

New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

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Vice President, Southern Region Clarence Fisher To: NYSCOPBA members

From: Tammy Sawchuk, Executive Vice President

Date: August 21, 2014

Re: Tuition Reimbursement

This memo serves as a reminder to be sure to submit your applications for tuition reimbursement. Please follow the guidelines that are attached and submit to your Regional Training Lieutenant (RTL). A list of the current RTL's is also attached.

The Tuition Reimbursement guidelines, application, list of RTL's and more information is also available on our web site at http://www.nyscopba.org/nysnyscopbalmtuition

<u>Please be advised applications are being accepted from the 2011-2012 fiscal year to present.</u> If you missed the deadline in the past or for any reason did not submit for reimbursement, you can do so now.

The reimbursement is 100% of the cost of tuition up to \$1,200 and book, lab and digital fees up to \$250 so don't miss out on this great benefit!

If you have any questions on covered courses, application or the reimbursement process, please contact:

Jeanne Grebert
Program Assistant
NYS/NYSCOPBA Joint Labor Management Committee
Corporate Plaza East, Suite 502
240 Washington Ave. Extension
Albany, NY 12203
(518) 457-9420
(518) 457-9445 fax
mailto:jeanne.grebert@lmc.ny.gov

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Michael.Harms@doccs.ny.gov GREAT MEADOW HUB **Capital Training Region 999CTRNP**

Regional Training Office Albany Training Academy 1134 New Scotland Road Albany, New York 12208 (518) 489-9072 phone

Support Staff:

Karen Slonina x4550

e-mail: Karen.Slonina@doccs.ny.gov

RTL	<u>Facilities</u>	Code
Harms	Coxsackie	130
Harms	Greene	670
Harms	Hudson	270
Harms	Mt.McGregor	260
King	Moriah	510
King	Gt Meadow	040
King	Washington	650

SULLIVAN HUB Catskill Training Region 999CTRNT

Regional Training Office Eastern Correctional Facility Box 338 Napanoch, New York 12458-0338 (845) 647-7400 x5760 phone (845) 647-7400 x5799 fax

Support Staff: Sandy Rose x5762

e-mail:Sandra.Rose@doccs.ny.gov

<u>Facilities</u>	Code
Eastern	100
Otisville	290
Shawangunk	680
Sullivan	690
Ulster	610
Wallkill	060
Woodbourne	140

ONEIDA HUB

Central Training Region 999CTRNC

Regional Training Office Mohawk Correctional Facility 6514 Rt. 26 P.O. Box 8450 Rome, New York 13440 (315) 339-5232 x4571

Support Staff:

Nicola Eastup x4570

e-mail:Nicola.Eastup@doccs.ny.gov

<u>Facilities</u>	Code
Hale Creek	850
Marcy	490
Mid-State	480
Mohawk	390

WATERTOWN HUB **Watertown Training Region** 999CTRNR

Regional Training Office Riverview Correctional Facility P.O. Box 158 Ogdensburg, New York 13669 (315) 393-8400 x5760 phone (315) 393-8400 x5799 fax

Support staff:

LT. JEFFREY ELLIOTT

Jeffrey.Elliott@doccs.ny.gov

Rhonda Furgison X5761 e-mail:

Facilities	Code
Cape Vincent	580
Gouverneur	810
Ogdensburg	350
Riverview	570
Watertown	030

WENDE HUB **West Training Region** 999CTRNW

LT. TIMOTHY FRANCLEMONT

Timothy.Franclemont@doccs.ny.gov

Regional Training Office Wende Correctional Facility 3040 Wende Road Alden, New York 14004-1187 (716) 937-4000 x5759 phone (716) 937-4000 x5799 fax

Support Staff:

Charlene Drogi x5758

e-mail: Charlene.Drogi@doccs.ny.gov

<u>Facilities</u>	Code	<u>Facilities</u>	Code
Albion	091	Orleans	640
Attica	000	Rochester	300
Collins	470	Wende	430
Gowanda	450	Wyoming	660
Groveland	460		
Lakeview	600		
Livingston	800		

LT. JAMIE GLASSPOOLE

LT. MICHAEL HARMS

Jamie.Glasspoole@doccs.ny.gov

GREEN HAVEN HUB **Southeast Training Region 999CTRNS**

Regional Training Office Fishkill Correctional Facility Box 307 Beacon, New York 12508 (845) 831-4800 x5750 phone (845) 831-4800 x5799 fax

Support Staff:

Kathy Scadura x5752

e-mail: Kathy. Scadura@doccs.ny.gov

<u>Facilities</u>	Code
Bedford Hills	120
Downstate	240
Fishkill	050
Green Haven	080
Sing Sing*	070
Taconic	250

*Send SSCF RTF03s to NYC -

NEW YORK CITY HUB **NYC Training Region**

999CTRNNY Regional Training Office

Edgecombe Residential Treatment Facility 611 Edgecombe Avenue New York, NY 10032 (212) 923-2575 phone (212) 923-2575x2099 fax

Support Staff:

Quay Carter x5755

e-mail: Quay.Carter@doccs.ny.gov

<u>Facilities</u>	Code
Edgecombe	320
Industries	999
LIC/EIU	999
Lincoln	360
Queensboro	170

LT. RONALD FERGUSON

Ronald.Ferguson@doccs.nv.gov

ELMIRA HUB **Mid-West Training Region** 999CTRNM

Regional Training Office Willard Drug Treatment Campus 7116 County Route 132, Bldg #1 P.O. Box 303 Willard, New York 14588 (607) 869-5500 x5755 phone (607) 869-5500 x5999 fax

Support staff:

Sheri Spano x5757

e-mail: Sheri.Spano@doccs.ny.gov

<u>Facilities</u>	<u>Code</u>
Auburn	010
Butler	520
Cayuga	550
Elmira	110
Five Points	370
Monterey	190
Southport	630
Willard	820

Daniel.King@doccs.nv.gov CLINTON HUB **Northern Training Region**

LT. DANIEL KING

Regional Training Office Franklin Correctional Facility P.O. Box 10 Malone, New York 12953 (518) 483-6040 x5755 phone (518) 483-6040 x5799 fax

Support staff:

999CTRNN

Yvonne Silver x5750

e-mail: Yvonne.Silver@doccs.ny.gov

Code
230
540
560
860
020
530
840

REGIONAL **TRAINING** LIEUTENANT **OFFICES**



New York State/New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association Joint Labor-Management Committee

Corporate Plaza East, Suite 502 • 240 Washington Avenue Extension • Albany, New York 12203 (518) 457-9420 • Fax (518) 457-9445

New York State Governor's Office of Employee Relations New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association

MEMORANDUM

July 31, 2014

TO: DOCCS Superintendents

NYSCOPBA Chief Sector Stewards

FROM: Abbie Ferreira and Tammy Sawchuk

SUBJECT: NYSCOPBA 2011-2015 Tuition Reimbursement Program

Attached are the 2011-2015 tuition reimbursement agency/facility and applicant guidelines for NYSCOPBA-represented employees. Funding for the program is provided by Article 13.1 of the 2011-2015 negotiated agreement between the State of New York and NYSCOPBA.

Unit members are eligible for tuition reimbursement up to \$1,200 and book, lab fees and digital fees up to\$ 250 for each fiscal year. *Please note: applications are now being accepted for the 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014 & 2014-2015 Fiscal Years which have not been previously submitted.* Program funds have been reappropriated and are available.

Thank you for your cooperation in disseminating this information. If you have any questions concerning the program, please contact Jeanne Grebert at 518-457-9420 or jeanne.grebert@lmc.ny.gov.

Tuition Reimbursement for NYSCOPBA-Represented Employees Guidelines for 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014 & 2014-2015 Fiscal Years Agency and Applicant Information

PURPOSE

The purpose of the New York State/NYSCOPBA Tuition Reimbursement Program is to encourage career development and advancement for State employees whose positions are assigned to the Security Services Unit represented by NYSCOPBA.

FUNDING

The Security Services Unit Tuition Reimbursement Program is funded through the negotiated agreement between the State of New York and NYSCOPBA.

ELIGIBILITY

All full-time employees whose positions are assigned to the Security Services Unit represented by NYSCOPBA and who have had six months continuous State service immediately prior to the beginning date of the course work are eligible. Employees must be working full time and meet the continuous service requirement to be eligible for reimbursement. Employees working less than half-time or on unpaid leave of absence are not eligible.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

The NYSCOPBA Tuition Reimbursement Program provides financial support to Security Services Unit members for approved educational activities on a reimbursement basis. The program is designed to assist with the achievement of reasonable career goals within State government.

Please note: applications are now being accepted for the 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014 & 2014-2015 Fiscal Years which have not been previously submitted.

Key elements of the program:

- The program is based on approval of individual courses. Each course must be approved for reimbursement upon enrollment.
- The program is designed to reimburse applicants at 100 percent of the covered tuition expenses up to a maximum annual fiscal year allowance of \$1,200.00. In addition, the program is designed to reimburse course-related textbooks, lab fees and digital fees up to \$250.00 per year.
- Reimbursement is based on the satisfactory completion of the course.
- Satisfactory completion of the course is the attainment of a grade of at least C.
- Reimbursement is for actual out-of-pocket expenses including tuition, registration and laboratory expenses.
- Tuition Reimbursement will not be considered for courses that are available through the DOCCS Training Academy, should an applicant decide to use an outside source

SELECTION STANDARDS

Tuition expenses from an approved educational organization for credit or non-credit course work categorized as either job-related or career-related are eligible for reimbursement.

Job-Related Course Work:

• The course directly supports or improves skills required for current job assignments, duties, or responsibilities.

Career-Related Course Work:

- The course will prepare the employee for advancement within his/her current title series or occupation.
- The course develops the operational, administrative or management capacity of the employee.
- The course work is necessary to obtain a degree to qualify for job opportunities within State service.

APPROVED EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The NYSCOPBA Tuition Reimbursement Program is intended to support the educational activities for credit or non-credit courses. The educational organization offering the course must meet the academic standards of the New York State Education Department or the U.S. Office of Education.

REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

COVERED EXPENSES

Reimbursable expenses are those costs that relate to the pursuit of an educational activity. These expenses include tuition for credit or non-credit course work approved upon enrollment, individual course registration fees, and lab fees. Expenses must be itemized on the original receipt.

Eligible individuals are reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses at 100 percent of the total covered expenses, up to a maximum of \$1,200.00 per State fiscal year. Reimbursement within a fiscal year is determined by the start date of the course. The State fiscal year begins on April 1st and ends on March 31st.

Eligible individual are also reimbursed for course-related textbooks, lab fees and digital fees which the Employee is required by the syllabus or course outline to use for the course up to \$250.00 per State fiscal year.

EXCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Courses designed for interests outside State service, whether credit or non-credit, are not eligible for reimbursement. Examples of course work not eligible for reimbursement would include those related to recreation, physical education, hobby or personal interests. Expenses for supplies or materials are not reimbursable.

ALTERNATE SOURCES OF TUITION SUPPORT

Alternate sources of financial aid from agency/facility tuition support programs, the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), Pell Grants, the Aid for Part-time Study (APTS) Program, New York State Vietnam Veterans Tuition Assistance, Veterans Administration Educational Benefits (GI Bill) and college stipends must be reported on the application. This amount will be deducted before computing the allowable reimbursement.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCESS

APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITY

Once registered for course work, the applicant must complete a separate Application for Tuition Reimbursement Form (SSU-004) for each course for which reimbursement is requested. The Form SSU-004 must be submitted to the agency/facility staff development or personnel office for review and approval no later than ten working days after the start date of the course. **Note: an exception is made for the first year of this program (FY 2014-2015) to allow requests for tuition funds to be submitted after the course begins but such requests must be made before the course is completed.** Applications will be accepted for the 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 fiscal years.

AGENCY/FACILITY RESPONSIBILITY

Each agency/facility is expected to inform eligible employees about the Tuition Reimbursement program. Within ten (10) working days of receipt of application, the designated agency/facility Regional Training Lieutenants Office/ Staff Training Office is to:

- 1. Review the application for accuracy of the information provided by the employee.
- 2. Determine whether the application meets the criteria for reimbursement under the NYSCOPBA Tuition Reimbursement Program. Consideration of employee eligibility, qualification of course work, and acceptability of the educational organization is used for this determination.
- 3. Forward the application and all attached paperwork, including a payment voucher to New York State/NYSCOPBA Labor-Management Committee for approval. The information can be faxed to 518-457-9445 or emailed to jeanne.grebert@lmc.ny.gov.
- 4. Determine whether the course work is job-related or career-related as defined in the program guidelines.
- 5. Complete the Agency Action section on the application, sign and date the form.
- 6. Notify the employee of the determination by returning the duplicate copy of Form SSU-004.

REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS

To obtain reimbursement, the employee must complete a payment voucher within thirty (30) working days following the receipt of a satisfactory course completion document.

The agency/facility staff development or personnel office will forward the payment voucher to the agency/facility finance office for payment to be processed from the Office of the State Comptroller in accordance with the rules and regulations concerning the expenditure of State funds. *For DOCCS employees only:* All completed paperwork should be forwarded to your Regional Training Lieutenant (RTL) who will review, sign and forward to DOCCS Training Academy.

Attachments to the payment voucher must include:

- 1. The original itemized paid receipt from the education organization.
- 2. A copy of the Tuition Reimbursement Form (SSU-004) indicating approval of the course
- 3. A course completion document.

4. For textbooks: the original itemized paid receipt and documentation demonstrating the textbook(s) are required for use with the course.

NOTE: The satisfactory course completion document must be the original grade report or a letter from the educational organization stating that the employee satisfactorily completed the course work. The letter must indicate the date of course completion.

EFFECTIVE DATE

These guidelines are effective April 1, 2014.

Tuition Reimbursement Application (SSU-004 Form) for NYSCOPBA-Represented Employees 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014 & 2014-2015 Fiscal Years

Name of Applicant		
Address		
Phone		
Number of Years in State Service	Number of Years in Curre	nt Position
Title and Salary Grade		
Agency/Facility		
Work Location	Work Phone _	
Explain how this training will assist you in progress	ing toward reasonable career go	oals within state service.
Course Work & Financial Information Educational Institution		
Address		
Course Title		
Start Date End Date N		
Expense Category Course Tuition: Other Mandatory Fees:		
Less Other Sources of Financial Aid (TAP, PELL, Veteran's Benefits):	Tuition and Mandatory Fe	ees Total:
	Less Other Sources of Fina Book Expense: Total Reimbursement Rec	+
I affirm that all the above information is accurate a	and complete.	
Employee Signature	Date	
AGENCY/FACILITY ACTION: Job-Related Course □	Career-Related Course	Disapproved
Amount approved for course work \$		
Amount approved for book expense \$	Date Applicant Notified	
Authorizing Signature	Title	Date