The memorandum of understanding between the State of New Jersey and institutions of higher education receiving GEER funding will contain an equal opportunity statement that explicitly include students of all races, creed, color, national origin, gender, ancestry, age, sex, familial status, religion, gender identity or expression, mental or physical disability, or other protected classes under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination.

While poverty is not mentioned as an official barrier that can impede in equitable access or participation, income is a leading predictor of educational access to and success in college.

By providing students in public institutions of higher education extensive support during the global pandemic, with a focus on priority populations, including Pell-recipients, and underrepresented students, these primary barriers that impede students from having equal access to college become significantly reduced.