

**RECIPIENTS OF OUT-OF-COUNTRY OR OUT-OF-REGION
FEE WAIVERS FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING
2024**

Maryland Higher Education Commission



Wes Moore
Governor

Aruna Miller
Lt. Governor

Cassie Motz
Chair

Sanjay Rai, Ph.D.
Secretary

August 20, 2024

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 required by Education Article, Section 16-310(b)(5)(iv)2 (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.

Ten of Maryland's 16 community colleges have a policy in place to award tuition waivers to victims of human trafficking. One institution awarded waivers of the out-of-county or out-of-region fee in the 2024-2025 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.¹ Accordingly, the exact figure is subject to suppression requirements.

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,

Sanjay Rai, Ph.D.
Secretary

SF/sa

cc: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)

¹ Per MHEC policy, personally-identifiable data will not be reported for groups of 10 or fewer to protect student privacy. Please see https://mhec.maryland.gov/publications/Documents/Research/ORPA_MHEC_2022_Suppression_Policy.pdf