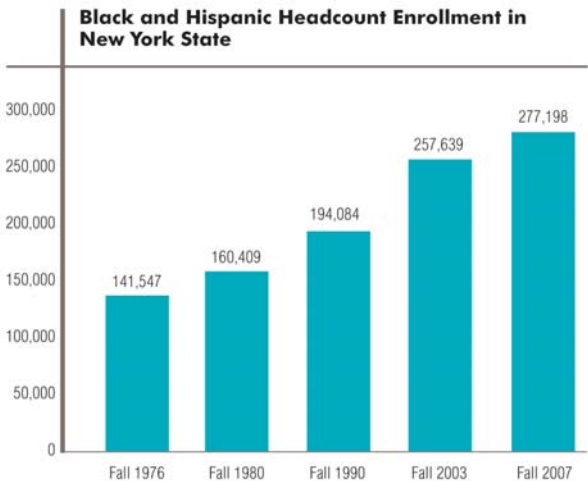


# Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)



**Current funding level: \$838 million**

- On its 35th birthday, we celebrate the transformative power of the state Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). For example,
  - TAP is helping Lashawn, the self-described “Obama of his Manhattan neighborhood,” leave behind a past that included jail time.
  - Recent college graduate Perla, born in the Dominican Republic and raised in New York City, never thought that she would have the opportunity to go to a college. TAP, combined with Pell and other aid, gave her that opportunity.
- Please **restore the \$71.4 million in TAP cuts** proposed in the State Fiscal Year 2010-11 Executive Budget, including:
  - Restore the \$75 cut to all TAP awards;
  - Restore the maximum TAP award for two-year degree seekers at two-year colleges to \$5,000 from \$4,000; and
  - Reinstate Graduate TAP (\$380 per student, on average).
- TAP complements the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program and similar programs. New York’s student aid and opportunity programs have their roots in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, when state leaders sought to make higher education accessible to all.
  - In the fall of 1976, students of color attending colleges and universities in New York State represented 15% of total enrollment (142,000 students). Today, approximately one-quarter of all students enrolled are Black or Hispanic (more than 277,000 students).
- Each year, approximately 315,000 low- and moderate-income students receive TAP awards. In all, TAP awards have gone to more than 4 million New Yorkers.
- Most TAP funds (58%) go to families earning less than \$20,000 annually. The maximum award is \$5,000; the minimum, \$500. Students from families with incomes up to \$80,000 (New York State net taxable income) qualify for TAP.



Source: New York Education Department, Office of Research and Information Services, C-93 1.22.10