of the Flint Promise Zone Authority, Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce serves as the Administrators for Flint Promise. The Education & Training Team at FGCC is responsible for recruitment, participant application processing, data tracking, management of Success Coaches, and fund dispersal directly to the colleges and universities, through the Genesee Chamber Foundation. Participating educational institutions will be responsible for admissions processes, tuition billing, and distributing information on educational supports to Success Coaches for program participants. This structure ensures accountability between core partners by instituting a system of “checks and balances,” guaranteeing funds are accepted and expended ethically, and participants are supported throughout their entire educational experience. Staff assigned to the project are as follows:

- Director of Education and Training – Program Director
- Education and Training - Program Manager
- Flint Promise Assistant
- Success Coaches

Financial Support for Flint Promise

The Flint Promise scholarship is funded through gifts from private donors to the Community Foundation of Greater Flint, who serves as stewards of the Flint Promise Fund. Initial funds donated are expected to cover, at minimum the first seven years of the program. Additional funds are being raised through private donors and other fundraising efforts. The Flint Promise Zone Authority has entrusted the Community Foundation of Greater Flint for fundraising and sustainability. It is expected that tax capture funds will be generated and granted for use by the Flint Promise Zone Authority.

Funding is currently being granted to the Flint & Genesee Chamber Foundation annually for program operation, and by semester for disbursement to the colleges and universities on behalf of eligible students. *Section 11(8) of the public act allows only 15% of SET funds to be used for administrative costs. Thus, the advertising/marketing expenses and operational expenses are limited as such.*

Allowable Use of Funds

- Tuition, Supplies, Class Fees & Books
- Success Coaches

Use of Funds with Limitations

- Advertising/Marketing (Limited up to 15% for SET funds)
- Administrative Support (Limited up to 15% for SET funds)
- Operational Expenses (Limited up to 15% for SET funds)

Prohibited Use of Funds

- Student Housing

- On-Campus Meals/Meal Plans
- Sponsorships/Donations

Flint Promise Zone Scholarship Evaluation

A data sharing agreement between FGCC and partnering institutions will be established to track several metrics including Flint Promise program results, K-12 system performance, post-secondary education outcomes, and community level effects. The academic institutions and students who receive assistance from the program understand that data must be shared for Flint Promise to remain in compliance with legislation. The inclusion of front-line staff and students on the operations committee ensures constant feedback on program successes and challenges. Flint Promise will prepare an annual report that complies with the reporting requirements of Michigan Promise Zone Authority Act 549 of 2008, amended in 2017. This report will be submitted annually to the Michigan Department of Treasury, on or before October 31, with the first report on the 2019-2020 academic year submitted by October 31, 2020, to include the following:

1. Total number of students receiving assistance from FPZA
2. The number of students who successfully completed a two- or four-year degree or certificate program
3. The retention and persistence rates of students by college or university
4. Average time for student completion of 24 semester credits
5. Post-secondary 6-year graduation rates for students receiving assistance from FPZA

Flint Promise Zone Projections

Enrollment Estimates

The actuarial model depicts four-year projections. The model estimates 52% retention rates for students returning for their 2nd year of college, and 55% retention rates for those returning for their 3rd year (please see Appendix A: Actuarial Model for further details). These rates take into account the varying retention rates between part-time and full-time students, of which a majority of Flint Promise scholars are part-time (less than 24 annual credit hours).

Cost Estimates

The total tuition costs are based on a weighted average of the tuition and fees of the three eligible postsecondary institutions in the city of Flint. Total costs are forecasted to increase based upon change in high school graduation cohorts, tuition increases, and institution-based fees (see Appendix A: Actuarial Model for further details).

Pell/TIP Revenue

The FPZA projections are based on the percentage of Flint Promise Scholarship recipients who received a full Pell Award in academic years 2018-19 and 2019-20. The percentages were then weighted by enrollment figures and averaged out to 29% of scholars receiving a full Pell Award.

State Education Tax Revenue Predictions

The FPZA projections incorporate SET revenue projections as provided by the Office of Revenue and Tax Analysis, Department of Treasury, State of Michigan. As State law requires successful operations for two years before receiving the SET revenue, the Actuarial Model assumes a base year of the 2020 cohort, and

disbursement of SET revenue to the FPZA to potentially occur in 2022 (assuming growth in SET over the base year), after operating successfully for two years.

Appendix A - Actuarial Model

Appendix B – Promise Zone Authority Bylaws

Appendix C – Meeting Agenda & Minutes