

FY 2020 Federal Funding Priorities

Community colleges support robust and necessary investments in federal higher education and workforce development programs. These programs help create opportunity and prepare students for skilled jobs. Higher education is a public good: investing in it reaps tremendous economic and civic dividends.

These needed investments cannot be achieved without raising current appropriations caps and rejecting the Trump administration's proposed deep cuts to non-defense discretionary (NDD) programs, including student aid and job training. At minimum, NDD funding increases should match any increase for defense programs, as both are vital to our nation's long-term security. The Labor, Health and Human Services and Education 302(b) allocation must adequately reflect the importance of the programs it funds.

Community colleges' top funding priorities for fiscal year (FY) 2020 are as follows:

Support Student Access and Success

Pell Grants

Pell Grants help nearly 2.5 million community college students access and complete college each year, making it the highest priority federal program for our institutions. Congress should strengthen the Pell Grant program by increasing the maximum award by at least \$200 and reject the \$2 billion rescission proposed by the administration.

Other Student Financial Assistance Programs

Community college students also benefit greatly from other student assistance programs. Congress should provide additional funding for the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work-Study, TRIO, GEAR UP, and the Child Care Access Means Parents in School programs.

Bolster Job Training and Career and Technical Education

Dedicated Funding for Community College Workforce Training Capacity

Congress should extend its recent history of providing direct support for community colleges' efforts to train American workers. Since 2005, this was achieved through Community-Based Job Training Grants and the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College to Career Training grants, which were created by Republican and Democratic administrations, respectively. Neither program is still in place, yet the need for such an initiative remains high, as evidenced by the continuing skills gap.

Career and Technical Education (CTE), Adult Basic Education (ABE) and WIOA Programs

CTE and workforce training programs play vital roles in providing students with the technical skills and academic knowledge they need to thrive in today's economy. But, many students need basic educational skills before they can succeed in these programs. The state grants provided through the Perkins CTE Act and the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, both administered by the U.S. Department of Education, and the Department of Labor programs authorized by the Workforce

Innovation and Opportunity Act, help to address this situation. Despite recent appropriations increases, these programs remain well below their peak funding in inflation-adjusted dollars and fall far short of the actual need. Congress should provide funding for these programs at their authorized levels.

Advanced Technological Education (ATE)

The ATE program is the premier community college program at the National Science Foundation. ATE-funded programs train technicians in fields such as biotechnology and advanced manufacturing, and support student mastery of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Funding for the program has remained level for several years. Congress should increase funding for the program by \$5 million (7.5%) in FY 2020.

Reinforce Under-Resourced and Minority-Serving Institutions

HEA Title III-A Strengthening Institutions Program

Through the Strengthening Institutions program, the federal government supports colleges that are under-resourced and that serve large amounts of students that are low income and under-represented in higher education. The program is particularly important to community colleges, but the administration has proposed eliminating it. Instead, Congress should increase funding for this highly competitive program.

Other HEA Title III and V Programs

The administration has proposed consolidating into a formula grant to states most of the other Title III HEA programs, which support various minority-serving institutions, and the Title V Hispanic-Serving Institutions program. This proposal should be rejected and funding for the individual programs increased.

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