

State

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ENTRY PROGRAMS (STEP)

Position: AMS would like to thank the Legislature for last year's appropriation which maintains the level of statewide funds available for the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP). Currently our programs are filled to capacity with approximately 400-500 students enrolled in the program per year. However, we face the challenge of turning away more students because of funding limitations. AMS request an increase in funds that would allow more students to be served in the STEP program.

Background: STEP is designed to motivate and increase interest in medicine, science, and the health-related professions for students defined by State guidelines to be educationally/economically disadvantaged and underrepresented in the scientific, technical and health-related professions.

STEP is conducted at 10 medical schools in New York State:

- Albany Medical College
- Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
- Mount Sinai School of Medicine
- New York College of Osteopathic Medicine
- New York Medical College
- New York University School of Medicine
- University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry
- SUNY Downstate Medical Center
- SUNY Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

The maximum amount a consortium is eligible to receive is \$900,000, whereas if the schools were to apply on their own, each would receive \$350,000. The rationale used by the Pre-Collegiate Preparation Program (PCPPU) is that the institutions work as a consortium and have the benefit of being able to leverage more resources. In our opinion, this is not the case. Such a policy actually limits the number of students eligible to participate by placing arbitrary caps on the amount of funding available to consortiums. Further, a statewide consortium such as AMS is unable to share certain staff and programmatic aspects of the program.

AMS asks that the cap on the amount of funding a consortium can receive be lifted or, alternatively, raised when programmatic funding is considered.