



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

September 16, 2021

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President
Senate of Maryland
H-107 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker
Maryland House of Delegates
H-101 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Report on Recipients of Out-of-County
or Out-of-Region Fee Waivers for Victims
of Human Trafficking
MSAR #10573

Dear President Ferguson and Speaker Jones:

Education Article §16-310 permits the boards of trustees of community colleges to adopt policies granting resident tuition status for individuals residing out of the service area if those individuals have been victims of human trafficking. The statute requires that community colleges report to the Commission on the number of individuals receiving a waiver of the out-of-county or out-of-region fee. The Maryland Higher Education Commission presents the information below in accordance with the statutory requirement that the Commission report these data to the General Assembly.

Six of Maryland's 16 community colleges have a policy in place to award tuition waivers to victims of human trafficking. One other institution reported that they are currently in the process of developing such a policy.

One institution awarded waivers of the out-of-county or out-of-region fee in the 2020-2021 reporting year. The number of students receiving such a waiver was less than 10. This falls below the minimum required for publishing personally identifiable information, as established in the MHEC Data Suppression Policy for Student Information (September 2019).¹ Accordingly, the exact figure is subject to suppression requirements.

¹ Per MHEC policy, personally-identifiable data will not be reported for groups of 10 or fewer to protect student privacy. For additional information on this policy, please see:
<https://mhec.maryland.gov/publications/Documents/Research/MHECDataSuppressionPolicy.pdf>

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Dr. Barbara Schmertz, Director of Research & Policy Analysis at barbara.schmertz@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James D. Fielder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Dr. James D. Fielder
Secretary