

The New York State Higher Education Capital Matching Grant (“HECap”) Board Meeting was held in person and by videoconference technology among DASNY’s Offices in New York City, 28 Liberty Plaza, New York, New York and 515 Broadway, Albany, New York on Wednesday, June 26, 2024.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The Meeting was called to order by Michael Smingler, Chair on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. and a quorum was declared present. Chair Smingler welcomed the Members, DASNY Staff and Members of the Public to the Meeting. The following Board Members and Staff were present:

HECap Board Members Present

Michael Smingler, Board Member, Elected Chair
Honorable Patricia Fahy, Board Member
Honorable Toby Anne Stavisky, Board Member

DASNY Staff Present

Karen Hunter, Director, Grants Administration
Ann Shaw, Assistant Director, Grants Administration
Deanne DiPace, Senior Grant Administrator
Sean Rosney, Senior Grant Administrator
Danielle DiSorbo, Grant Administrator II
Ryan Brooks, Grant Administrator I
Michaela Mullen, Grant Program Assistant II

Various Members of DASNY and the public also were present and via Zoom.

Election of the Chair of the HECap Board and Adoption of Minutes of the September 27, 2023 Meeting

Ms. Fahy made a motion to elect Michael Smingler as Chair to the HECap Board. Upon a second from Ms. Stavisky, the following entitled resolution was unanimously adopted:

A RESOLUTION OF THE NEW YORK STATE HIGHER EDUCATION CAPITAL MATCHING (HECap) GRANT PROGRAM BOARD ELECTING THE CHAIR

Adoption of Minutes of the September 27, 2023 Meeting

Upon a motion from Ms. Fahy and a second from Ms. Stavisky, The minutes of the September 27, 2023 Board Meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved by the Members.

Summary of the Previous Non-Competitive and Competitive Rounds

Ms. Hunter summarized the HECap program, stating as reported last year, the Competitive Round 1 is officially closed with all of those grants fully dispersed; for Competitive Round 2, all grant agreements have been executed, and there are no remaining grants in process; for Competitive Round 3, approximately \$21.2 million was awarded to 35 institutions and of those projects 19 have fully executed grant disbursement agreements, 10 have withdrawn, and 6 are still in process; for Competitive Round 4, approximately \$57.2 million was awarded to 35 institutions, and of those projects 11 have fully executed grant disbursement agreements, 9 have withdrawn, and 15 are still in process; and for Competitive Round 5, approximately \$63.6 million was awarded to 30 institutions for projects to be completed between September 1, 2022 and September 1, 2025, and of those projects none have yet received a Grant disbursement agreement, 1 has withdrawn and 29 are still in process.

HECap Request for Grant Application Competitive Round 6 Awards - Resolution

Ms. Hunter reported on Competitive Round 6 which the Board is considering today. She stated that we had a team of 4 DASNY Grant Unit staff reviewing the project applications for eligibility and financial readiness in which we received 37 applications totaling \$44.7 million. Ms. Hunter further reported that applications needed to receive a minimum score of 70 to be awarded a grant and 34 of those applications received the threshold 70 score, however, 1 applicant withdrew prior to today's award decisions, leaving 33 applications for consideration today totaling \$38 million.

Upon an inquiry from Ms. Stavisky regarding the withdrawal, Ms. Hunter explained that applicants withdraw for a variety of reasons noting that it could be the prevailing wage, MWBE requirements, or sometimes the project cannot be completed in the timeframe set forth in our RGA. She further explained that we are trying to address the time frame with the upcoming round that you will be approving, extending that period to 5 years, hoping that will be helpful and allowing those projects to be completed within the designated time period. Additionally, in relation to MWBE requirement withdrawals, Ms. Hunter noted that we can take a look at past history and get back to the members on that along with prior reasons for withdrawal.

Upon a further inquiry from Ms. Stavisky Ms. Hunter stated that of those that have been withdrawn, some have reapplied for the 2024 matching program and noted that she believes that is where we have encouraged actual applicants if they know that their previously approved project for a round is not going to make it, we encourage them to consider coming into the next round to perhaps remediate some of their issues. Ms. Stavisky asked Ms. Hunter to give the Board a breakdown at a future date in which Ms. Hunter agreed.

Ms. Fahy moved the adoption of the following entitled resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION CAPITAL MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM (HECap) BOARD AWARDING HECAP GRANTS

Ms. Stavisky seconded the motion, and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

HECAP Request for Grant Application Competitive Round 7 - Resolution

Ms. Hunter stated that the draft of the request for grant applications is before you in the Board materials. She noted that it is substantially similar to prior RGA's but as we discussed, it is updated to reflect the current funding availability and we have made those changes to add some additional flexibility, the first being that we have changed the language to read no less than \$56 million rather than an up to amount that we previously had included, and this will provide us the flexibility to offer all available HECap Funds under the funding round, including any withdrawals that occur after this the RGA is released, but prior to awards, and the amount that we are offering in the draft includes the current appropriation of \$40 million plus amounts from other rounds that have rolled forward as a result of excess appropriation amounts, withdrawals to date, and grantees have not utilized the full amount of their award, and, as stated prior, the language to read no less than \$56 million flexibility gives us the ability to recapture funds going forward until we make those awards, and we have also extended the term to 5 years to accommodate the larger construction projects that appear to have a more difficult time meeting the 3 year timeframe that we have included in prior rounds.

Ms. Fahy brought up Pace University which has come up short of the 70 points last year and gain this year, Ms. Hunter last year we did have a debriefing with them and are happy to have debriefings with any Colleges that have fallen short in this round. Ms. Hunter further advised that for round 7, we will offer a webinar to discuss how to apply, we will provide a question-and-answer period, we will post all those answers for all of the applicants benefit, and we will do everything we can to have a successful round 7.

In response to an inquiry from Ms. Stavisky regarding feedback to underscoring clients, Ms. Hunter noted that those clients did not meet the 70 score and in a competitive funding round, we are not able give specific feedback, but we are able to debrief them on how their applicant was deficient, and they can go back in in a future round, but in the competitive funding opportunity we are not able to have that kind of contact and make that kind of assistance available.

Upon a further inquiry from Ms. Stavisky, Ms. Hunter stated that she would get back to the members with more specifics on the eligibility of Marymount as they are being taken over by Northeast University in Massachusetts and also to the status of Seaton College located on the campus of Mount St. Vincent, if indeed Seaton College exists yet.

Ms. Fahy moved the adoption of the following entitled resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF THE NEW YORK STATE HIGHER EDUCATION CAPITAL MATCHING (HECap) GRANT PROGRAM BOARD APPROVING THE HECap REQUEST FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR COMPETITIVE ROUND 7

Ms. Stavisky seconded the motion, and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Ms. Hunter reported to the members that in regard to next steps, we will make the award announcements, we will offer the opportunity for those to failed to achieve an award the opportunity to have a debriefing session, we will be in touch with all of those grantees that have

received an award, and we will begin collecting the paperwork that they need to submit to us to move them along to approval.

Chair Smingler thanked DASNY staff for all of the work done to date on the grants.

Ms. Fahy moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Stavisky seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DASNY Staff to HECap Board

DRAFT NOT YET APPROVED BY BOARD