



**To:** NJ Institutions of Higher Education  
**From:** NJ Office of the Secretary of Higher Education  
**Date:** April 30, 2025  
**Subject:** SHEEO | ASAP College Completion Coalition Learning Community Project

---

The New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) – in partnership with the New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) and the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) – is pleased to announce the findings of the SHEEO|ASAP College Completion Coalition Learning Community Project.

In 2024, OSHE, NJCCC, and HESAA participated in a multi-state learning community to examine the potential of the City University of New York’s (CUNY) Accelerated Study in Associate Program (ASAP) in advancing on-time college completion – an element of the [New Jersey State Plan for Higher Education](#). This program aids associate degree-seeking students to stay on track to graduate by providing various financial, academic, and personal support. Most notably, this program has [demonstrated elevated graduation and transfer rates](#) for ASAP-enrolled students.

Through significant stakeholder engagement, our learning community identified noteworthy components of the college completion program, including the need for a consistent funding model, robust academic advising, and aligning programming with state workforce needs. More information regarding the project can be found in the attached “New Jersey State Team ASAP Learning Community One-Pager” attached to the next page of this memo.

For more information, please contact Josefina Ewins, Policy Analyst, at [josefina.ewins@oshe.nj.gov](mailto:josefina.ewins@oshe.nj.gov).

SHEEO | ASAP College Completion Coalition Learning Community

April 2025

Overview

The SHEEO | ASAP College Completion Coalition Learning Community New Jersey Team was a collaboration between higher education stakeholders<sup>1</sup> to advance an element of the [New Jersey State Plan for Higher Education](#) in supporting on-time college completion. The collaboration focused on exploring the structure of the City University of New York’s (CUNY) Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP). Given the decentralized higher education model in New Jersey – a key difference from New York – the project focused on gaining institutional perspectives to [understand the current landscape for student supports](#).

What did the Project Accomplish?	Findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hosted student success listening sessions with administrators across 14 institutions</li> <li>Engaged with stakeholders at conferences</li> <li>Disbursed \$25,000 in “Student Success Learning Community” micro-grants to Camden County College and Essex County College</li> <li>Networked with other state teams to understand approach differences and replication challenges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appeal towards the creation of programs that receive consistent funding, allowing for continuity in institutional student support</li> <li>Interest in cross-functional collaboration to better serve students’ advising needs</li> <li>Interest in focused programs to fill statewide workforce gaps, such as nursing and teaching</li> <li>Concerns regarding the ASAP model’s full-time enrollment requirement<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>

What is the CUNY ASAP Program?

[CUNY ASAP](#) is a comprehensive college completion program to aid associate degree-seeking students at community and comprehensive colleges stay on track to graduate. Participating students are provided with financial resources<sup>3</sup>, direct support services<sup>4</sup>, and structured academic support.<sup>5</sup> This program has demonstrated key success such as [elevated graduation rates and transfer rates compared to non-ASAP students](#).

What have the “Student Success Learning Community” Micro-Grants Supported?
Camden County College has utilized the grant to support 24 students with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grocery gift cards in an effort to alleviate food insecurity</li> <li>New Jersey Transit passes to facilitate transportation accessibility to and from campus</li> <li>Feminine hygiene products to address socioeconomic disparities on campus</li> </ul>
Essex County College has utilized the grant to support 190 students with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bus tickets to facilitate transportation accessibility to and from campus. Students were provided a month’s worth of rides at a time.</li> <li>Updated facilities and equipment in the tutoring center to support academic excellence</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE), New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA), and New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC).

<sup>2</sup> A majority (57%) of New Jersey community college students attend part-time.

<sup>3</sup> Financial resources include academic scholarships, textbook stipends, and transit passes.

<sup>4</sup> Direct support services include personalized academic advising, tutoring, career development, and early engagement.

<sup>5</sup> Structured academic support includes full-time enrollment, reserved course seating, consistent enrollment in developmental education, and extended learning opportunities into non-traditional academic terms (winter and summer sessions).