College-in-prison is one of the most reliably rehabilitative activities that can be offered. Restoring college financial aid to help low-income people in prison prepare to re-enter society is a moral imperative. New York must restore TAP funding for incarcerated students. Act now and pass S790/A3975.

**BENEFITS OF TAP RESTORATION**

**Increased Public Safety**
Research has consistently shown the benefits of correctional education as a way to prepare people for life on the outside making them less likely to recidivate. A RAND study found that individuals who participated in college in prison programming are 43% less likely to recidivate than those who did not.¹

**Saved Taxpayer Dollars**
Cost analysis performed by the RAND Corporation found that for every dollar invested in correctional education, taxpayers saved $4-$5.²

**Increased Employment**
The unemployment rate for individuals who are formerly incarcerated is almost five times higher than the unemployment rate for the general United States population.³ When individuals participate in college-in-prison programming they are 13% more likely to find employment than those who did not.⁴

**Strengthened Families**
Success in higher education in prison carries far beyond prison walls. When parents participate in postsecondary education the likelihood of their children going to college increases, creating greater social mobility opportunities for multiple generations.⁵

**Improved Facility Conditions**
Participation in post-secondary education reduces in-facility forms of misconduct which in turn helps correctional officers maintain safety.⁶

¹[https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR266.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR266.html)
²[https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR564.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR564.html)
³[https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/outofwork.html](https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/outofwork.html)
⁴[https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR266.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR266.html)
⁵[https://humanimpact.org/hipprojects/turnontheTapNY/](https://humanimpact.org/hipprojects/turnontheTapNY/)
College & Community Fellowship (CCF) enables women with criminal convictions to earn their college degrees so that they, their families, and their communities can thrive. We advocate for equity and opportunity for the communities we serve.

Turn on the Tap NY is a statewide campaign of community groups and college-in-prison providers working together to repeal the ban on TAP grants for incarcerated students (S790-Montgomery / A3975-Aubry). The campaign calls on the Governor and Legislature to reinstate TAP grants for incarcerated students.

Before TAP grant eligibility was repealed, college-in-prison programs were offered in every facility in the state. Following the repeal, there were only 4 college in prison programs in New York State.

Programs are currently able to operate because of a mix of unguaranteed private and public funding streams. Many states in the U.S. do not have any ban on incarcerated students from accessing one financial aid program in the state based on their incarceration status.

A majority of college-in-prison programs are located in the Hudson Valley with “educational deserts” in Western New York, the Finger Lakes, and North Country. About half of the prisons in NYS have a college-in-prison program, thus it is up to chance if you are placed in facility that offers programming.

College-in-prison programs will continue to be few and far between.

The expansion of TAP eligibility would cost the state approximately $15.2 million dollars which equates to only 1.5% of the over 1 billion dollar TAP budget. TAP grants to students in prison would not take funds away from non-incarcerated students.

Get Involved

Email BShanahan@collegeandcommunity.org to learn more about Turn on the TAP NY and how you can join our movement.

WHO WE ARE

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8 http://sunysystem.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=554df6b750d4d929d860be85c184d66
11 Audeh T. For Inmates, Class of ’95 Is Last to Get Tuition From State. Times Union. June 21, 1995:A14
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