



Final Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Appropriations – Community College Highlights

As part of the massive year-end legislation that included a pandemic relief bill and scores of other provisions, Congress passed a \$1.4 trillion omnibus appropriations bill funding the entire federal government for the remainder of FY 21. Appropriators were severely constrained by a tight overall budget cap that increased all domestic discretionary programs by only \$5 billion. The Department of Education's total funding was increased by less than 2%. Despite these limitations, the bill has highlights for community colleges and their students.

In particular, the Pell Grant maximum for the award year beginning July 1 was increased to \$6,495, up \$150 from the current year and continuing the program's sustained growth. The bill tapped the ongoing Pell Grant program surplus to fund the increase, but also rescinded \$500 million from the surplus to pay for other programs.

Federal Work-Study and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) received small increases (\$10 million and \$15 million, respectively). The Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program was increased by \$2 million, to \$55 million.

For institutional aid, Hispanic-Serving Institutions received a 4.3% increase, while Predominantly Black Institutions were upped by 7.7%. Other, smaller institutional aid programs fared better in percentage terms. Both TRIO and GEAR UP received increases of less than 1%, as did the Strengthening Institutions Program. Perkins State Grants were increased by \$52 million, or 4.1%

At the Department of Labor, the Strengthening Community College Training Grant program (SCCTG) was increased by \$5 million, to \$45 million. Senate draft legislation had proposed eliminating the program, but it now will have a second grant competition. The program elicited strong applicant interest in its initial round. AACC members advocated aggressively on behalf of this program, with beneficial results.

The DOL WIOA state programs received modest increases (>1%), and the apprenticeship program once again did well with a \$10 million increase, to \$185 million. The program remains limited to registered apprenticeships.

The National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education program, per report language, will receive at least the same amount that it did last year (\$75 million).

Finally, it is worth noting that FY 2021 is the last year that appropriations will be subject to the ten years of statutory caps that were imposed through the 2011 Budget Control Act (BCA). These caps were modified by a series of two-year bipartisan deals that allowed the appropriations process to move forward, because the BCA caps did not mesh with political reality. From this point forward, Congress and its appropriators will not have this omnipresent constraint – but budget politics will no doubt be pitched.

The following chart lists FY 2021 funding for select programs. Dollar amounts are in millions except for the Pell Grant maximum award.

Program	FY 20	FY 21	Increase
Dept. of Ed.			
Pell Grant Maximum Award	\$6,345	\$6,495	\$150
SEOG	\$865	\$880	\$15
Federal Work Study	\$1,180	\$1,190	\$10
Perkins CTE Basic State Grants	\$1,283	\$1,335	\$52
Adult Education State Grants	\$657	\$675	\$18
Title III-A Strengthening Institutions	\$107.9	\$109	\$1.1
Hispanic Serving Institutions	\$143.1	\$148.7	\$5.6
HBCUs	\$324.8	\$337.6	\$12.8
Predominately Black Institutions	\$13.2	\$14.2	\$1.0
AANAPISIs	\$4.4	\$5.1	\$.7
Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian Institutions	\$18.3	\$19.0	\$.7
Native American Non-Tribal Institutions	\$4.4	\$5.1	\$.7
Tribal Colleges	\$36.6	\$38.0	\$1.5
International Education	\$76.2	\$78.2	\$2.0
TRIO	\$1,090	\$1,097	\$7
GEAR UP	\$365	\$368	\$3
CCAMPIS	\$53	\$55	\$2
Dept. of Labor			
WIOA Adult	\$854.6	\$862.6	\$8
WIOA Youth	\$913.1	\$921.1	\$8
WIOA Dislocated Worker	\$1,052.1	\$1061.6	\$9.5
SCCTG	\$40	\$45	\$5
Registered Apprenticeships	\$175	\$185	\$10
National Science Foundation			
Advanced Technological Education	\$75	\$75	\$0