



FY 2023 Community College Funding Priorities

Community colleges urge Congress to substantially increase investments in their students and institutions. These investments will provide millions of Americans with the education and related competencies that they need to thrive in today's dynamic, skills-driven economy. Congress can only make these investments by passing a full Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 appropriations bill, rather than a continuing resolution. Community colleges urge Congress to build on recent funding progress and pass appropriations legislation that contains the following:

- **At least a \$500 increase in the Pell Grant maximum award.** Pell Grants enable approximately two million low-income community college students each year to pay tuition and fees and other college expenses. Both the House Appropriations Committee-passed FY 23 Labor, HHS and Education (LHHSE) appropriations bill and the Senate draft FY 2023 LHHSE bill provide a \$500 increase in the Pell Grant maximum, using prior-year surplus funding. Enacting this will greatly help financially disadvantaged students and represent a significant step towards AACC's goal of doubling the maximum Pell Grant.
- **\$100 million for the Strengthening Community College Training Grants (SCCTG).** SCCTG provides direct support for expanded workforce training capacity at community colleges working in partnership with businesses and other components of the workforce development system. Applications for the program in its first year far outstripped available funds, even during the pandemic. Early signs are that the program is having the positive impact intended. Accordingly, Congress should fund the program at \$100 million in FY 2023, as proposed by the administration and included in the House committee-passed bill. Even this amount is small in relation to the need, and the potential impact that even more robust funding could provide.
- **\$209 million for the HEA Title III-A Strengthening Institutions program.** The Higher Education Act Strengthening Institutions Program (Title III-A) helps community colleges and other institutions serve low-income and other students by providing funds to improve academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability. Funds may be used for planning, faculty development, establishing endowments, and other purposes that reflect local needs. AACC strongly supports the \$209 million allocated to Title III-A the House committee-approved bill. The fiercely competitive Title III-A program is not as high-profile as other institutional aid programs, but it is every bit as valuable.



- **Increased investments in other priority programs.** Congress should achieve the maximum possible increases for the following programs in final FY 23 LHHSE appropriations legislation. All these programs have beneficial impacts on the nation's more than 1,000 community colleges and their students:
 - Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants
 - Federal Work Study
 - Child Care Access Means Parents In School (CCAMPIS)
 - TRIO
 - GEAR-UP
 - Perkins Career and Technical Education Basic State Grants
 - Adult Basic Education and Family Literacy
 - Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title I Programs
 - Department of Labor Apprenticeship Grants

For more information, please contact AACC Senior Vice President of Government Relations David Baime (dbaime@aacc.nche.edu) or Associate Vice President of Government Relations Jim Hermes (jhermes@aacc.nche.edu).