

# FINANCING HIGHER EDUCATION AND HIGH-DEMAND TRAINING PROGRAMS

## **FANTIC – FINANCIAL AID FOR NONCREDIT TRAINING LEADING TO INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS**

The Financial Aid for Noncredit Training leading to Industry Credentials (FANTIC) program provides funding for students demonstrating financial need who are enrolled in an approved noncredit workforce training program (branded as FastForward) leading to the attainment of an industry-recognized credential or licensure.<sup>1</sup> The FANTIC application is also used for determining G3 eligibility.

The goals of the FANTIC program are to:

- increase access to noncredit workforce training leading to FastForward credential attainment;
- increase attainment of in-demand industry certifications and licenses;
- improve employment outcomes for participating students; and

FANTIC funds are available to all colleges and participation is encouraged. Allocation amounts will be distributed at the start of each fiscal year. Colleges may request additional funds as they spend down the initial allocation.

<sup>1</sup> 2020 Act of Appropriation, Chapter 665, Section 4-5.01 (b) Student Financial Assistance for Higher Education, and as thereafter amended

## **Virginia Ready** <https://www.vaready.org/>

Excerpt from their website: “VA Ready’s goal is to reward Virginians who seize the moment and commit themselves to training for in-demand jobs. We’ve partnered with businesses across Virginia and Virginia’s Community Colleges and the FastForward Workforce Credential Program as well as Sentara College of Health Sciences to equip them with the skills needed for sustainable jobs in high-growth sectors.”

The list of approved FastForward programs for VA-Ready is found at <https://www.vaready.org/learn/programs/>

## **VRSA- Virginia Ready State Aid**

The Virginia Ready program is available to domiciled Virginians who are looking to increase their skill set by earning a credential for an in-demand job in Virginia’s growth sector. Virginia’s growth sector is determined by Virginia’s leading employers in the following industries: Cyber/IT, Healthcare, and Skilled Trades. All VA Ready supported credentials fall within Virginia’s growth sectors.

Virginia Ready State Aid (VRSA) funding is available for confirmed Virginia Ready Scholars. This funding covers the entire first third (100%) for one FastForward enrollment per VA Ready Scholar. It is available as long as VRSA funds are available. For VRSA funding to cover the student’s FastForward tuition (first third), the student must have submit an application in “Final” status to Virginia Ready by signing up at <https://scholars.vaready.org> before the FastForward VA Ready course begins OR no later than 5 calendar days after the course start date (day 1 is counted as the first day the class begins).

